

## Annual Report of the Parish Council 2023-24

### 1. Membership of the Council:

There were no changes to the Council in 2023-24, but with Council elections due in May 2024 we will be looking to find at least one new Councillor, possibly more. If anyone is interested, they should contact the clerk for more information.

I'd like to thank all Councillors for their hard work last year and look forward to more of the same in the year ahead.

### 2. Shropshire Councillors

Edward Towers and Peter Broomhall continue to be very supportive, attending and contributing to the majority of our meetings. I'd like to thank them for their input.

### 3. Spending summary

	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
<b>Opening Balance</b>	£11,898	£12,761
<b>Income</b>	£12,426	£14,063
<b>Expenditure</b>	£11,562	£10,423
<b>Closing Balance</b>	£12,761	£16,399

### 4. Website

The parish website is kept updated by Mandy Roberts, the Clerk. Meeting dates, agendas and minutes can be found on the website along with information about the Parish. Unfortunately, the Parish Council Facebook Page is currently not in use because of technical problems.

### 5. Assets and reserves:

We have continued to improve the funding, information on and the maintenance of the council's assets and set funding aside annually to cover the maintenance costs for all our assets.

This year we will be spending some of our reserves on the replacement of a culvert at the Marlot Local Nature Reserve and are grateful to Natural England for their offer to supply labour and project manage the work. The Council arranges grass cutting at the Social Centre, Moss Cottages and Hollinwood Common. I would like to thank Graham Turnbull, Tim Lamb and Mark Louth for their voluntary work at the Marlot and Hollinwood.

### 6. Flood management:

There is ongoing work in conjunction with Natural England, Shropshire Council and landowners to try and find local, sustainable solutions. A joint letter has recently been sent out by Shropshire Council in an effort to improve the maintenance of the Lord Hill Drain.

### 7. Keeping residents involved and informed

This is important to us and this year we have seen an increase in the number of local residents attending meetings and raising issues with the Council. This is something which we welcome. Please feel free to attend any council meeting – even if you don't have any issues to raise.

We will continue to publish an annual newsletter in Autumn.

For the last three years we have taken a different approach to the Older People's Christmas meal and intend to continue with this approach.

We also intend to run, with the churches, the Armistice Sunday event.

8. Grants

Once again, we have managed to provide grant funding to local organisations whose work benefits the community of Whixall:

- North Shropshire Wheelers to assist with the provision of community transport
- Whixall URC Graveyard Trust to assist with maintainance of the graveyard
- The Social Centre Committee for physical improvements.

All grant recipients were invited to attend this evening's meeting but unfortunately the Wheelers have organised their own event this evening and the Graveyard Trust does not have a member able to attend. However, I'll now hand over to Steve Grogan of the Social Centre Committee for a brief outline of how their grant will be used this year.