

Whixall Parish Council



Chairman: Med Evans

To all Members of the Council. You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of the Parish Council of Whixall to be held on Wednesday 15th April 2026 in **Welshend Methodist Church Hall** which will commence at 7.30pm in order to conduct the business enclosed on the agenda below.

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Signed:

Med Evans

Date: 10 April 2026

1. Chairman's welcome, announcements and public session

Should a member of the public so require they will be permitted to speak. Public speaking time will be limited to 15 minutes, 3 minutes per speaker

2. Shropshire Community Foundation Grants and Funding

Speaker: Joanna Morris, CEO, Shropshire Community Foundation.

3. Apologies

4. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary or any other interests or requests for dispensations

Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting and which is not included in the register of interests. Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

Members are reminded that they must declare non-pecuniary interests relating to agenda items

5. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th March 2026

6. Reports

- a. Shropshire Councillors - circulated
- b. Parish Councillors
- c. Clerk's Progress Report - circulated

7. Marlot

- a. To receive an update on volunteer hours
- b. To receive the monthly report - circulated
- c. Discussions with Natural England – to receive an update

8. Hollinwood Green – to receive an update on volunteer hours

9. Parish Trees (Cllr Hawkes)

10. Place Plan – to agree update

11. Policies

To resolve to adopt the safeguarding policy of Welsh End Methodist Church whilst using their premises for Parish Council Meetings.

12. Planning

a. To receive planning applications from Shropshire Council

26/01020/FUL Proposed alterations to bedrooms, extension of kitchen and addition of Boot Room, including the demolition of existing garage and erection of new Oak Framed garage
Southern Ash, Gilberts Lane, Whixall, Whitchurch, Shropshire.

- b. To receive planning decisions from Shropshire Council – none received
- c. Recycling Plant proposed near to the Meres and Mosses and Fenn's Wood Bog
To discuss and agree a response.

13. Finance

- a) To receive monthly balance record and reconciliation (circulated)
- b) To receive the Quarter 4 budget and spending report (circulated)
- c) To resolve to approve outstanding invoices and payments.

Recipient	Reason for Payment	Amount	Reference
Payments Made Before the Meeting			
1 st Wem Scouts	S137 Grant	200.00	96.25
Whixall Village Hall	S137 Grant	300.00	97.25
SALC	Training	45.00	98.25
Computer Works	Computer Repairs	60.00	99.25
New Payments to be approved			
M Spenser (MCG)	Reimbursement	17.00	1.26
Parish Online	Website Management	288.00	2.26
Alan Lomas (MCG)	Reimbursement	12.00	3.26
A Roberts	Salary (March hours)	349.97	4.26
A Roberts	Expenses (March)	40.85	5.26
HMRC	PAYE & NI	99.40	7.26
Welsh End Methodist	Room Hire	22.50	8.26
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Fee	7.00	9.26 DD
NEST	Pension Contributions	86.97	10.26 DD

14. Items for Next Agenda

To enable Councillors to bring forward items for the 13th May 2024 meeting agenda. The meeting will take place in Welshend Chapel.



Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: Med Evans

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th March 2026
at Whixall Social Centre starting at 7.30pm

Present

Councillors	Cllr M Evans (Chair), , C Weedall, C Schup, M Clorley, J Spenser, I Mercer, J Hawkes P Rodenhurst (joined at 7.31)	
Unitary Councillors	G Groves	
Clerk	A Roberts	
Other Organisations	Grocott Group Whixall Social Centre	Members of the Public: 0

28/26 Public Session

A representative of the Social Centre Committee stated that should the Council choose to move to another meeting venue they will be required to remove their property from the Social Centre site (ie the noticeboard and Chairman's board).

29/26 Speakers

Louise Allmark and Daniel McGowan (Grocott Group) provided an update covering the impact of the recent canal breach, events at the Marina, progress on potential development, acquisition of a Caravan Club Licence. It was noted that there are approximately 40 Whixall residents living on boats at the Marina.

30/26 Apologies

SJ Lamb

31/26 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary or any other interests or requests for dispensations

The following were declared in relation to agenda item 14 (Grants):
C Weedall – Member of Social Centre Committee

RESOLVED: Members who declared an interest in agenda item 13 (Grants) may take part in discussions but may not vote in relation to the organisation for which they declared their interest.

32/26 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th February 2026

Resolved: to approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th February 2026. They were duly signed by the Chair.

33/26 Reports

- Shropshire Councillors - noted
- Parish Councillors - Cllr Mercer will not be standing as deputy chairman in May and other members are asked to consider putting themselves forward.
- Clerk's Progress Report – noted

34/26 The Marlot

- The monthly activity report was circulated in advance.

Resolved: to note the contents of the Marlot monthly report.

b. Natural England have stated that in principle they are interested in taking over management of the Marlot Local Nature Reserve and have asked to have an online meeting with representatives of the Council.

Resolved: Cllr Mercer, Cllr Spenser and the Clerk, with Cllr Schup in reserve, will represent the Council in an initial meeting with Natural England to discuss the future of the Marlot LNR.

