

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2018 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall

PRESENT R Smith (Chairman) S McInerney D Williams S Morris T Watson J Smith – Milne
G Litson

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

1. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC Not required

2. APOLOGIES S Cole

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

G Litson declared an interest in planning application 174346 Brookside
R Smith declared an interest in planning application 174314 Quarry Wood Barn
These were recorded in the register.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2017

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

5. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES

Review of the past Christmas 2017 activities.

It was considered that all arrangements went well and were well received by the community. The Christmas afternoon tea was again successful.

T Watson reported that he had ideas to improve the tree installation for the next Christmas event. The Council thanked everyone who had helped and taken part in these arrangements and particularly members and local businesses who had given their generous support.

6. REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR

Paul Newman reviewed the following matters.

The Leader of Herefordshire Council has recently resigned due to poor health.

A review of the changes to the Council Tax and the reasons for this change.

Walford PC have now employed the use of the Ross Action Bus.

An update of the Black Bridge.

The Ward Councillor has recently joined The Doward Whats Up Facebook group.

7. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS

174346 Brookside Whitchurch proposed 5 new houses.

G Litson reviewed the comments and policy references prepared by the Steering Group with reference to the Draft Plan recently submitted for Regulation 14.

Council members in turn gave their own comments with a final resolution by majority that they objected to this planning proposal.

The main concern being the proposed entrance which was considered not sufficiently wide for incoming / outgoing traffic and associated services onto what is already a busy Main Street.

174314 Shelter at Quarry Wood Barn

The meeting gave no objections to this retrospective application providing that the other conditions were satisfied – the other shed being removed.

180346 Buck Street Cottage Detached Studio building ancillary to main house and proposed canopy area. The meeting gave no objections to this application.

8. REPORTS RECEIVED

Chairman. The Chairman reported on the excellent work and efforts taken by our lengthsman over the recent bad weather conditions installing and refilling grit bins throughout the Parish.

The Chairman and Clerk have received many appreciated thanks from residents.

Herefordshire Community Awards Scheme. The Chairman proposed to the meeting that The Good Neighbour Scheme should be considered for this Award. This was fully supported by all Council members.

The Chairman and Clerk will submit the application and our Ward Councillor requested that he also had the opportunity to endorse this submission.

Finance working group. Recommendations to Council members regarding the consideration of further potential funding to the History Society. The Finance working group had held a meeting January 2018 and had distributed their recommendations to all Council members prior to this meeting. The recommendation being that with donations being received by the Society and some £600 still remaining in funds from the £1000 contribution from the Parish Council the Society had sufficient funds to carry out their activities. All PC members resolved to this recommendation that no further funding should be given.

Proposed application / information sheet for possible other group enquiries.

The meeting agreed that this was a good approach to be taken for any future requests and should be made available on the website.

Lengthsman and grass cutting working group – reference report from Chairman.

Footpaths Officers. Waymarker posts continue to be replaced / repaired. One post has been removed from its location and will be replaced.

Website and publicity. The Draft Neighbourhood Plan will be available on the website end March 2018. It is intended to hold the public consultation also end March 2018.

Good Neighbour Scheme. Attendance continues to grow, and leaders have recently attended a Safe Guarding Course. New activities are now being considered for 2018.

9. FINANCE MATTERS

The Clerk reviewed the status of the bank account.

All available grant funding £2015.00 has been recovered from the Footpaths Scheme and the maximum grant of £570.00 for the lengthsman scheme has also been recovered.

From April 2018 no lengthsman funding is available – the Scheme has been closed.

New Data Protection Act – the proposed paper for our Parish Council has been distributed to all members. The Clerk will also attend a workshop on this subject matter.

Payments

Lengthsman scheme work £2422.92

New dog bin £103.82

Clerk fee £525.00 Administration £32.65 Travel / Meetings / Training £67.44

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE / MONTHLY REPORT

The informal meeting between the PC members and Steering Group will take place on 20 February 2018. This is to review the elements of the Draft Plan and in particular review the proposals regarding future housing policies within the Parish Group and proposed Settlement Boundary areas.

11. ROADS AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

Proposed TRO by Balfour Beatty. The Council fully support the speed limit proposals in support of initiating a TRO.

Parking in Whitchurch. The Council fully support the findings and proposals for yellow lines in the village areas including the area around the school roundabout.

12. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

Drainage problems. J Smith-Milne described recent blocked drain situations where Welsh Water were required to remove the blockage. Following discussion, it was agreed that a meeting should be held with Welsh Water to determine if the present drain / sewage systems were adequate.

Water for the school roundabout. This can also be discussed with Welsh Water.

T Watson gave a suggestion that may well resolve the situation and the needs for watering the flowers at this location.

Whitchurch Pitch – overhanging branches causing damage to local buses and high vehicles.

This problem will be discussed at a planned Balfour Beatty site meeting.

13. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED

No further comments were made

14. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Church Lane – large trees – potential problems

Village shop – water on the road

Resolution – Draft Neighbourhood Plan

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON 13 MARCH 2018 AT 7PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL

The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 8.35pm

Signed

Chairman

Date