

Whixall Parish Council



Chairman: Ian Mercer

Minutes of WHIXALL'S PARISH MEETING held on Wednesday 15 May 2023 at Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm

Present:

Chairman: I Mercer

Whixall Social Centre Committee: S Beer, W Edge, S Grogan.

Parishioners: 1

Clerk to Whixall Parish Council: A Roberts

1. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 May 2024 to be approved and signed

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting were signed as a true record.

2. Cllr Mercer reported on behalf of the Parish Council.

1. Changes on the Council:

None this year. However, with elections due to take place in May 2025 we will be looking for at least one new Councillor.

2. Shropshire Councillors

Edward Towers and Peter Broomhall attended most meetings and have been very supportive.

3. Spending summary

	2023/24	2024/25
Opening Balance	£11,898	£12,761
Income	£12,426	£14,063
Expenditure	£11,562	£10,423
Closing Balance	£12,761	£16,399

4. Website

The parish website is kept updated by the Clerk. Currently the Council's Facebook page is not operational.

5. Assets and reserves:

We have continued to improve the funding, information on and the maintenance of the council's assets. In 2024-25 we will be spending some of our reserves to replace a culvert at the Marlot Local Nature Reserve with the help of Natural England. The Council would like to thank the Marlot Conservation Group for their hard work on the Marlot and Hollinwood green.

6. Flood management:

There is ongoing work in conjunction with NE, SC and landowners to try and find sustainable solutions.

7. Keeping residents involved and informed i

This is important and a number of parishioners have attended meetings, which is welcomed; please feel free to attend any council meeting. We will continue to publish an annual newsletter. We intend to continue with the delivery of meals for Older People at Christmas. We also intend to run, with the churches, the Armistice Sunday event.

8. Grants

This year, grant funding has been given to:

- North Salop Wheelers to assist with the provision of community transport
- Whixall URC Graveyard Trust to assist with maintenance 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, Steve Grogan of the Social Centre Committee will outline of how their grant will be used this year.

3. Use of Parish Council Grant – Steve Grogan, Whixall Social Centre Committee Chair.

Steve explained that the grant will be used to paint the newly installed fencing around the Social Centre. It will be painted at some point during the summer. The aim is to make it last as long as the previous fencing, which is around 100 years.

Members of the committee are all volunteers and the organisation is a registered charity.

4. Parish Debate

The following matters were raised:

- a. Why has there been an 8% increase in the Parish Council's precept for 2024-25?
IM explained that the increase was to ensure that the Council has sufficient general and earmarked reserves as reserves will be affected by planned work on the Marlot culvert. He pointed out that the increase represented a monthly increase of 26p for Band D properties in the parish.
- b. What reserves does the Council hold?
The reserves are published on the website each year.
- c. How much will the culvert replacement cost?
It is expected to be in the thousands, but the Council is waiting for further information.

The meeting closed at 7.56pm

5. Scheduled date of next Annual Parish Meeting

21 May 2025 (to be confirmed)