

Whixall Parish Council



Chairman: Ian Mercer

Minutes of the Parish Council's Monthly Meeting held on 8 March 2023 at Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm

Present:

Councillors: I Mercer (Chair); D Edgerton; J Spenser; P Rodenhurst; A Rawlinson; M Evans

Shropshire Councillors: Cllr Broomhall; Cllr Towers

Clerk: A Roberts

Other Organisations 2

Members of the Public 3

19/23 Public Session

No members of the public spoke.

20/23 North Salop Wheelers

Terry Fry, NSW Chair, attended and provided an update to the council. He outlined the role of NSW and the issues currently faced, including a lack of volunteer drivers and the need to upgrade the vehicle fleet.

21/23 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Harris (holiday), Cllr Howard (illness), Cllr Weedall (illness).

22/23 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Cllr Spenser declared an interest in item 10d, as the Council's representative on the URC Graveyard Trust.

23/23 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Proposed Cllr Rawlinson, seconded Cllr Evans and agreed by all present.

Resolved: The minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 February 2023 are an accurate record.

The Chair signed the minutes.

24/23 Planning

a. To Consider Applications

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| 23/00407/FUL | Erection of extension to existing access and driveway 9 Moss Villas, the Moss | Support without comment |
| 22/05736/FUL Amended | Proposed Dog Exercise Area. Glebe Farm, Church Lane | Stance remains unchanged (object) |

b. Planning decisions received.

| | | |
|--------------|---|----------------|
| 23/00037/FUL | Erection of extension to form enlarged kitchen/diner with en-suite over. Hornspike Lane Farm, SY13 2QD | Granted |
|--------------|---|----------------|

25/23 Reports

Cllrs Broomhall and Towers (Shropshire Council) circulated reports prior to the meeting. The content was noted.

26/23 Community Policing Priorities

Following discussion, it was agreed that fear of dog theft and suspicious callers may not be the priority that it was during lockdown and that further advice should be taken.

Proposed Cllr Mercer, seconded Cllr Rawlinson

Resolved: To delegate the response to the Clerk who will consult with the Neighbourhood Watch coordinator before submitting the form to West Mercia Police on behalf of the Council.

27/23 Parish Matters

a. The Marlot

i. The content of the Marlot Activity Report was noted.

ii. Proposed Cllr Spenser, seconded Cllr Rawlinson, agreed all.

Resolved: To use surplus funds to print the Marlot leaflet. The Clerk is to seek three quotes and the number of leaflets required (maximum 200) is to be agreed in consultation with the Chairman, subject to printing costs.

The Chairman asked for those responsible for producing the leaflet to be formally thanked for their work.

iii. The Council discussed the further comments provided by MCG regarding access to the Marlot. As both Cllr Rawlinson and MCG believe there is no immediate danger, it was agreed that Cllrs Edgerton and Rawlinson would visit the site to assess options for clearing the culvert. They will report back to the next meeting.

b. Grass Cutting Contract

The current contract holder has confirmed that rates will be held for a further two years. Proposed Cllr Mercer, seconded Cllr Edgerton, agreed all.

Resolved: To extend the current grass cutting contract until 31 March 2025 on the current rates.

The Chairman asked for the contract holder to be thanked for the work that he has carried out to date.

c. Hollinwood Green

A plan provided by Shropshire Council (circulated with the meeting papers), clearly shows that Hollinwood Common spans an area wider than the old pond, which the Parish Council has been maintaining. The plan also shows that the grass strip where parking/damage is occurring is definitely part of the common.

The clerk explained that, in the case of unowned common land, the Council is able to take steps to protect it.

Proposed Cllr Evans, seconded Cllr Spenser, agreed all.

Resolved: To write to properties on, or immediately adjacent to, the common to remind them that common land should not be driven on or parked over and asking for their co-operation.

The clerk will draft a letter for the next meeting.

d. Asset Register Update

Hollinwood Common is shown on the Asset Register as a Council asset, when it is unowned common land.

Proposed Cllr Rawlinson, seconded Cllr Edgerton, agreed all.

Resolved: To remove Hollinwood Common from the Council's Asset Register.

e. Annual Parish Meeting

Following Cllr Harris's work on the connectivity survey and a recent meeting with Chris Taylor of Shropshire Council, it was agreed that Chris would be invited to speak at the APM which would focus on connectivity.

28/23 Financial Matters

a. To receive monthly bank balance record.

The Clerk advised the council of the council's bank balances.

| DATE | ACCOUNT NAME | AMOUNT |
|--------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 28 February | Current Account (Working Budget) | £1,622.01 |
| | Savings Account (Reserves) | £11,920.43 |
| TOTAL | | £13,542.44 |

The bank reconciliation and statements were checked and approved by Cllr Evans.

b. To resolve to approve outstanding accounts

Orders for the payment of outstanding invoices and all payments approved remotely (under "Power to Spend" LGA1972 s.112(2) and 124(1)). Proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Rawlinson and agreed by all.

Resolved: The outstanding accounts should be paid and the payment transactions authorised by two nominated councillors.

| Recipient | Reason for Payment | Amount £ | Ref. |
|------------|---------------------------|----------|---------|
| ICO | Data Protection Fee | 35.00 | 60.22DD |
| HMRC | PAYE | 145.60 | 61.22 |
| Employee | Salary for February hours | 219.18 | 62.22 |
| Employee | Reimbursement | 58.19 | 63.22 |
| NEST | Pension Contributions | 57.20 | 64.22DD |
| G Turnbull | Fuel for machinery | 17.37 | 65.22 |

c. To receive a report on the end of year budget and reserves

The clerk tabled a document showing the predicted financial position of the Council at the end of the financial year and provided explanations where required. The report was noted.

d. Grant Funding

Three applications had been received.

Proposed Cllr Rawlinson, seconded Cllr Edgerton, agreed all.

Resolved: to provide a grant of £50 to Whixall URC Graveyard Trust to support their ongoing work.

Proposed Cllr Rodenhurst, seconded Cllr Rawlinson, agreed all.

Resolved: to provide a grant of £300 to North Salop Wheelers to assist in the purchase of new vehicles.

Proposed Cllr Spenser, seconded Cllr Edgerton, agreed all.

Resolved: to provide a grant of £225 to Whixall CE Primary School as a contribution towards the purchase of Coronation Coin for pupils.

Scheduled date of next meeting:

12 April 2023 (7.30pm)

The meeting closed at 9.26pm.