The Clerk will contact NE to arrange a meeting date.

c. Squirrel Management

Resolved: to take no action in relation to squirrels on the LNR because the future management of the site is currently unknown.

35/26 Meeting Venue

Cllr Weedall reported that both Welshend Chapel and Whixall Marina would allow the Parish Council to use their venue for meetings and the hourly cost would be lower than that currently paid. Following a lengthy discussion it was:

Resolved: to hold three full council meetings at each local venue in 2025-26 as follows:

April, May and July: Welshend Chapel Meeting Room

September, October and November: Whixall Marina

January, February and March: Whixall Social Centre

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Social Centre

36/26 Playground Project

The Clerk reported that, In line with financial regulations, two more competitive quotes will be required before a decision regarding the style and cost of the playground can be agreed. The question of planning requirements was also raised.

One quote has been received for works to trees on the Moss Cottages Field boundary. A plan provided by Shropshire Council shows these trees may be located on highways land.

The Clerk will order the football nets before the end of the financial year.

Resolved: to obtain clarification from Shropshire Council regarding the ownership of the trees before making any decision to maintain them.

37/26 Asset Register 2026

Resolved: To approve the updated Asset Register.

38/26 Planning

No applications or decisions received from Shropshire Council.

39/26 Planning

No planning decisions or applications were received from Shropshire Council

40/26 S137 Grant Funding

Following a discussion about the applications received, it was

Resolved: To award S137 Grant funding of £200 to 1st Wem Scouts as a contribution towards their project to purchase a solar powered generator.

Resolved: To reject the suggestion that the Parish Council is responsible for the ongoing running costs of the defibrillator located at the Social Centre but to make a one-off S137 contribution of £300 towards this year's costs only.

41/26 Finance

a. To receive Monthly Balance Record and reconciliation -

Resolved: to note that Cllr Hawkes has confirmed that the reconciliation agrees with the bank statements.

b. S 137 Payments, Q4 Spending Report and Internal Controls -

Resolved: to note that

1. The Council's S137 spending is within the maximum allowable level
2. The spending report for Quarter 4 has been received
3. Cllr Hawkes carried out internal control checks immediately prior to the meeting.

c. To resolve to approve outstanding invoices and payments

Resolved: The outstanding accounts should be paid, and the online payment transactions authorised by two approved signatories.

Recipient	Reason for Payment	Amount	Reference
Payments made before the meeting			
ICO	Data Protection Fee	47	82.25
Recipient	Reason for Payment	Amount	Reference
Payments to be Approved			
Shelley Signs	Noticeboard	1,404.00	85.25
Amanda Roberts	Salary (Feb Hours)	349.97	86.25
HMRC	PAYE/NI (Feb)	99.60	87.25
Amanda Roberts	Expenses	165.12	88.25
NEST	Pension Contributions	86.97	89.25 DD
Fields MAT	Christmas Meal Costs	69.61	90.25
SASTAK	First Aid Course (Marlot)	84.00	91.25
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly fee	6.00	92.25 DD
Jason Hawkes	Bin bags for litterpick	12.98	93.25
Per Pro	Interim internal audit	135.00	94.25
Chris Jones	Grass Cutting Contract	960.00	95.25

42/26 Items for Next Agenda

The meeting scheduled for 14th April 2026 was noted.

Meeting closed at 9.21 pm

Cllr's Alan Holford and Gary Groves update for Whixall Parish Council April 2026

Dear Parish Councillors, Please find a written summary report of goings on relevant to the ward for you to read.

Financial Emergency

The emergency loan from Central Government has been approved as you will have seen in the press. This is crucial for the survival of the council and is good news, but it does not usher in free spending. It is based on us still making savings and restricting services to crucial services and revenue generating services. We will be carefully audited to ensure financial prudence too.

Roads

The untenable NWRR project has now been cancelled. This has released a £41m government grant that was tied up in it which can now be spent on highways projects across Shropshire. We are working to secure some of this for improvements in and around Wem. To make this cost effective, we want to combine a number of small projects in the town centre into one Transport Regulation Order, since one is needed for each project otherwise and they are £6k. If anyone on the parish council would like to put forward ideas for road improvements that we can include in this one project please let Alan know by email. The plan is for this to be a walk round to discuss the ideas at their locations in the first instance.

We are also looking at two speed limit reductions for Wem Rural, Barkers Green/Aston and Newtown. Look out for my question to cabinet which is the first step in this process. Are there any rural roads in Whixall which you think need a speed limit reduction? Does it already drop to 30 or 20mph by the school?

Library and Town Hall

We still have ambition to encourage the co-location of the library, town council offices and town hall within the one building. We feel this will be the most sustainable option for the time being and would protect both services for our residents. There are lots of positives to this co-location, given the high footfall of the library, the Town Hall events and café are likely to see a marked increase in revenue, protecting them. A renegotiation of the lease to reduce maintenance pressures on building tenants and a program of remedial works to get the building back up to standard will also be welcome. On top of that, we can also take the view that this is likely to be temporary, since the eventual renovation of the Morgan library may give opportunity for a move into that building for either the Town Council or Library depending on interest, thus freeing up space for services to expand again within the town hall building. The realities of the

financial situation are stark and in our view this co-location is essential to protect the library and town hall for the ward.

