

Whixall Parish Council



Chairman: Med Evans

Minutes of WHIXALL'S PARISH MEETING held on Wednesday 21 May 2025 at Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:00pm

Present:

Vice Chairman: I Mercer

Councillors: J Hawke, SJ Lamb, J Spenser

Whixall Social Centre Committee: S Beer, A Ford

Parishioners: 8

Other Organisations: P Bowyer, Natural England

Clerk to Whixall Parish Council: A Roberts

1. Welcome

Cllr Mercer welcomed those present on behalf of the Parish.

2. 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.

3. Annual Report of the Parish Council 2024-25

Cllr Mercer presented the report on behalf of the Council.

1. Membership of the Council:

There were no changes to the Council in 2024-25, but following the recent elections we have welcomed four new councillors: Jason Hawkes, Sarah-Jane Lamb, Mark Clorley and Chris Schup. We look forward to working together as a Council over the coming years.

Particular thanks was given to Bob Harris, Alan Rawlinson, Dave Edgerton and Margaret Howard who recently stood down as members of the Council.

2. Shropshire Councillors

Edward Towers and Peter Broomhall were thanked for their continued support and input. They have now been replaced by two new Councillors: Gary Groves and Alan Holford.

3. Spending summary

	2023/24	2024/25
Opening Balance	£12,761	£16,400
Income	£14,063	£13,624
Expenditure	£10,423	£11,869
Closing Balance	£16,400	£18,156

A breakdown of income and expenditure is available on our website.

4. Assets and reserves:

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

In 2024-25 we found to our cost that trees aren't always an asset and can be a liability. The part removal of a tree at the Old Burial Ground put a small dent in our reserves.

In 2025-26 we have spent further reserves on removing the remainder of the tree and will be using reserves to replace fencing at Moss Cottages field.

We have recently re-let the contract for grass cutting at the Social Centre, Moss Cottages and Hollinwood Common.

The Marlot Conservation Group continues to manage our Local Nature Reserve and Graham Turnbull, Tim Lamb, Martin Spenser and Mark Louth were thanked for their voluntary work at both the Marlot and Hollinwood.

5. 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 been sent out by Shropshire Council in an effort to improve the maintenance of the Lord Hill Drain.

6. Keeping residents involved and informed

In 2024-25 we saw an increase in the number of local residents attending meetings and raising issues with the Council. This is something which the Council welcomes. All residents are welcome to attend any council meeting.

In November 2024 we ran the Armistice Sunday event with the local Churches and intend to do the same in 2025. We also published a newsletter in the Autumn and provided meals for over 67-year-olds at Christmas. We plan to review both of these in 2025-26.

We now have a new website – whixallparish.gov.uk.

Meeting dates, agendas and minutes can be found along with information about the Parish.

We also have a Facebook Page where we post agendas and information of local interest. Information is also posted on the Whixall Community Page.

7. Grants

In 2024-25 grants were paid to:

- Whixall URC Graveyard Trust to assist with maintenance of the graveyard
- Whixall CE School for additional play equipment.

4. Flood Prevention

a. Jason Hawke, Parish Councillor.

Jason gave a presentation outlining the issues that are faced and ideas for mitigation. He also spoke about Whixall Resilience Group. Questions were raised about the need to clean out ditches in the parish.

b. Pete Bowyer, Natural England

Pete spoke about rainfall trends and the requirement for ditch management. He focused on the Lord Hill Culvert and letters which have been sent to landowners.

On behalf of the Marlot Conservation Group, Martin Spenser thanked Pete for the work carried out to reduce flooding at the Marlot.

5. **Parish Debate**

The following were raised:

- a. Is the culvert by the White House on Post Office Lane a highways drain (yes)
- b. The drain at Windmill Gardens needs to be cleared or may have collapsed (reported to Shropshire Council by the Clerk)
- c. Hollinwood – issues with overflow from Severn Trent treatment works
- d. Chapel Lane – frustration at lack of response from Shropshire Council (raised by IM with local Ward Councillors)
- e. Why has the precept been raised when the Council has reserves of £17,000?

The meeting closed at 20.18

6. **Scheduled date of next Annual Parish Meeting**

20 May 2026 (to be confirmed)