

Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: Ian Mercer

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th November 2016 at
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm

Present:

Chairman: I Mercer

Councillors: C Platon (Vice Chair), J Hardiman, J Fitton, J Spenser, S Marlow, B Harris, M Howard

Shropshire Councillors: C Mellings

Clerk: K Hatton

Members of the community: P Ashton (North Salop Wheelers)

131/16 Introduction

Cllr Mercer declared the meeting open.

132/16 Apologies for absence

Cllr D Edgerton

133/16 Public Participation

P Ashton of North Salop Wheelers presented a report on the recent activities of the organisation. She made reference to several recent advertisements including J Harrison's response to the report by the Shropshire Star of bus services being reduced and his counterclaim that the community service run by wheelers is doing well. They have expanded to run services to Telford and are trying their best to develop their service. They have received a donation from the Morgan Foundation and have an old Winchester Taxi and hope to provide a special event (weddings and proms etc.) car service.

Cllr Mercer thanked Mrs Ashton who then left the meeting.

134/16 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and requests for dispensation.

Cllr J Fitton declared an interest in item 8 of the agenda: planning application -**Reconsultation due to Amendment on application 16/03056/OUT - Outline application for the erection of 1No. agricultural workers dwelling (to include access) at The Farms, Brownsbrook, Whixall, Shropshire.**

135/16 Minutes of the meetings held on 12th October 2016

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

It was resolved that the minutes of 12 th October 2016 be signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.

136/16 Clerk's report

-Correspondence to note

- Letter was received from Whitchurch Rotary club containing a donation of £100 towards Senior's Xmas Party.
- Publicity campaign for the annual canvass of householders- Electoral registration poster (displayed).
- Severn Hospice Christmas raffle.
- Request for donation from Shropshire Playing Fields Association.

-Other matters to note

- Proposed new highway safety inspection manual for Shropshire 2016-2020- Noted
- Highways & Environment Maintenance contract to end in March 2018- Noted

- Next year's meeting dates- Clerk was instructed to go ahead and book the Social Centre according to the usual meeting schedule.
- SALC AGM- 19th November, Dawley, Telford- Noted
- Local Joint Committee planning meeting, change of date noted. Cllr Harris to attend.

137/16 Parish Matters

a) Flooding- Update

Cllr Mellings reported on his meeting with resident (RS). He has raised a number of issues with the Council's Flood & Water Management Team and asked for an updated progress map. Also some issues connected with Squinch Bridge have been raised. Squinch Bridge was listed in 1999. Cllr Platon shared some information regarding its weight limit.

The Canal and River Trust has completed some works to the canal bank to address the leaks near the Moss Lane lift bridge and will be doing some work along the Prees Branch. The Parish Council wished it to be acknowledged that the Trust has completed this interim work and Cllr Mercer thanked Cllr Mellings for his work in facilitating this.

With regard to Moss Lane Bridge: It is hoped that maintenance will take place before the end of this financial year.

b) Marlot grazing- Update on progress towards enabling grazing on the Marlot.

The Clerk updated the council with regard to the grant application to fund the installation of a water trough at the Marlot to enable future grazing of the site: The application has been completed and costing of 2 candidates to do a chainsaw course has been included. The Clerk explained that there was still the potential for an amendment but in principal the form is ready to be signed off.

Cllr Spenser proposed that the form was signed by the chairman, Cllr Mercer, and that any amendment be re-signed by the Chairman with the agreement of all members, this consent should be given via email and without a formal meeting to enable the timely progress of the application and associated work. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Platon and agreed by all.

c) Forward planning for upcoming events:

- The Clerk confirmed arrangements for Remembrance Sunday.
- Senior Citizens' Christmas party: Final arrangements made.

d) BT plans to remove unused phone boxes- phone box in Whixall earmarked for removal- Consider response to consultation: The Council voted unanimously to not keep the phone box that was recognised as being located at the Social Centre as the phone itself does not appear to be working.

e) War memorial at Browns Brook - To consider offer of repair to railings: It was proposed by Cllr Marlow to accept the offer of railing repairs from M Dickens at no cost to the parish and write to thank him. Seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all.

It was noted that the railings will require painting following their repair. It was also noted that some minor maintenance to the concrete base is required. The Clerk was asked to write to R Cadman for the donation of gravel for the site.

138/16 Planning

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

Applications received- to consider response

- Reconsultation due to Amendment on application 16/03056/OUT - Outline application for the erection of 1No. agricultural workers dwelling (to include access) at The Farms, Brownsbrook, Whixall, Shropshire

Cllr J Fitton left the room as per his declared interest.

Cllr Mercer proposed that the Parish Council make no further comment, seconded by Cllr Harris and agreed by all.

Stance: Support

Comment: No further comment in response to reconsultation.