Police Force Mergers

Here is a link regarding the proposed police force mergers – a public consultation for you to get your views in. [Public consultation - police force mergers | West Mercia PCC](#)

Oil heating help

Shropshire has received a small grant to distribute to those in fuel poverty with oil heating systems given the price rises associated with the war in the middle east. Any affected residents should keep a look out on council website and communications over the next couple of months for details on how to apply.

Planned Roadworks

I am writing to inform you that Persimmon Homes has secured approval for a temporary road closure on Lowe Hill Road, Wem, to facilitate storm and foul outfall works on our development. The closure will affect a small section of Lowe Hill Road before the junction with Pyms Road and will be in place from 28th March to 12th April 2026.

- Egress to Thomas Adams Sports Centre will be maintained, and access to all properties will remain available.
- Two-way temporary traffic lights will operate at the Pyms Road junction; signage will be installed, and operatives will be on site to monitor and maintain safety throughout.
- Vehicles will be diverted via the B5063 Ellesmere Road to Horton and back onto Lowe Hill Road, with access to Pyms Road from the north. Access from the south to Lowe Hill Gardens will also be maintained.

Two weeks prior to works, advanced warning signage will be installed, and a letter drop to affected residents and businesses will take place. Evidence of these communications can be provided.

Road Closure: Unnamed road south of Paddol Green to Rye Bank

Start Date: 29th April 2026

End Date: 1st May 2026

Purpose: Road Closure - Installation of new poles

Works Promoter: OPENREACH LIMITED

Works Promoter Ref: BC341SASWGPMDWP7-11-02

**Enforcement pattern for Unnamed road south of Paddol Green to Rye Bank:
8.00 - 18.00hrs**

Road Closure: B4397 Burlton to B5063 junc

Start Date: 10th April 2026

End Date: 29th May 2026

Purpose: Site 70 surface dressing including sweeping and lining as follows:

Stud removal: 10/04/26

Dressing incl w/e: 08/05/26-10/05/26

Lock Chip: 21/05/26-22/05/26

Lining: 28/05/26-29/05/26

Weekdays: 09:30-16:00 Weekends: 06:00-18:00

Please note that these works are weather dependent and subject to change.

Works Promoter: Shropshire Council

Works Promoter Ref: UJ211SD26-70

Road Closure: B5476 Harmer Hill to Alderton

Start Date: 7th April 2026

End Date: 14th May 2026

Purpose: Site 73 surface dressing including sweeping and lining as follows:

Stud removal: 07/04/26

Dressing: 28/04/26-30/04/26

Lining: 12/05/26-14/05/26

Please note that these works are weather dependent and subject to change.

Works Promoter: Shropshire Council

Works Promoter Ref: UJ211SD26-73

Enforcement pattern for B5476 Harmer Hill to Alderton:

From Monday to Friday 09:30 - 16:00

Road Closure: Fenns Bank Road, Whixhall

Start Date: 30th April 2026

End Date: 1st May 2026

Purpose: Road Closure - Boundary Box Install

Works Promoter: SEVERN TRENT WATER LIMITED

Works Promoter Ref: LB9141201-000014195471A-01

**Enforcement pattern for Fenns Bank Road, Whixhall:
All the time**

Road Closure: Lacon Street, Prees

Start Date: 16th April 2026

End Date: 16th April 2026

Purpose: Road Closure - Repair defective manhole frame and cover

Works Promoter: SEVERN TRENT WATER LIMITED

Works Promoter Ref: LB7012204-000014193436-02

**Enforcement pattern for Lacon Street, Prees:
9.30 - 14.30hrs**

Road Closure: Coppice Lane, Coton

Start Date: 13th April 2026

End Date: 17th April 2026

Purpose: Road Closure - Excavate HV joint bay in verge and carriageway and pole replacement

Works Promoter: SP Energy Networks

Works Promoter Ref: GY0222101844681-05

**Enforcement pattern for Coppice Lane, Coton:
All the time**

Road Closure: Unnamed road Barkers Green to Aston

Start Date: 29th March 2026

End Date: 29th March 2026

Purpose: Road Closure - MJ Quinn are to replace 1x pole

Works Promoter: Openreach

Works Promoter Ref: BC518MAPBWWGNJF87X-02

**Enforcement pattern for Unnamed road Barkers Green to Aston:
8.00 - 17.00hrs**

Road Closure: Maltkiln Lane, Tilstock

Start Date: 13th April 2026

End Date: 13th April 2026

Purpose: Road Closure - MJ Quinn are to renew x1 floorbox

Works Promoter: Openreach

Works Promoter Ref: BC518MACKFWGHT958Y-02

**Enforcement pattern for Maltkiln Lane, Tilstock:
8.00 - 17.00hrs**

Road Closure: Brades Road, Prees

Start Date: 30th March 2026

End Date: 10th April 2026

Purpose: Road Closure - Water Mains Replacement

Works Promoter: Severn Trent Water

Works Promoter Ref: LB525A7W-12756102A-01

**Enforcement pattern for Brades Road, Prees:
All the time**

Clerk's Progress Report**April 2026****Progress on Actions arising from Council Resolutions**

