

Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: Ian Mercer

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th February 2016 at
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm**

Present:

Chairman: I Mercer

Councillors: J Spenser, C Platon, S Marlow, B Harris, J Fitton, M Howard

Shropshire Councillors: P Dee, C Mellings.

Clerk: K Hatton

Public: R Stoodley, B Docherty, C Cadman, D Evans... Other members of the public joined the meeting from Meres and Mosses event in adjoining room.

PCSO G Baines (Safer Neighbourhood Team)

13/16 Introduction

Cllr Mercer declared the meeting open. He welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

14/16 Public Participation

Members of the public decided to wait to hear the update from members on the subject of flooding as it appears in the agenda.

15/16 Apologies for absence

J Hardiman, D Edgerton.

16/16 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None

17/16 Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2016

It was proposed by Cllr Mercer that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all present.

It was resolved that the minutes of 13 th January 2016 be signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.

18/16 Parish Matters

a) Flooding

Cllr Mellings and Cllr Mercer, between them, gave an overview of the current situation and recent action relating to the flooding at Morris' Bridge and surrounding land.

Reference was made to the meeting which took place on Thursday 4th February at Manor House, NNR Base. The following people were in attendance at that meeting: Dr J Daniels, Cllr C Mellings, Parish Cllrs I Mercer, C Platon and D Edgerton, Claire Wilson and David Edwards from Shropshire Council (land drainage team) and Parish Clerk, K Hatton. Significant data provided by Dr Daniels was looked at.

Shropshire Council has done some work maintenance work to the ditch at Allman's Bridge which appears to have had some impact and reduced the level of the water.

The Canal and River Trust had directed blame for the flooding at Natural England and Natural England responded with a clear analysis of their view of the causes of the flooding. Ultimately it is the view that more ditches in the area need to be cleared and maintained to manage the flow of water across the catchment.

Collectively Canal and River Trust, Natural England and Shropshire Council do not believe that the canal leak is the main cause of the flooding although residents dispute this; citing 15 leaks within a 1 mile stretch.

The Parish Council are willing to do anything it legally can to help address the situation and agree that pressure should be kept up on C and RT to deal with these leaks which are contributing to the situation.

Parishioner H Evans requested that the Parish Council continue to feature the issue of flooding on the agenda until ALL ditches have been cleared as some ditches have not been maintained for 16 years. Some landowners will claim that their ditches are flowing but there is so little fall that any amount of silt needs to be cleared and ditches regularly maintained.

The Parish Council agreed that it needs to be a collective effort and recognised that it may be a long and difficult journey to get everybody on board but will utilise the support of Cllrs Mellings and Dee and Shropshire Council's powers to enforce action.

It was noted that Dr J Daniels has offered a meeting room at Manor House for anyone wanting to meet to co-ordinate action.

Another parishioner raised the issue of road drains also being clogged and poorly maintained towards Coton. He suggested an integrated approach between the Highways dept. and Land Drainage at Shropshire Council as poor road drainage is causing problems.

- Cllr Mellings agreed to raise this point with the relevant people.

PCSO Graham Baines (Safer Neighbourhood Team)

Reported a case of someone lacing meat with paracetamol -thought to discourage badgers- but which has caused the death of a couple of cats- a notice was put out on facebook and twitter and local badger watch informed.

No other incidents in Whixall to report.

b) Senior Citizens' Xmas party- forward planning

The Clerk relayed correspondence from Eve Whitmore re: Xmas party entertainment.

Cllr Spenser proposed that Eve be booked at the rate of £100 for entertaining at 2016 Xmas party.

Seconded by Cllr Mercer and agreed by all.

Clerk to correspond accordingly.

c) Marlot- site management

Cllr Spenser reported on recent work day clearing willow from the site.

No further sightings of vehicles on site.

Cllr Howard reported that locks had been ordered.

d) Meres and Mosses LPS- Land purchase and consultation plans

Consultation process was taking place in the adjoining bar area of the Social Centre at time of meeting.

The land the Shropshire Wildlife Trust intend to buy has not yet been formally purchased.