Cllr J Fitton re-joined the meeting.

- Ref: 16/04840/PMBPA - Application for prior approval under Part 3, Class Q of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the change of use of building to residential use. Barns To The East Of West View, Welsh End, Whixall, Shropshire

Cllr Harris proposed that the Parish Council make no comment and declare a neutral stance, seconded by Cllr Spenser. The council voted 7 to 1 in support of this proposal.

Stance: Neutral

Comment: No comment.

Decisions- to note

Ref: 16/03799/FUL - Erection of two storey extension to rear elevation at 2 Garners Lane, Whixall, SY13 2NF

Decision: Grant Permission

139/16 Local Government Finance Consultation –To note/ consider draft letter in response to proposals regarding council tax referendum principles for local parish and town councils:

Cllr Mercer proposed that the draft letter be sent on behalf of the Parish Council to local MP for North Shropshire, RT Hon. Owen Paterson, seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all.

140/16 Financial Matters

a) Monthly Balance sheet- Noted

The October balance sheet was presented and confirmed as accurate with the current bank statements, signed by Cllr Mercer.

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
28.10.2016	Community Account	£3,618.59
	Business Saver Account	£3,923.94
TOTAL		£7,542.53

b) Request for donations- To consider;

- i. Shropshire Playing Fields Association
- ii. Marie Curie Local Nursing Services

The Parish Council unanimously agreed that despite the valuable service being provided, a financial donation to either of the above organisations was currently unaffordable. The Clerk was requested to politely decline both requests.

c) Outstanding accounts- To approve:

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

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	AMOUNT	LEGAL POWER TO SPEND
Date of meeting: 9 th November 2016	101109	K Hatton- Clerk's pay for October	£314.34	LGA 1972 s. 112(2)
	The following cheques were approved in advance as will be paid on 2 nd December at Senior Citizens' Christmas party. (Amounts in italics are approximate).			
	101110	Eve Whitmore- Entertainment	£100	LGA 1972 s. 145
	101111	S Marlow- Cake	£40	LGA 1972 s. 137
	101112	J Spenser- Food reimburse	£250	
	101113	K Hatton- Drink reimburse	£100	
Total			£804.34	

LGA= Local Government Act

HA= Highways Act

Resolved: The outstanding accounts should be paid and the cheques signed by two authorised councillors.

141/16 Highways

a) Referrals to Shropshire Council

Cllr Harris reported on the matter raised last month regarding a potentially dangerous Ash tree on roadside which is in a state of decay and at risk of falling: The land owner will be contacted by the appropriate officer.

b) Scheduled works by Shropshire Council

Green Lane: this is scheduled to be addressed before Christmas.

Stark's Bridge: Cllr Mellings is chasing a date for works to be completed. Consent for works to repair the bridge is required from Historic England (formerly known as English Heritage). Permission is also to be obtained from the Canal & River Trust to close the waterway during for a short period during the main reconstruction and must fall outside of the peak summer tourist season.

The lift bridge will be replaced sympathetically and in line with any conditions imposed by Historic England. Existing materials such as the metalwork and winding mechanism will be reused wherever possible. In the meantime the canal remains open to canal users but closed to pedestrians, cyclist and equestrian users.

142/16 Public Open Space Review

- Cllr Mercer proposed that the Clerk complete the survey on behalf of the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all.

143/16 Councillors' Reports

a) Parish Councillors

Cllr Marlow reported a damaged stile: Cllr Spenser agreed to inform the Parish Paths Partnership (P3 Group). Cllr Marlow also reported that the kissing gate in Cumberland Lane has been installed.

Cllr Fitton reported concerns about the impact on surrounding areas following Natural England's successful bid for funding to enable further restoration of the Moss.

Cllr Mercer proposed that the Clerk invites Dr Daniels of Natural England (NE) to a future meeting to update the Parish Council and the community on NE's detailed plans and how surrounding landowners may be affected. Seconded by Cllr Marlow and agreed by all.

b) Shropshire Councillors

Cllr Mercer thanked Cllr Mellings for his detailed written report which included information on parish matters such as flooding, Stark's Bridge and Moss Lane Bridge but also information on the following County issues:

- Big Conversation Plan
- Council's Corporate Plan
- Shropshire Children's Centres
- Recoupment of Academy conversion costs
- Improved swimming facilities in Shrewsbury

144/16 Shropshire Council's budget cuts and transfer of services –Future role of Parish Council

This matter is subject to a period of rest from Wem's perspective due to the local elections in May. The Parish Council are mindful that the issue should continue to be monitored as required and remain an agenda item.

145/16 Consider future agenda items

Scheduled date of next meeting: **Wednesday 11th January 2017 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 11th January 2017 at 7:30 pm