Council Resolution	Progress	Notes
Councillors will attend training on planning, Code of Conduct and Fundamentals for Councillors during this term of office.		Fundamentals info sent to all councillors 4.8.25. One Councillor booked for training.
Set up new Facebook admins		Completed
Contact NE re Future Management of the Marlot and protection for MCG volunteers		Awaiting reply
Explore alternative meeting venues		Completed
Arrange meeting with NE re Marlot		Arranged for 17 th April
Finalise meeting venues		Completed

Other Actions (including those not covered in resolutions)

Action	Progress	Notes
Invite ex councillors to a meal		Date of meal to be agreed
Marlot Shropshire Way signage		On hold
Marlot squirrel management		Agenda item for March
Marlot Ecological Management Plan update		On hold
Chairmans' board to be updated		Searching for signwriter
Update Social Centre boundary agreement		Will be a future agenda item
Whixall Walks Booklet to be updated		Need to agree how this will be done.
Establish ownership of Social Centre Noticeboard		
Look at wording of summons to meetings		NALC legal advice is that the LGA uses the term summoned.
Arrange a speaker from Community Foundation for a future meeting		Agenda Item
Roadside trees at Moss Cottages – find out who owns them.		Shropshire Council: Additional information / site meeting requested

Marlot Conservation Group (MCG)

Report to Whixall Parish Council for its meeting to be held on 15 April 2026

With Tim Lamb still out of action, the MCG will continue to struggle to keep on top of the usual maintenance tasks, as well as dealing with damaged and fallen trees.

However, Alan Lomas duly attended a first aid course on 17th March and now holds an Emergency First Aid at Work certificate, so we will crack on with our work. The main paths have been cleared with a strimmer, in anticipation of the Easter crowds.

I shall be conducting nest-box surveys this year, accompanied by a volunteer colleague from Natural England. Whilst preparing for this season, there were promising sights (and sounds) of Great Tits and a Coal Tit nearby. A Chiffchaff was also calling, which I tend to mark the true arrival of Spring and the hope that our wildlife can thrive.

I am also hoping that newt surveys can be conducted again this year; I await hearing from a licensed surveyor in that regard.

Martin Spenser

7 April 2026

Dear

Trees in Whixall

Whixall is a beautiful Parish with a wonderful treescape. However, quite a lot of our mature trees clearly have more years behind them than ahead. A good example is some of those at the west end of Rack Lane

Whixall Parish Council would like to work with landowners and other stakeholders, such as Severn Trent Water and Shropshire Highways, to ensure that there is a treescape for our grandchildren to enjoy and benefit from.

In many places, there are hedges that are kept well trimmed by landowners, but any young trees coming up through those hedges are topped along with the rest of the hedge. We would like to work with you to plant new trees and mark them so they don't get topped, but also to put them in the right places so they don't overshadow working farm fields.

Whixall also has issues with road flooding which can be mitigated with tree planting, such as Willows at Slacks Corner, or outside the Social Centre. This needs to be done without damaging existing drainage infrastructure, but could also benefit surrounding farm fields by reducing waterlogging issues.

We can work with organisations like the Woodland Trust to get free tree packs of various types (broadleaf, water tolerant etc) and would like to put together a proper tree strategy that works for everyone in Whixall, whether their concerns are around conservation, flooding, farming or the visual landscape.

Please do contact us if you are interested in getting involved in this, whether actively or just by consent to let us put plans together that would need your help in managing in the future.

Warm regards

Whixall Parish Council Place Plan Priorities –updated 2025-26

Project	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Partners	Notes
Creation of a children’s play area on Moss Cottages Field (Council owned land)	Not known	Neighbourhood Fund, precept, grants	Parish Council, property owners	Parish lead.
Additional signposting and notice boards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village entry signs incorporating safety warning signs (similar to Quiet Lanes) Direction signs to the Social Centre Community Noticeboards at Stanley Green, Welsh End and Abbey Green 	Not known	Neighbourhood Fund, precept, property owners	Parish Council, property owners	Parish lead.
Maintenance of footpaths and bridleways. (Whixall)	Not known	Neighbourhood Fund, precept	Parish Council	Parish lead. Possible link to Shropshire Council’s Green Infrastructure Strategy, currently under development.
Updating and provision of Area walking maps. (Whixall)	Not known	Neighbourhood Fund, precept	Parish Council	Parish lead.
Implementation of speed control measures and additional signage (Whixall). Priority = area around the primary school.	Not known	Neighbourhood Fund, precept	Parish Council	Parish lead. For local highways concerns – such as pavements and pedestrian linkages, speed monitoring and reduction, signage, etc – please contact Shropshire Council directly, so that the issue can be assessed in light of other priorities within the Local Transport Plan. Please email transport@shropshire.gov.uk
Improved communication infrastructure, particularly mobile phone coverage and fast fibre broadband	Not known		Parish Council	New
Measures to address flooding and land drainage (especially Moss Lane Fields)	Not known		Parish Council	New
Improved highway drainage at key locations (in particular: Slacks Corner, roads leading directly to the school, outside the Social Centre).	Not known		Parish Council	New suggested locations: Slacks Corner, roads leading directly to the school, outside the Social Centre.
Improved road condition through better repairs and planned maintenance	Not known		Parish Council	New
Improved visibility at the Platt Lane/Wagoner’s cross roads(travelling towards Canalside)	Not known		Parish Council	New
Continued viability and support for the Social Centre				New