19/16 Planning

-All planning applications and decisions can be tracked on line at www.shropshire.gov.uk

Applications received- to consider response

Ref: 16/00266/LBC- Installation of replacement windows to front elevation with timber windows with slim double glazed units; installation of double glazing to existing windows to side and rear elevations; brick up window in Victorian extension and fit heritage style roof lights into roof affecting grade II Listed building at Hornspike House, Dobsons Bridge, Whixall, Shropshire

Stance: **Representation**

Comment: **Noted**

Decisions- to note

- None.

20/16 Clerk's Report**a) Correspondence- To note**

NSW- report and fundraiser.

21/16 Financial matters**a) Grass cutting tenders- To view and appoint**

Four different tenders were received. (All sealed): All tenders were opened by the Chair in the presence of all members and tabled.

Cllr Howard proposed that C Jones' services were contracted for a further three years with a possible extension of a further two years. Seconded by Cllr Marlow and agreed by all.

b) Monthly Balance sheet- To note

January's balance sheet was presented and confirmed as accurate with the current bank statements by Cllr Mercer.

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
29.01.2016	Community Account	£3,774.48
	Business Saver Account	£3921.98
TOTAL		£7,696.46

c) Outstanding accounts- To approve

Orders for the payment of money (listed below) as per the financial report of the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) were proposed by Cllr Mercer, seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all present.

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	AMOUNT
10.02.2016	101073	K Hatton- Clerk's wages for January	£300.30
	101074	C Jones- Grass cutting for	£40.00
		TOTAL	£340.30

It was resolved that the outstanding accounts should be paid and cheques were signed by two authorised councillors.

d) Donations – To consider

- i. Request for donation towards boiler replacement at Whixall Social Centre (requested amount £500)
- ii. Request for donation towards running costs of North Salop Wheelers (Guide amount £400)

The following donations were proposed, seconded and agreed by all.

Cllr Fitton proposed £400 be donated to North Salop Wheelers, seconded by Cllr Marlow.

Cllr Mercer proposed £215 be donated to The Social Centre as that would be the remainder of the amount allocated in the budget for donations after the churches had been granted their usual donation towards the maintenance of their graveyards. Cllr Mercer also proposed that the churches were asked to formally request future donations in writing. Seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed by all.

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS Donation to:	AMOUNT
10.02.2016	101075	North Salop Wheelers	£400.00
	101076	St Mary's Church, Whixall	£100.00
	101077	Welsh End Chapel, Whixall	£50.00
	101078	Whixall URC Graveyard Trust	£50.00
	101079	Whixall Social Centre	£215.00
	Total		£815.00*

**Total donations budget was £850- £35 has already gone to the Poppy Appeal as part donation/ payment for Remembrance Day wreath*

22/16 Policy review

The following policies were reviewed:

- i. **Planning policy**- Cllr Spenser proposed that there was no change, seconded by Cllr Platon.
- ii. **Local Connection Policy**- Cllr Marlow proposed that there was no change, seconded by Cllr Harris.
- iii. **Document Management Policy**- Cllr Harris proposed that an amendment was made to the final sentence to state: "Electronic records: The hard disk on the Parish Council's computer will be over written in the event that it is no longer used by the Clerk for the role of Clerk", seconded by Cllr Howard... Agreed by all present.

23/16 Highways

a) Referrals to Shropshire Council

The following issues were asked to be reported to Shropshire Council

-Flooding due to poor drainage work along Post Office Lane towards Coton: Cllr Mellings will raise this issue as part of a wider issue regarding integrated drainage management.

b) Scheduled works by Shropshire Council

Capital funding assessment re: footpath at Whixall School- no further update- David Gradwell has been contacted- he will inform the Parish Council when a decision is made. Members of the community who raised the issue have sent photographs of cars parked along the stretch of road to the school that has no footpath which means that children have to walk along the road to David Gradwell.

There was a short discussion about the school's drop off/ pick up system and the head teacher's sustained efforts to ensure that everyone abides by the system.

Nameplate signage work – no update.

23/16 Councillors' Reports

Cllr Spenser announced her intention to attend the Trustees meeting of The United Reformed Church Graveyard Trust on 16th February.

Cllr Mercer reported his attendance along with Cllrs Edgerton and Platon (as previously discussed) on 4th February at Manor House regarding flooding.

24/16 Consider Future Agenda Items

Annual Parish Meeting Planning, Flooding.

The meeting closed at 9:05pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 9th March 2016 at 7.30 pm
