

## WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2015 at Whitchurch Memeorial Hall

**PRESENT** G Hiscox (Chairman) J Dixon S McInerney G Litson T Watson S Cole S Morris  
M Woodward R Smith D Williams

**ATTENDING** K Shilton (Clerk) Ward Councillor P Newman and 1 resident

**1. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC** Not required

**2. APOLOGIES** E Curtis J Smith-Milne

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** None reported

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2015**

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**5. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES**

New notice board. D Williams and S Cole will arrange installation. This would be completed as soon as possible subject to their availability and the weather.

**6. REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR**

The following topics were reviewed:

- Fracking. The AONB are involved in the consultation process.
- Pritchards Lane. Discussion continues within Herefordshire Council but to date there is no known date for completion.
- Herefordshire Council Local Plan Core Strategy is now adopted.
- Ganarew Care Home. Balfour Beatty will further progress the offer from the owners of the Care Home regarding resurfacing a section of this lane.

The Chairman requested further information on the following subjects:

- Lengthsman and footpaths scheme grants available for the next financial year. There is no decision from Herefordshire Council yet, but hopefully by the end of November 2015.
- On the subject of School Transport, it was asked whether our parish was the only one in the ward to have raised this issue. By reason of location Whitchurch and Ganarew Parish is the only Parish in the Kerne Bridge Ward to have concerns.
- Regarding Losito Stud, planning related comments had been made by Goodrich Parish Council. This was because bordering parishes are also sent applications for information.
- It was noted that Balfour Beatty have carried out road repairs to leaping Stocks Lane and Wye View Lane and D. Williams offered thanks to the ward councillor for his predecessor's perseverance in facilitating the resurfacing of Old Monmouth Road.

**7. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS**

- 152721 Meadway proposed 3 bay garage on concrete pad. No objections but it is considered that the concrete base may extend over the building line.
- 152534 Orde House proposed erection of stable block and change of use of land to equine. This will be supported only if entrance widening takes place to improve safety.

- 153167 Goodes Cottage proposed alterations and extensions. The Council members gave no objections.

The Chairman explained the possibility of running trials using a projector to view applications, however it was the responsibility of all Council members to make themselves aware and familiar with the applications submitted for comment in advance of council meetings.

## **8. REPORTS RECEIVED**

### **Chairman.**

- The second Newsletter distributed to all homes in the Parish has received positive feedback. It was however disappointing to note that no comments have been received regarding suggestions to improve the Play Area or suggest ideas for new equipment.
- It is also disappointing that no offers have been received to help with the distribution of the Newsletters or support the Neighbourhood Plan and Parish Plan projects.
- The next Newsletter will highlight Neighbourhood Plan and Parish Plan progress and the latest report on the Good Neighbour Scheme.
- Council members were encouraged to attend training events over the months ahead.

**Finance working group.** Reference Financial Matters section 9.

### **Lengthsman and grass cutting working group.**

- The last grass cutting for the season was completed end October 2015. The winter schedule is now in operation.
- Under the Balfour Beatty Self Help scheme 8 tonnes of grit/salt mix has been requested together with 200 sand bags in preparation for the winter months. All grit bins in the Parish have been inspected and filled.

### **Footpaths Officer.**

- The next main actions will be repairing/replacing way marker posts and planning a work schedule for the riverside walk.
- WC 72. Referring back to Pritchards Lane, the council was informed by D. Williams that originally a footpath, this had been converted to a BOAT many years ago.

### **Publicity and website.**

- More support is required if the websites are to be improved and kept up to date. The Chairman and G. Litson will progress this.

### **Christmas arrangements.**

The following actions were agreed:

- Clerk to order the Christmas tree and arrange delivery.
- D Williams to arrange tree installation and lighting with T. Watson and R. Smith.
- The core times for lighting are 29 November 2015 to 3 January 2016 inclusive from 4 pm – 11 pm.
- S Morris and M Woodward will organise a small gift and Christmas card to give to each resident of the Residential Homes in our Parish. Visits are normally made in the middle of December 2015.

## 9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank status. The Clerk reviewed the status of the bank account.

Financial Working Group proposals for the estimated budget for the financial year 2016/17.

- The proposed estimated spend was distributed to all members of the meeting and each segment/subject was reviewed.
- It was also suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan should have a minimum of £5000.00 for 2016/17 in addition to the grant which has been received from Lottery funding.

It was agreed to review the proposed budget once again at the December 2015 Parish Council meeting when hopefully more information will be available regarding the funding decisions from Herefordshire Council regarding the Lengthsman and Footpaths Schemes.

The following payments were agreed:

- St. Swithin's £550.00 (original cheque cancelled)
- St Dubricius £550.00
- Lengthsman work £408.00
- Clerk fee £483.00 Travel £31.50 Administration £29.86

## 10. "THE VILLAGE NEWS"

The Chairman reported that following many expressions of concern (about the editorial in the October edition) that he and the Chair of the PCC Stephen Borthwick had received, that they went to see the editor of the Village News to let him know of those feelings. It was noted that in the latest edition of the Village News the editor had had issued an apology for any upset caused. A further meeting with the Village News team is planned in the near future. Parish Council members hoped that things could now move forward positively.

## 11. PARISH PLAN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

### Parish Plan:

- It was agreed that the Village Map noticeboards required urgent attention for repair or removal. The meeting considered that the maps were no longer suitable for helping visitors.
- It was agreed S McInerney will investigate if other alternative maps are available, otherwise these maps and boards should be removed.
- Re-cycling. T Watson will contact P Lewis to investigate the possibilities of re-cycling in the Parish.
- Roads/Parking/Road Safety. The Chairman continues to investigate these matters, including a traffic survey exercise and the proposed installation of a SID base.

### Neighbourhood Plan:

- Steering Group Members are working on the designated segments of the evidence gathering and attended a recent meeting with the planning consultant Foxley Tagg to review the progress being made and receive further advice to progress matters forward.
- Good Neighbour Scheme. Organised jointly with PC and PCC members, the first meeting will take place 18 November 2015 between 10 am – 12.30 pm at Whitchurch Memorial Hall. Parish Council members were invited to attend.

**12. PLAY AREA**

S Cole is the appointed project leader. It was agreed S Cole, R Smith and the Chairman attend a further site meeting to review the initial steps to be taken over the next months involving ground clearance/preparation and fencing.

**13. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED** No further comments were made.

**14. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

- Budget for financial year 2016/17 and precept request.
- Good Neighbour Scheme.

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2015 AT 7PM AT WHITCHURCH  
MEMORIAL HALL

The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 8.35pm

Signed

Chairman

Date