CHURCH SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Statement of Safeguarding Principles

It is the Methodist Church's intention to value every human being as part of God's creation and the whole people of God. At the heart of the Methodist community is a deep sense of the place of welcome, hospitality and openness, which demonstrates the nature of God's grace and love for all.

Our church communities are called to be places where the transformational love of God is embodied and life in all its fullness is a gift, which is offered to all people.

Principles

Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. This means we will:

- **promote** the welfare of children, young people and adults
- work to **prevent** abuse from occurring
- seek to **protect** and respond well to those that have been abused.

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- safeguarding and protecting all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- establishing safe, caring communities, which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and The Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme in Scotland.

We will respond without delay to every safeguarding concern, which suggests that a child, young person or adult may have been harmed, working in partnership with the police and social services in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

Working with the Church Safeguarding Officer, we will support risk assessment of those who present a safeguarding risk within a church environment. We will ensure appropriate pastoral care is offered and measures are taken to address identified risks including referral to statutory agencies, suspension and the use of safeguarding contracts.

In all these principles, we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy for Welsh End Methodist Church

Purpose

The purpose of the church safeguarding policy is to check that procedures are in place and provide clarity about the roles and responsibilities of those trusted with promoting the church as a safe space for all its users.

This policy was agreed at a Church Council held on 16th November 2025

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Welsh End Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirms that the needs of vulnerable individuals at risk are paramount.

Welsh End Methodist Church recognises that it has a particular care for all who are vulnerable whether as a result of disabilities or reduction in capacities or by their situation. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and our wish to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to support the church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

Welsh End Methodist Church recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual, discriminatory, domestic or institutional abuse or neglect, abuse using social media, child sexual exploitation or human trafficking (slavery). It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development, including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

Welsh End Methodist Church commits itself to:

1. **RESPOND** without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed or may suffer harm, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.
2. **IMPLEMENT** the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.
3. **PROVIDE** support, advice and training for lay and ordained people to ensure that people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable.

4. **AFFIRM** and give thanks for those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults and also acknowledge the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding children, young people *and* vulnerable adults who are on our premises.

Church Council

Legal responsibility for safeguarding rests with the members of the Church Council. The safeguarding officer should be a member of the Church Council or have the right to attend at least annually to report on implementation of the safeguarding policy. Where an individual covers the role in more than one location, they must be able to cover the activities identified in the relevant role outline and be facilitated to attend meetings to report on safeguarding in each location.¹

Welsh End Methodist Church appoints Vera Chesters and Sylvia Jones as Safeguarding Officer (Adults & Children)

and supports them in their role, which is to:

- provide support and advice to the minister and the stewards in fulfilling their roles with regard to safeguarding.
- ensure that a suitable, signed church safeguarding policy is available at all times in the church, along with names of current safeguarding officers, national helplines and other suitable information. This must be renewed annually.
- record all safeguarding issues that are reported to the church safeguarding officer, according to Methodist safeguarding policy.
- promote appropriate routes for reporting of concerns
- identify and inform those who are required to attend safeguarding training and maintain records of attendance. Work with the Circuit Safeguarding Officer and District Safeguarding Officer to arrange training.
- attend training and meetings relating to the role
- work in partnership with others including stewards and user groups to promote good safeguarding practice on church premises. This may include gaining written confirmation that hirers of church premises are aware of the church safeguarding policy or are using an appropriate policy of their own.
- check that safeguarding is included as an agenda item at all Church Council meetings and report to the Church Council annually.
- inform all those with responsibility for recruitment, whether paid or voluntary, of their obligation to follow safer recruitment procedures.
- advise the Circuit Safeguarding Officer and/or District Safeguarding Officer of any issues with compliance with safeguarding training, policy or safer recruitment requirements and respond promptly to any request from them about audit of safeguarding activities.

a) Good practice

¹ It is not appropriate for the minister in pastoral charge to hold the Church Safeguarding Officer role because of the potential conflict with their own responsibilities.

We believe that good practice means:

- i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.
- ii) Those who act on behalf of the church should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen unless this is necessary for pastoral reasons, in which case a written record will be made and kept noting date, time and place of visit.
- iii) The church premises will be assessed by the Church Safeguarding Officer with the property steward and/or their representatives at least annually for safety for children, young people and vulnerable adults and a written risk assessment report will be given annually to the Church Council. This will include fire safety procedures. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.
- iv) Any church-organised transport of children, young people or vulnerable adults will be checked to ensure that the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver and escort (where required) are appropriate. A record should be kept in the church file for each driver/car.
- v) Activity risk assessments will be undertaken before any activity takes place to minimise the risk of harm to those involved. Approval will be obtained from the event leader/minister. A written record of the assessment will be retained securely.
- vi) Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God's people to reach their full potential. The Church Council will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area.

These things are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

b) Appointment and training of workers in the church

Workers will be appointed after a satisfactory criminal records check and following the safer recruitment procedures of the Methodist Church. Each worker will have an identified supervisor who will meet at regular intervals with the worker. A record of these meetings will be agreed and signed and the record kept. Each worker will be expected to undergo safeguarding training, within the first 6 months of appointment. The other training needs of each worker will be considered (such as food hygiene, first aid and lifting and handling).

c) Pastoral visitors

Pastoral visitors will be supported in their role with the provision of safeguarding training upon appointment. If they are undertaking tasks for which a criminal records check would be required, this will be undertaken prior to appointment.

d) Guidelines for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults

A leaflet outlining good practice and systems should be given to everyone who works with children, young people and vulnerable adults. This leaflet should be reviewed annually.

e) Ecumenical events

Where ecumenical events happen on church premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of this Church Council.

f) Events with church groups off the premises

Adequate staffing, a risk assessment and notification of the event will be given to the church safeguarding officer prior to the agreement for any event or off site activity. Notification of the event will be given to the church council.

If the activity is unusual or considered to be high risk the Church Safeguarding Officer will contact the Circuit Safeguarding Officer in order that it can be ratified or any queries raised.

g) Other groups on church premises

Where the building is hired for outside use, the Church Safeguarding Officer should be informed. The Church Safeguarding Officer will keep the records and take advice as appropriate from the Circuit Safeguarding Officer.

h) Complaints procedure

There is a formal complaints procedure within the Methodist Church, which allows concerns to be raised about actions or behaviour by a member or officer of the Church. In addition, employed staff will be subject to relevant contractual procedures. All complaints will be responded to with care, diligence and impartiality.

A complaint should be addressed to the Minister, the Revd. Julia Skitt or the Superintendent Minister, the Revd. Richard Hall at 6 Ryelands, Shrewsbury SY3 9BZ Email: Superintendent2803@gmail.com. If a complaint is made it should be referred to the superintendent. Meetings will be arranged with the person making the complaint and, usually, the person against whom the complaint has been made, in an attempt to resolve it. If the complaint is against the superintendent, it should be sent to the District Chair, the Revd. Rachel Deigh Email: rachel.deigh@wmmethodists.org.uk

Safeguarding officers must be informed of any complaint or issue relating to the potential abuse of children, young people or adults who may be vulnerable. They will support prompt action to respond to the circumstances of any safeguarding concern, whether or not any party involved wishes to make a formal complaint through the Methodist Church.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council.

Next review date: **Autumn 2026**

i) Definition of Key Terms

- i) A child is anyone who has not yet reached their eighteenth birthday.
- ii) Vulnerable adults: any adult aged 18 or over who, owing to disability, mental function, age or illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves.
- iii) Safeguarding: protecting children, young people or vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
- iv) Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity, which is undertaken to protect children, young people and/or adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.

- v) Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, a community or an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child, young person or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.
- vi) Worker: anyone working with children or vulnerable adults in the name of Welsh End Methodist Church, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Skitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "Skitt".

Chair of Church Council
Rev. Julia Skitt 16 Wilfred Owen Avenue, Oswestry SY11 2NB Mobile telephone: 07810360778

Dated: 16th November 2025

Safeguarding Officers: Sylvia Jones and Vera Chesters

15.4.26

Agenda Item 13a

Monthly Balance Record and Reconciliation

Balances at 31st March 2026

Current Account	543.00
Savings Account	<u>16364.74</u>
Total	<u>16907.74</u>

Your Account Statement



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Unity Trust Bank plc
PO Box 7193
Planetary Road
Willenhall
WV1 9DG

1055522810 | 01273

Mrs Amanda Roberts
Whixall Parish Council
2 Tilley Road
Wem
Shrewsbury
SY4 5HA

Date: 31/03/2026

Account Name: Whixall Parish Council

Swift Code (BIC): NWBKGB2L

IBAN Number: GB93NWBK60023571418024

Sort Code: 608301

Account Number: 20423117

Your arranged overdraft limit is £0.00

Go Paperless! Receive your statements online and we'll notify you by SMS or email when they're available to view. Simply log into Your Online Banking and update your statement preferences or give us a call on 0345 140 1000



For eligible organisations, your deposits held with Unity Trust Bank are protected up to £85,000 under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). For more information about eligibility and compensation provided by the FSCS, please visit: [FSCS.org.uk](https://www.fscs.org.uk) or refer to our FSCS Information Sheet and Exclusions List at [unity.co.uk/fscs](https://www.unity.co.uk/fscs)

