

# **Whixall Parish Council**

**Chairman: Ian Mercer**

**Minutes of WHIXALL'S PARISH MEETING held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at  
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm**

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**Present:**

**Chair to Whixall Parish Council:** I Mercer

**Whixall Parish Councillors:** B Harris (Vice Chair), G Turnbull, A Hague

**Shropshire Councillors:** P Dee

**Clerk to the Parish Council:** K Hatton

**Members of the community:** circa 23

**The following community groups/ organisations were represented:**

- Neighbourhood Watch
- Marlot Conservation Group
- Natural England/ Shropshire Wildlife Trust
- United Reformed Church Graveyard Trust
- Fields Multi Academy Trust (Whixall CE Primary School)
- Whixall History Group
- Whixall Marina
- Whixall Social Centre
- Community News
- Whixall P3 (Parish Paths Partnership)
- St Mary's Church
- Welsh End Chapel
- Whixall Toddler Group
- Whixall in Stitches

**71/18 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 to be approved and signed**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He asked that the minutes of last year's meeting be approved as an accurate record. Seconded by Cllr Harris. Cllr Mercer signed the minutes.

**72/18 Annual Report of the Parish Council**

The Chair reported on matters received by the Parish Council over the last twelve months. He acknowledged the contributions of recently resigned councillors, the co-option of Cllr Hague and the current vacancy for a councillor. He also paid thanks to the Clerk.

It was greatly appreciated that so many members of the community were in attendance at the meeting, citing it as a highlight.

The Chair drew attention to the council's plans to work with Welsh End Chapel, St Mary's Church and the school to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War by lighting a beacon at the school on the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> November as part of a national tribute.

There was particular reference made to the support that Whixall Parish Council receives from its Shropshire Councillors; Pauline Dee and Chris Mellings and praise for the work of the Social Centre Committee to maintain a fantastic facility which will also soon house an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for the community paid for with funds raised by the committee along with donations from other sources including a donation of the Neighbourhood Fund from the council.

### **73/18 Representatives from local groups and organisations are invited to share their information**

The Chair invited representatives to address the meeting to share information about their group or organisation.

- A member of the Parish Council spoke as a representative of 3 groups:
  - i. As co-ordinator for Whixall north Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator (Hollinwood/ Stanley Green/ Welsh End area). He has recently invited residents in Moss Cottages/ Platt Lane/ Canal Side area to become members. He talked about the links with the Whitchurch Safer Neighbourhood Team (police) and PCSO Chris Hirons planned visits to the Parish.
  - ii. As a Marlot Conservation Group Volunteer he provided information about the piece of registered common land (The Marl Allotment nr. Roundthorn Bridge), which is under the stewardship of the Parish Council who wish to protect it as a wildlife site. And...
  - iii. As a Natural England Volunteer... he stressed the reliance on a handful of volunteers for The Marlot and Natural England and encouraged those interested in conservation, be in the guise of it manual labour, surveying or clerical work to get involved.
- Representation was made on behalf of the United Reformed Church Graveyard Trust: It was explained that the Trust was set up as a result of concern for the maintenance of the graveyard after the church closed. The Trust maintains the site and has the occasional interment of ashes. It is grateful for the Parish Council's support. The site is very relevant to local and family history.
- A member of the Parish Council made representations on behalf of:
  - i. Fields Multi Academy Trust (Whixall and Prees Primary Schools) and
  - ii. Whixall History Group. It was pointed out that the group did not have meetings but do collate information via their website. The group is particularly interested in the recent history of Whixall.
- The current owners of Whixall Marina shared their plans for the site (which includes a 'relaxed eating' cafe and possibly 'essentials' shop) and the adjacent former haulage yard. It was announced that there are plans to hold an open day.
- Representation was made on behalf of Whixall Social Centre Committee, explaining the work that is undertaken to raise funds to maintain the building. The upcoming event; Whixall Dog Show was promoted and any help would be very gratefully received.
- Representation was made on behalf of The Community News, the local magazine delivered to your door. 10 copies per year for £7.50 (current price). Opportunities for local advertising.
- Cllr Pauline Dee described her role as Shropshire Councillor and her extensive experience as a town councillor. Cllr Dee highly praised the leadership and qualities of Whixall School based on direct knowledge of practises in her role as governor. She encouraged positive promotion of the school and the potential impact of falling enrolment.  
Cllr Dee also spoke of her role on the Planning Committee and the Fire Authority. Cllr Dee also congratulated Whixall Parish Council on its work.
- Representation was made on behalf of the Whixall P3 Group (Parish Paths Partnership): Whixall P3 is a very small group of volunteers who work to maintain public footpaths. Shropshire Council only has circa. 4 full time staff for the whole of Shropshire so the volunteer group work to install gates etc. and provide advice to both landowners and walkers in the local area to ensure that the public footpaths are accessible and appropriately used.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and opened the meeting up for the Parish Debate.

### **74/18 Parish Debate**

There were no further comments from the members of the community. The Chair made reference to the situation regarding broadband provision in the area and the recent installation of the AIRBAND mast (wireless internet technology which requires a line of sight to the mast) in Edstaston, which is hoped will serve some of those properties currently receiving the lowest internet speeds. Reference was also made to the works by Natural England around the restoration of the Mosses via the BogLIFE project – the Parish Council is being kept informed about the ongoing work.

Scheduled date of next meeting: **To be confirmed**