



Whixall Parish Council

Business Plan and Action Plan 2025 – 2029

Approved November 2025

Background and Introduction

The purpose of this Business Plan is to describe our business, providing a statement in relation to key objectives and resources.

Business Summary

There are 9 Councillors within the Parish of Whixall. The Parish Council is the first and most local tier of government, with an important role to play in representing our communities and promoting our parish.

Our Councillors are enthusiastic local people and their aim is to improve day-to-day life and opportunities for people who live, work and travel in Whixall.

Our Vision

Rooted in history and surrounded by peaceful countryside, Whixall is a parish that values its people, its rural heritage, and its way of life. As we grow and adapt, we hope to remain true to our traditional character while becoming more connected, lively, and inclusive. Together, we aspire to nurture a proud, caring community where people support one another, protect our rural heritage, and celebrate the uniqueness of Whixall.

Parish Council Responsibilities

The Parish Council has responsibility for

- The Old Burial Ground (adjacent to the Social Centre)
- The field adjacent to the Old Burial Ground (leased to the Bowling Club)
- The War Memorial
- Noticeboards across the Parish
- Moss Cottages Playing Field
- The Marlot LNR (managed by the Marlot Conservation Group)
- The Redundant Telephone Box at Welshend (managed as a book exchange by a local resident)

The Parish Council provides:-

- Grant Funding for community groups
- An annual newsletter

- Support for elderly residents at Christmas time.

Progress on previous priorities

This is the first business plan, so no formal priorities have been previously identified. However, over the last five years the Council has achieved the following:

- Improved asset management, including building up financial reserves for specific assets
- Support for litter picking events run by a local resident. This is now built into the Council's budget.
- Declaration of the Marlot as a Local Nature Reserve and continued financial and material support for the MCG
- Organising Remembrance Sunday events in partnership with local churches.

Priorities identified for 2025 – 2029

Priority	Notes
1. Encourage wider representation on the Council	There are areas of the Parish with no representatives. Explore how to address this.
	Encourage younger people to become active on the Council.
2. Increase the use of PR	Use social media to encourage volunteers and to promote the work of the Council.
3. Resilience Planning	Flooding – see item 8
4. Address succession issues relating to the Marlot.	Explore possible future arrangements for management <u>before</u> issues arise. Involve MCG in this. A disproportionate amount of time is spent discussing the Marlot. Identify and promote the Marlot's Unique Selling Points
5. Parish Cohesion / Community	Look at combining litterpicking with other parishes and use the Social Centre as a hub.
6. Legacy projects	Addressing Flooding – funding will be needed for equipment, software etc. Could look at setting up as an unincorporated group to access funding. Children's play area Carry out further work on the role of the OBG for the community
7. Governance	Consider limiting the duration of the Chair's role to 2 – 3 years and encouraging all to step forward into the role.
8. Potential delegation of services by Shropshire Council	Is there anything that we could do better within the Parish?

Projects for 2026-2027

Priority	Projects
Parish Cohesion/Community	Welcome to Whixall event at the Social Centre, to enable voluntary groups, businesses etc to promote themselves.
	Litterpicking with other parishes
Legacy Projects	Explore alternative arrangements for the maintenance and use of the OBG. Possibly enhance its use as a village green.
	Start development of a project to introduce a children's play area in the Parish.

Summary of Whixall Parish Council Budget

Budget Heading	24-25	25-26
Expenditure		
Administration		
General Admin	120	205
Bank charges	75	75
Website/gov.uk	250	370
Newsletter	150	
Audit	120	120
Room Hire	324	324
Training	220	220
Insurance	450	690
Affiliations	645	695
Total Administration	2354	2699
Asset Management		
Grass cutting	1650	1750
Hollinwood Green	0	50
Marlot routine works	250	262
Contribution to Reserves	1350	975
Community	3250	3037
Community		
Chairman's Fund	440	500
Events	440	440
Total Community	880	940
Staffing		
Staff - non-salary costs	437	460
Salaries	6160	6652
Total Staffing	6597	7112
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	13081	13788
Receipts	Income	Income
Precept	12880	13637
Other receipts		
CIL / Neighbourhood Fund		
Bank Interest	200	150
Miscellaneous Receipts	1	1
Total Other receipts	2001	151
Total Receipts	£11,801	£13,788

The budget is carefully monitored by the Parish Council with schedules of payments going to every Council meeting for approval and published on the Council website.

A summary of the accounts is posted on the main Parish Council notice board by the end of June each year. To date, income and expenditure have both been below £25k, allowing the Council to declare itself exempt from external audit.

Committees, Panels and Liaison Groups 2025/26

There are no formal committees.

Name	Overall Purpose
Staffing Committee	To effectively and efficiently discharge the Council's duties as an Employer.
Complaints Panel	To investigate complaints made against the council. Will be formed if complaints are raised.
Marlot Liaison Group	To liaise with the Marlot Conservation Group on behalf of the Council.

Occasionally the Council may establish working parties specifically to review information and make recommendations to Council or the appropriate committee. The purpose of these groups is to focus on specific one-off topics, thereby freeing up time in Council meetings.

Councillor Roles 2025 - 26

Councillor	Civic Role	Other Role	Full Council	Staffing Committee	Marlot Liaison Group
Med Evans	Chair		✓	✓	
Ian Mercer	Vice Chair		✓	✓	
Jason Hawke		Internal Controls	✓		
Sarah Jane Lamb			✓		✓
Jennifer Spenser			✓		✓
Chris Schup		Flood Liaison	✓		✓
Philip Rodenhurst			✓	✓	
Mark Clorley			✓		
Claire Weedall			✓		