Contact Us

Call us: **0345 140 1000**

Email us: us@unity.co.uk

Visit us: [unity.co.uk](https://www.unity.co.uk)

Your Current T1 account transactions:

Date	Type	Details	Payments Out	Payments In	Balance
28/02/2026		Balance brought forward	£0.00	£0.00	£1,522.25
10/03/2026	Transfer	Transfer from 20423120	£0.00	£2,000.00	£3,522.25
12/03/2026	Transfer	Transfer to 20423120	£1,000.00	£0.00	£2,522.25
12/03/2026	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: Mr C Jones	£960.00	£0.00	£1,562.25

Page number 1 of 3

Statement number 090

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Your Current T1 account transactions:

Date	Type	Details	Payments Out	Payments In	Balance
12/03/2026	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: Per Pro	£135.00	£0.00	£1,427.25
12/03/2026	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: Jason Hawkes	£12.98	£0.00	£1,414.27
12/03/2026	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: SASTAK	£84.00	£0.00	£1,330.27
12/03/2026	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: Fields M A Trust	£69.61	£0.00	£1,260.66
12/03/2026	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: AJ Roberts	£165.12	£0.00	£1,095.54
12/03/2026	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: HMRC Cumbemauld	£99.60	£0.00	£995.94
12/03/2026	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: AJ Roberts	£349.97	£0.00	£645.97
12/03/2026	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: Shelley Signs	£1,170.00	£0.00	£-524.03
12/03/2026	Transfer	Transfer from 20423120	£0.00	£2,000.00	£1,475.97
16/03/2026	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: Shelley Signs	£234.00	£0.00	£1,241.97
25/03/2026	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: SALC	£45.00	£0.00	£1,196.97
25/03/2026	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: WhixallVillageHall	£300.00	£0.00	£896.97
25/03/2026	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: Wem Scoutsw	£200.00	£0.00	£696.97
30/03/2026	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: Computer Works	£60.00	£0.00	£636.97
31/03/2026	Direct Debit	Direct Debit (NEST)	£86.97	£0.00	£550.00
31/03/2026	Fee	Service Charge	£7.00	£0.00	£543.00



Bank reconciliation (Whixall Parish Council 2025-2026) - registered
on 01/04/2025

Whixall Parish Council

Bank account: Working Account Reconciliation as at: 31/03/2026

Balance per bank statement at 31/03/2026	543.00
TOTAL NET BANK BALANCES at 31/03/2026	543.00
The total net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments) as follows	
Opening balance at 01/04/2025	112.35
Total receipts	15605.14
Total payments	-17374.49
Total transfers	2200.00
Closing balance per cash book as at 31/03/2026 (must equal net bank balances above)	543.00



Show reconciled transactions (Whixall Parish Council 2025-2026) -

registered on 01/04/2025

Whixall Parish Council

Details of bank reconciliation dated 31/03/2026 for Working Account

Date	Type	Reference	Supplier / customer	Description	Amount
Opening statement balance					1522.25
Reconciled transactions					
10/03/2026	Transfer	T9		Balance Top Up	2000.00
12/03/2026	Payment	95.25	C Jones	Grass Cutting 25-26	-960.00
12/03/2026	Payment	94.25	Per Pro	Interim Audit	-135.00
12/03/2026	Payment	87.25	HMRC	NI & PAYE	-99.60
12/03/2026	Transfer	T11		£1k returned to current plus £	2000.00
12/03/2026	Transfer	T10		Transferred to savings in error	-1000.00
12/03/2026	Payment	85.25	Shelley Signs	Replacement Noticeboard (Insuran	-1404.00
12/03/2026	Payment	93.25	BMBargains2025	Bin bags for litterpick	-12.98
12/03/2026	Payment	88.25	Amanda Roberts	Mileage and WFH Allowance	-44.45
12/03/2026	Payment	91.25a	SASTAK Services Ltd	First Aid Course (Marlot)	-84.00
12/03/2026	Payment	90.25	Fields MAT	SC Christmas Food S137	-69.61
12/03/2026	Payment	88.25	Dell Corporation Ltd	Laptop Battery	-25.58

12/03/2026	Payment	88.25	Amazon UK	Printer Ink	-95.09
12/03/2026	Payment	86.25	Amanda Roberts	Salary March	-349.97
24/03/2026	Payment	98.25	SALC	Training Cllr Hawkes Data Protec	-45.00
24/03/2026	Payment	97.25	Whixall Village Hall	S137 Grant Minute ref 40/26	-300.00
24/03/2026	Payment	96.25	1st Wem Scouts	S 137 Grant minute ref 40/26	-200.00
30/03/2026	Payment	99.25	Computer Works	Fitting battery and removing old	-60.00
31/03/2026	Payment	89.25 DD	NEST	Pension Contributions	-86.97
31/03/2026	Payment	91.25	Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges February	-7.00
Reconciled Balance					543.00

Your Account Statement



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Unity Trust Bank plc
PO Box 7193
Planetary Road
Willenhall
WV1 9DG

1055522812 | 00534

Mrs Amanda Roberts
Whixall Parish Council
2 Tilley Road
Wem
Shrewsbury
SY4 5HA

Date: 31/03/2026

Account Name: Whixall Parish Council

Swift Code (BIC): NWBKGB2L

IBAN Number: GB93NWBK60023571418024

Sort Code: 608301

Account Number: 20423120

Go Paperless! Receive your statements online and we'll notify you by SMS or email when they're available to view. Simply log into Your Online Banking and update your statement preferences or give us a call on 0345 140 1000

The credit interest rate is 1.95% AER as of your statement date.



