

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2024 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall**

PRESENT R Smith (Chairman) S McInerney D Williams S Cole S Morris

ATTENDING K Shilton (Clerk) Ward Councillor S Cole and 5 residents

1. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC

A resident raised the subject of the Herefordshire Council consultation Draft Plan.

The Chairman responded that all residents and Council members were welcome to submit comments but that the Council as a body would not be submitting formal comments. A huge amount of time and involvement over several years went into the parish Neighbourhood Plan and such another exercise would not be repeated. Residents were welcome to form their own group and submit comments to the consultation if they wished.

A resident asked if there was any further information / progress on application 240240. Our Ward Councillor gave a summary of the next steps and requests he has made.

A resident asked why the roads in the village were no longer swept / brushed on a regular basis. This was due to reduced funding and budgets by Herefordshire Council.

2. APOLOGIES R Mutlow T Watson G Hassall

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS S Morris application 240240

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2024

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

5. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES

Doward residents' group – potential funds available estimated at £920.00 – the Chairman summarised the situation that funds could be made available towards a defibrillator located on the Doward.

Discussion resolved that the Council members were in agreement with this proposal and would make up the remaining funds (estimated at £400) to purchase a unit and would also add this unit to the group maintenance and service scheme.

However, the residents should find a suitable location and power supply and coordinate with the defibrillator charity group themselves.

6. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS

233674 Hill Cottage proposed new dwelling.

The meeting gave no objections to this application.

7. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

The spring report will be available shortly with distribution to all members and available on the pc website.

8. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND WORKING GROUPS

Chairman – attended with the Clerk an AONB Natural England all day workshop.

Parish inspections and lengthsman site meeting.

Footpaths – it is pleasing to report the regular use of our many footpaths both by residents and tourist walking groups. Regular inspections are made, and some work improvements scheduled.

Finance working group – a year-end review and audit preparation.

Lengthsman working group – a new contract submitted to HC grant funding scheme also application of interest made for ditch grant funding.

Community Hub / Good Neighbour Scheme group activities – attendance increasing and new activities to start with afternoon teas / children’s art exhibition. There is also to be a bug building in the churchyard!

Website / app / publicity – all going well.

9. FINANCE MATTERS

The Clerk reviewed the bank account.

Reference item 5 – defibrillator funds available – these will be transferred to the pc account.

Reference item 8 – finance working group meeting year end accounts.

10. ROADS AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

No new matters to report.

11. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED / DISTRIBUTED

Consultations on the Transport Plan and Herefordshire Council Plan and visiting county workshops. Reference item 1.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Annual Parish Meeting and Chairman report

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – appointment of Chairman / officers / and working groups

Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 7.40pm

Signed

Chairman

Date

NEXT MEETING

TO BE HELD ON 14 MAY 2024 AT 7PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL