

Annual Report of the Parish Council May 2025

1. Membership of the Council:

There were no changes to the Council in 2024-25, but following the recent elections we have 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.

I'd like to thank all Councillors for their hard work over recent years. In particular I want to thank those who have recently decided to stand down: Bob Harris, Alan Rawlinson, Dave Edgerton and Margaret Howard.

2. Shropshire Councillors

Edward Towers and Peter Broomhall continued to be very supportive in 2024-25, attending and contributing to the majority of our meetings. I'd like to thank them for their input in our meetings. We now have two new Shropshire 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 the funding, information on and the maintenance of the council's assets. Each year we 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.

This year we have spent some 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 I would like to thank Graham Turnbull, Tim Lamb, Martin Spenser and Mark Louth 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. You will hear more of this from Natural England

6. 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.

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 this year.

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

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

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

If you would like any more information about the Council please come along to our meetings – the next one will be held on 9th July at 7.30pm.