

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2013 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall

PRESENT S Lothian (Vice Chairman) T Roberts G Hiscox S McInerney R Smith J Everard J Dixon D Williams J Smith-Milne W Walby.

ATTENDING K Shilton (Clerk) and one resident.

1. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC

The resident described 3 main situations regarding public footpaths that he considered required urgent attention. These problems had already been discussed with our Footpaths Officer, who confirmed that inspection and action would be taken. The footpaths are:

74 Where a large tree has fallen down and is blocking the footpath.

73 Wooden footsteps have been washed away as a result of the recent weather conditions.

35 Barbed wire has been put on the top of a fence which could be dangerous to walkers and should be removed.

2. APOLOGIES P Walshe (Chairman) and Ward Councillor J Jarvis.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D Williams planning application Stone Eaves.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 11 DECEMBER 2012

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Vice Chairman.

5. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES

The Clerk informed Council Members that on the same day of this meeting the report from Amey regarding roads on The Doward had been received from R Ball Herefordshire Council together with broad guide lines on procedures for a Lengthsman employed on pot hole repairs on minor roads such as BOATS. These reports have been distributed to all Council Members. Co-option of new Council Members. It was reported there is one potential person interested.

Regular inspection of Play Area and the 2 adopted red telephone boxes. The Clerk explained the need for insurance purposes why these inspections by a Council Member were required. It was agreed S Lothian would continue the inspection of the Play Area, T Roberts would continue the inspection of the red telephone box at Crockers Ash and J Hiscox would inspect the red telephone box at Symonds Yat. All Members agreed it would be good to put the telephone boxes to some good useful purpose in the community and would submit suggestions at a future meeting.

6. REPORTS RECEIVED

Chairman. This report has been circulated to all members by the Chairman prior to the meeting. In the absence of the Chairman the Vice Chairman made reference to this report highlighting the single element of working together as a Council.

S McInerney made reference to the Chairman's report and read out a prepared statement which he requested the Clerk to add to the minute file. He was very disappointed that such a report had been written, particularly when the Chairman was well aware that she would not be present at this meeting.

T Roberts expressed great concern regarding the statements made in the Chairman's report and to the style and content of this report. He was disappointed that a few simple telephone calls had not been made particularly regarding the item on tarmac. He considered the remarks and comments unnecessary and hurtful toward the Council member involved.

Although initially the Vice Chairman did not wish D Williams to give any comments, the Council Members present at this meeting insisted that he should have the opportunity to respond to the comments the Chairman had made in her report regarding the matter of tarmac. D Williams expressed great disappointment that the Chairman should write such a report particularly in the knowledge that she would not be present at this meeting. D Williams stated that the Chairman should apologise for these remarks and statements made. D Williams requested that it was also recorded that a bag of cement belonging to his company had been given at no cost to the Lengthsman for the installation of the 2 new litter bins.

The meeting recorded their disappointment that such a report and content had been written by the Chairman which did not encourage a good working relationship within the Council and in addition is harmful to the reputation of the Council.

The meeting agreed that the item in the report relating to tarmac and the item relating to BOATS should be discussed again fully at the March 2013 meeting when the Chairman would be present.

Inspection of work carried out by the Lengthsman. The meeting other than the Vice Chairman considered this action unnecessary. After a lengthy discussion the meeting agreed that this matter was also discussed again at the March 2013 meeting when the Chairman would be present.

The Clerk confirmed to all members to assist a better understanding of the Lengthsman work that in future all invoices as received would be forwarded to all Council members as information.

Minutes and agenda distribution. The Clerk explained that the present timing of distribution had been discussed and agreed when he joined the Parish Council and had not until now received any negative comment regarding this. The meeting confirmed that they were satisfied with the time of distribution. The meeting was also minded that in line with any other business meeting, individuals involved in any action elements make their own notes of their responsibilities. The meeting requested that the Chairman's report together with any other reports from members are also distributed within the same time

frame as the Clerk's papers in order to give adequate time for preparation for a Council Meeting.

New litter bins. Request to have them emptied by Herefordshire Council Contractor. The Clerk will request this following receipt of information of the location of the bins.

Christmas arrangements. T Roberts thanked everyone involved, residents and Council members for helping and preparing the Christmas Tree, gifts and greeting cards to the Residential Homes. The meeting agreed that this had been a worthwhile event.

Report from Ward Councillor. None available.

Reports from Working Groups and Appointed Officers. No reports had been circulated and no further comments were made.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk reviewed the status of the accounts.

VAT refund £2203.56 has been received.

The following payments were agreed:

Clock Tower service £190.00

Litter Bins x 2 £525.60

NPower £45.32

HALC training £10.00

8. TRAINING

The Clerk had attended the PAYE review by the Inland Revenue organised by SLCC.

9. PARISH PLAN

G Hiscox reported on the first meeting of the Steering Group. Minutes have been circulated to all Council Members. The meeting had been positive and the help and advice from the Appointed Officer to assist with Parish Plans had been much appreciated. The next meeting will be held on 27 February 2013 at The Old Court Hotel to discuss funding opportunities.

10. CORRESPONDENCE INCLUDING MATTERS CIRCULATED PRIOR TO THE MEETING

Diamond County Award. It was agreed this should be highlighted in the Village News for residents to give their comments and recommendations to Council Members.

11. PLANNING

The following applications were submitted for comment:

MOT Centre Whitchurch. Extension. No objections.

Stone Eaves, Whitchurch. New dwelling. No objections.

New stable Crockers Ash. No objections.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Parish Council website.

The Crown car park.

Chairman's Report February 2013 to discuss the items related to

Tarmac

BOATS

Lengthsman inspection of work

Working groups.

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON 12 MARCH 2013 AT 7.00 PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.15 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....