

Whixall Parish Council



Chairman: Ian Mercer

Minutes of the Parish Council's Monthly Meeting held on 11 January 2023 at Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Mercer (Chair); Cllr Weedall; Cllr Harris; Cllr Spenser; Cllr Rodenhurst

Shropshire Councillors: Cllr Broomhall; Cllr Towers

Clerk: A Roberts

Other Organisations 0

Members of the Public 1

1/23 Public Session

No matters were raised.

2/23 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Evans (Holiday); Cllr Rawlinson (Holiday); Cllr Howard (work commitment)

3/23 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

4/23 Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Harris that the draft minutes, of the Ordinary meeting of the Council, held on 9 November 2022 were an accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all present.

Resolved: The minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 November are an accurate record.

The Chair signed the minutes.

5/23 Reports

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

The Clerk's update included the following:

- a. Following the Remembrance Service, £50 had been received from Welsh End Chapel with a request for it to be donated to the Royal British Legion. This has now been done.
- b. Before Christmas, a member of the public donated 12 bottles of wine for the Council to use as it sees fit. The Clerk is storing these until a decision is made.
- c. The notice boards at Moss Cottages, The Social Centre and Hollinwood Green are in need of maintenance. This will be brought forward for a decision in the new financial year.
- d. The Social Centre Committee has withdrawn its application for a grant to support Coronation activities. They have confirmed that the activities will still go ahead.

6/23 Parish Matters

- a. The Marlot
- b. i. The content of the Marlot Activity Report was noted
- ii The Marlot Strategy document was discussed by members.
Proposed Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Spenser, agreed all.

RESOLVED: The Marlot strategy document is adopted for use and will be reviewed every 5 years.

c. Grass Cutting Contract

The current contract holder has confirmed that he is willing to extend the contract by a further 2 years. The Clerk will write to the contractor to establish if there will be any change in the rate and a decision will be made at a future meeting.

d. Hollinwood Green Parking and Maintenance Issues

Cllr Spenser explained that a resident had installed temporary parking facilities on the grassed area adjacent to his property and this had involved making physical changes. This is registered as common land and has been a Council asset since 1975. Cllrs Spenser and Mercer will meet the clerk on site to clarify the location. The Clerk will then carry out more research into how common land can and cannot legally be used by the public.

e. The Coronation of King Charles III

As the Social Centre has withdrawn its grant application, the Council will contact the school to discuss its plans for commemorating the Coronation and the feasibility of a grant application being submitted this financial year. During the discussion, Cllr Harris reminded members that he had a previously declared interest in the school.

7/23 Parish Council Policies

Proposed Cllr Spenser. Seconded Cllr Harris. Agreed all.

Resolved: The Business Continuity Plan with the addition of Natural England's base as a reserve meeting location, the Training Policy and the amended Grants & Donations Policy are adopted by the Council.

In line with the Business Continuity Plan, the Chairman received from the Clerk an envelope containing the current usernames and passwords. This will be retained unopened.

The Clerk will make enquiries about the approach Shropshire Council would take in the event of the Council becoming inquorate.

8/23 Planning

a. To Consider Applications

22/05490/AGR	Steel framed mono pitch building Land to the North of 9 Moss Lane, SY13 2QE	Notification only
22/05458/AGR	Erection of general-purpose agricultural building Rack Lane Farm	
23/00106/AGR	Proposed building for the storage of equipment and small tools Land opposite Green Acre Farm, Abbeygreen	
22/05573/FUL	New oak-framed 2 storey side extension, oak porch & attic conversion. Dragonfly House, 12a Platt Lane, SY13 2NY	Support with comment*

* Comment: The Council supports this application because it believes that the proposed alterations will enhance the appearance of the existing building.

b. No planning decisions received.

9/23 Financial Matters

a. To receive monthly bank balance record.

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

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
31 December 2022	Current Account (Working Budget)	£3,551.89
	Savings Account (Reserves)	£11,720.43
TOTAL		£15,272.32

The bank recon

ciliation and statements were checked and approved by Cllr Spenser.

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 Mercer, seconded by Cllr Weedall 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.
<u>Paid before the meeting</u>			
C Jones	Grass Cutting Contract	1120.00	47.22
Unity Trust Bank	Quarterly Charges	18.00	48.22DD
<u>To be Paid</u>			
HMRC	PAYE	474.40	49.22
J Ankers	Provision of Senior Citizens Meals	400.00	50.22
Employee	Salary for December hours	196.82	51.22
Employee	Reimbursement	14.85	52.22
NEST	Pension Contributions	57.20	53.22DD
Whixall Social Centre	Room Hire	200.00	54.22
Marlot Conservation Group	Reimbursement	49.49	55.22

c. To consider budget options for 2023/24

Members considered the report circulated in advance of the meeting and the proposed budget and precept.

Proposed Cllr Harris. Seconded Cllr Rodenhurst. Agreed All.

Resolved: The budget for 2023-24 is approved and the precept is set at £11,801 which represents a monthly increase of 26p for band D properties within the Parish.

Budget Headings	2022/23 budget £	2023/24 budget £
Staff costs	5,056	5,562
General Admin	627	690
Meeting Room Hire	334	334
Training	200	220
Grass Cutting	1,500	1,650
Marlot	217	238
Marlot repairs	200	200
Insurance	362	362
Chairman's Fund	700	440
Affiliations	438	587
Events	350	440
Earmarked Reserves	1018	1,078
Total	11,002	11,801

Scheduled date of next meeting:
8 February 2023 (7.30pm)

The meeting closed at 8.59pm.

