

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2017 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall

PRESENT R Smith (Chairman) G Hiscox (part of the meeting) G Litson S McInerney D Williams S Morris M Woodward S Cole T Watson

ATTENDING K Shilton (Clerk) Ward Councillor P Newman and 2 Ross on Wye police officers from Ross on Wye Safer Neighbourhood Team

1. DISCUSSION WITH ROSS ON WYE POLICE OFFICERS SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

The Council members welcomed the two police officers for their visit and interest in the Parish of Whitchurch and Ganarew.

Full contact details were given for Council members and residents.

Ross on Wye Police Station Old Maids Walk HR9 5HB

rossonwye.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Twitter @ SHfdshireCops

Web www.westmercia.police.uk

The main areas of discussion and notes taken were issues regarding Whitchurch churchyard car park with possible problems of drinking and drugs together with general disturbance and litter.

Speeding concerns on the A40 with potential increase of the use of radar control and police patrol cars.

2. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

No residents attended.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 May 2016 which had been circulated to all Council members were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman G Hiscox.

The full reports given by the Chairman and Ward Councillor are attached to the main minutes and have been circulated to all Parish Council members.

3. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Appointment of Chairman. R Smith was appointed Chairman being proposed by S McInerney seconded by D Williams and agreed by all members present.

R Smith signed the Declaration of Office of Chairman.

Parish Council members thanked G Hiscox for his outstanding leadership during his years of Chairman and for all his dedicated time and efforts given to the Parish needs and services.

G Hiscox had made it known for some time that he was standing down as Chairman and was resigning from the Parish Council.

Appointment of Vice Chairman. D Williams was appointed Vice Chairman being proposed by R Smith seconded by S McInerney and agreed by all members present.

Appointment of Officers and working groups.

Footpaths Officers R Smith and T Watson (selected areas of the Parish)

Trees R Smith

Website and publicity G Litson and R Smith

Finance working group J Smith-Milne R Smith S McInerney and Clerk / Finance Officer

Lengthsman and grass cutting working group D Williams T Watson R Smith and Clerk

Good Neighbor Scheme S Morris and M Woodward
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Chairman G Litson and 5 residents

Dates of future meetings. It was agreed to hold Council meetings on the second Tuesday of each month starting at 7pm at Whitchurch Memorial Hall with the exception of January and August when no meetings would be held unless there were urgent matters to attend.

Finance report and notes for the year 2016 / 2017. The finance papers had been circulated to all members prior to this meeting. The finance papers and all relevant documents had been submitted to the auditor and approved prior to this meeting.

The meeting agreed this report and resolved that the required papers and documents be submitted for external audit.

4. ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

5. APOLOGIES None required

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None reported

7. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2017

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

8. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES

Reference was made to the items on the agenda.

9. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS

171285 Beechnut Cottage 2 storey extension replacement single storey extension and porch and proposed alterations to sun room.

The meeting gave no objections to this application.

171384 Woodlands Symonds Yat retrospective decking in back of garden and small area front of garden.

Details were not yet available on Herefordshire Council website. Members were requested to look at the details when available and report any concerns or comments to the Clerk.

10. REPORTS RECEIVED

Chairman. Reported that over the coming months the Council consider coopting new members and encourage residents to attend Council meetings to see how the Council carries out its duties and services for the Parish.

Finance working group. A meeting will take place end May / early June 2017.

Lengthsman and grass cutting working group. A meeting with our lengthsman will take place to review the summer maintenance schedule including footpaths.

It was reported that the small garden area at the Clock Tower requires attention. The door of the Clock Tower also requires sanding and varnishing. G Litson agreed to determine if grants were available for such matters and possibly involve volunteers highlighting this on the Council website.

It was also noted that the area behind the Council Notice Board (opposite the village shop) required completion.

Footpaths. Signage posts and way markers continue to be replaced.

WC 1 Following discussion it was agreed to discuss this matter with Balfour Beatty.

Website and publicity. It was agreed to prepare invitations to attract new Council members and volunteer community groups to assist in some maintenance projects in the Parish.

Good Neighbour Scheme. A new banner advertising the coffee mornings is now in use. On 7 June 2017 coffee morning a visit from Services For Independent Living has been arranged.

Some of the income received from the coffee mornings and other functions will be given to the Clerk to deposit into the Parish Council bank account and hold as a separate accounting item. This was agreed by all members present.

Newsletter. The new email registration newsletter will be coordinated by the Chairman and Clerk.

11. FINANCE MATTERS

The Clerk reviewed the status of the bank account.

The following payments were agreed.

Insurance £276.23

Audit £40.00

Clerk fee £525.00 Administration £52.39 Travel £64.78

Lengthsman scheduled work £1972.80

12. ROADS AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

R Smith and G Hiscox will meet with Balfour Beatty on 12 May 2017 to review all matters.

13. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE / MONTHLY REPORT

G Litson reported that the first Draft Report for Housing is presently being prepared. Within the next few weeks it is expected that the proposed Settlement Areas will be defined and informal meetings with some landowners / developers will take place.

The River Wye and its activities as a part of leisure / tourism / local interest also comes within the development of the Plan however the future strategic implications are too large a remit for the Steering Group.

G Litson recommended that this becomes a Parish Council agenda for future meetings.

G Litson agreed to coordinate future issues arising from these longer term initiatives and developments.

14. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED

No further comments were made.

15. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

River facilities

Litter in the parish

Parking in Whitchurch

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON 13 JUNE 2017 AT 7PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL

The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 8.30pm

Signed

Chairman

Date

