

WHIXALL PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Spring/ summer 2016



Thank you for taking the time to read this short newsletter. The Parish Council is your local representative body. Although it may not have the powers to deal with every issue it can lobby on your behalf. Please go to the website for meeting dates and other information.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hello, this is my second piece since becoming Chairman of the council and I thought I would share with you some of the issues that have come to our attention.

The biggest issue at the moment is the flooding, in particular around the moss, especially the fact the water is not draining away. This has resulted in real stress for a number of parishioners.

The annoying thing is that the problem is made worse by some landowners not carrying out their legal duty to maintain the drains and ditches. You will all know that we will suffer floods in parts of the parish but if the drains are properly maintained then the flood water will dissipate in time.

The second problem is the way some people use the roads in Whixall as a rally experience. I know that they are not all Whixall residents but some are.

So again the solution is in our own hands. I would ask all to drive with respect to other road users and if you spot particularly dangerous driving take the details and pass them onto the police.

My final point is to thank all those responsible for managing the Social Centre for the work they have put in to improve facilities, to redecorate and to provide a "local pub". I know the pub is only open one evening but it is a good opportunity to meet neighbours and friends and the atmosphere is very nice and friendly. The pub is now open on Saturdays and requires support from all of us if it is to succeed.

If we all do our bit then we can improve the parish for everyone.

Ian Mercer
Chairman

fff Financial Report fff

Below is a simple breakdown of the rounded up figures for the year ending 2015/16. The Annual Return has been sent to auditors and is awaiting approval. The detailed accounts will be available to view once they have been approved.

This April the Parish Council will pay £1,152 in election costs and will not have the income generated by last year's VAT refund claim and so the precept request for 2016/17 was £7,000, this will have shown as a 4.6% increase on your council tax bill. In real terms this equates to an increase of just 95 pence per year, per household.

Income	£
Precept (from Council Tax)	6500
VAT refund claim	593
<i>(Backdated 3 years)</i>	
Donation from Whitchurch Rotary Club	75
<i>(Towards Senior Citizens' Xmas Party)</i>	
Interest/ rent	4
Total	7,172

Expenditure	£
Staff Costs	3503
Donations	850
Grounds Maintenance	804
Administration	714
Senior Citizens' Xmas Party	460
Subscriptions	326
Insurance	159
Training	100
Total	6,916

Your Parish Councillors

Chairman

Ian Mercer 01939 235893

Vice Chair

Jennifer Spenser 01948 880818

Councillors

David Edgerton 01948 880271

Susie Marlow 01948 880428

Chris Platon 01948 880588

Jo Hardiman 01948 880823

Bob Harris 01948 880112

John Fitton 01948 880227

Margaret Howard 01948 880577

Clerk to the Parish Council

Katie Hatton 01948 880851

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Please come along to your

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

8:00pm on

Wednesday 11th May 2016

Representatives from **Shropshire Wildlife Trust** and **Natural England** will present information about proposals for the former scrap yard site, the fields at Moss Lane and management work on the Nature Reserve.

These plans are associated with the **Restoring the Marches Mosses** project which aims to improve understanding and appropriate access to the third largest lowland raised peat bog in the UK. For more information about the project visit www.themeresandmosses.co.uk

The Parish Council's Annual Council Meeting will take place just prior to the Parish Meeting; this is the annual meeting at which the Chair and Vice Chair are elected for the coming term of office. For further agenda information see the parish council website or notice boards from Thursday 5th May.

The Marlot is a piece of common land at Roundthorn Bridge in Whixall which historically was used for the extraction of marl (rock or soil consisting of clay or lime). Over the years volunteers have worked hard to restore this special habitat that is home to special flora and fauna. With the explicit aim to protect this common land as a nature site the council submitted an application of first registration with Land Registry, as a result Whixall Parish Council are now the registered proprietors of the Marlot.

As you can see it is a beautiful spot and members of the public are encouraged to access it and enjoy it but please respect it; there are pools of water and cut willow stems which can be sharp. Dog owners are reminded to clean up after their dog.



The Marlot in June, by the canal at Roundthorn Bridge

The Whixall 'new' school building is 125 years old this year with the 'old' and 'new' schools amalgamating in c1967 – making it 50 years in 2017. This is an opportunity to collect and collate the history of schooling and education within Whixall which can be used by all, especially pupils at the school, next year. If you have got a story to tell, a picture, photograph or newspaper cutting we could share, or anything else about your time at either or any of the schools in Whixall please let us know (or post to the Facebook sites and we'll take it from there). Email: Whixallhistory@gmail.com

A note from the Clerk...

On behalf of Whixall Parish Council I would like to thank all those who attended and contributed to the success of the **Senior Citizen's Christmas Party** early in December 2015. As always, it was very well attended and a night of good food, drink and thanks to Eve Whitmore, plenty of singing and dancing was enjoyed too! We had positive feedback from many of you about the quality of the entertainment and the food and thank you to those who wrote to express their gratitude.

A most sincere thank you to **Val and Peter Stokes, Coton** who, again, kindly donated all the salad, thanks also to **Co-op, Wem and Sainsbury's, Whitchurch** who provided the mince pies and to **Whitchurch Rotary Club** for a monetary donation of £75. Putting on an event like this is a unique and special thing for a parish council to do and without the support of kind donations and the councillors' time such a party would become difficult to finance.

So, again, a very big **thank you!**