For eligible organisations, your deposits held with Unity Trust Bank are protected up to £85,000 under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). For more information about eligibility and compensation provided by the FSCS, please visit: **FSCS.org.uk** or refer to our FSCS Information Sheet and Exclusions List at **unity.co.uk/fscs**

Contact Us

Call us: **0345 140 1000**

Email us: **us@unity.co.uk**

Visit us: **unity.co.uk**

Your Instant Access account transactions:

Date	Type	Details	Payments Out	Payments In	Balance
28/02/2026		Balance brought forward	£0.00	£0.00	£19,263.83
10/03/2026	Transfer	Transfer to 20423117	£2,000.00	£0.00	£17,263.83
12/03/2026	Transfer	Transfer to 20423117	£2,000.00	£0.00	£15,263.83
12/03/2026	Transfer	Transfer from 20423117	£0.00	£1,000.00	£16,263.83

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Statement number 072

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1055522812 | 00534 | 00001 | 00002 |

Your Instant Access account transactions:					
Date	Type	Details	Payments Out	Payments In	Balance
31/03/2026	Credit Interest	Credit Interest	£0.00	£100.91	£16,364.74



Show reconciled transactions (Whixall Parish Council 2025-2026) -

registered on 01/04/2025

Whixall Parish Council

Details of bank reconciliation dated 31/03/2026 for Savings

Date	Type	Reference	Supplier / customer	Description	Amount
Opening statement balance					19263.83
Reconciled transactions					
10/03/2026	Transfer	T9		Balance Top Up	-2000.00
12/03/2026	Transfer	T10		Transferred to savings in error	1000.00
12/03/2026	Transfer	T11		£1k returned to current plus £	-2000.00
31/03/2026	Receipt	R10	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Interest Q4	100.91
Reconciled Balance					16364.74



Bank reconciliation (Whixall Parish Council 2025-2026) - registered

on 01/04/2025

Whixall Parish Council

Bank account: Savings Reconciliation as at: 31/03/2026

Balance per bank statement at 31/03/2026	16364.74
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TOTAL NET BANK BALANCES at 31/03/2026	16364.74
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The total net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments) as follows

Opening balance at 01/04/2025	18043.22
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Total receipts	521.52
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Total payments	-
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Total transfers	-2200.00
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Closing balance per cash book as at 31/03/2026 (must equal net bank balances above)	16364.74
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Whixall Parish Council

Quarter 4 Budget Report 2025-26

Payments	Budget	Actual	Variance	EMR	Other
Other Payments					
Marlot Leaflet	0	107.00	-107.00		107
Fence Repair	0.00	2,002.00	-2,002.00		
Emergency Tree Works	0.00	1,600.00	-1,600.00		
Total Other Payments	0.00	3,712.00	-3,712.00		
Administration					
General Admin	205.00	437.54	-232.54	116.07	
Bank charges	75.00	73.00	2.00		
Website and Newsletter	370.00	442.96	-72.96		
Elections	0.00	125.00	-125.00	125.00	
Audit	120.00	135.00	-15.00		
Room Hire	324.00	28.00	296.00		
Training	220.00	217.00	3.00		
Insurance	690.00	680.85	9.15		
Affiliations	695.00	583.13	111.87		
Total Administration	2,699.00	2,722.48	-23.48		
Asset Management					
Grass cutting	1,750.00	960.00	790.00		
Hollinwood Green	50.00	18.21	31.79		
Marlot routine works	262.00	318.97	-56.97		
Noticeboard Repairs	0.00	1,170.00	-1,170.00		Insurance
Total Asset Management	2,062.00	2,467.18	-405.18		
Community					
Section 137 Payments Grants	500.00	500.00	0.00		
S 137 Payments - Events	440.00	160.59	279.41		
Total Community	940.00	660.59	279.41		
Staffing					
Staff - non-salary costs	460.00	504.50	-44.50		
Salaries	6,652.00	6,427.11	224.89		
Total Staffing	7,112.00	6,931.61	180.39		
Total Payments	12,813.00	16,493.86	-3,680.86		

Receipts	Budget	Actual	Variance
Precept			
Precept Payment	13,637.00	13,637.00	0.00
Total Precept	<u>13,637.00</u>	<u>13,637.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Other receipts			
VAT Repayments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	150.00	521.52	371.52
Miscellaneous Receipts	1.00	1,350.98	1,349.98
Total Other receipts	<u>151.00</u>	<u>1,872.50</u>	<u>1,721.50</u>
Total Receipts	<u>13,788.00</u>	<u>15,509.50</u>	<u>1,721.50</u>