

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2020 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall

PRESENT R Smith (Chairman) D Williams S McInerney S Cole S Morris D Powell T Watson
G Litson

ATTENDING K Shilton (Clerk) Ward Councillor Y Watson and 1 resident

General comments related to the coronavirus

The name and contact number of the resident attending was noted.

All members used hand sanitiser and under government policy masks were worn throughout the meeting. No tables were used and all seats placed at a social distance.

The register book for attendance was not used / members recorded in the minutes as above.

1. APOLOGIES J Smith-Milne

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None reported

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD 10 MARCH 2020

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

4. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MEETING Reference agenda items

5. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS

201993 reconsultation land to South Well Lane Whitchurch proposed conversion of agricultural building to form dwelling.

The Parish Council objected to this proposed application for the same reasons as the previous application submitted.

201503 appeal withdrawn land lying to the north of Little Kiln House

The Council members were surprised at this decision to withdraw the appeal and the Ward Councillor agreed to investigate the matter further.

6. REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR

The regular monthly report had been distributed to all Council members.

In addition it was reported that the government White Paper for planning was now available for public consultation.

Herefordshire Council housing supply document update was also now available.

Tree Preservation Orders – these can now be made by individuals not necessarily by a Parish Council application.

7. REPORTS RECEIVED

Chairman. Although formal meetings have not been held as a precaution against the coronavirus the period since March 2020 has been extremely busy for both Chairman and Clerk.

On the Doward there has been severe traffic / parking problems caused by supporters of a festival with some 75 cars over 7 weeks. The police were aware of the situation and attended several times but the matter has caused considerable problems to the local campsite and local residents – and the amount of litter and debris left behind is now being dealt with by the Forestry Commission.

Recent signs added to WC1 are not legal and have been reported to Balfour Beatty for investigation and action.

A fence has also been recently installed on a footpath on the Doward which is also being investigated by Balfour Beatty.

The tree by the church WC1 with broken overhanging branches is causing concern and at the present time is being disputed as to who has responsibility for maintenance.

It was agreed that the Chairman / Clerk / Balfour Beatty investigate and offer an opinion.

Finance working group. A meeting of the group will take place October 2020 to review financial matters and prepare a proposal for the budget and precept for the next financial year.

Lengthsman and parish maintenance. We have obtained a grant from Herefordshire Council for work on selected drainage schemes at Lewstone to avoid future flooding concerns.

Residents have also commented recently on the state of the Clock Tower – weeds near the entrance / condition of the entrance door / and the clock which appears to have stopped.

Website. It is pleasing to note that the extensive information available to the public is gaining increased interest.

Good Neighbour Scheme and Sticky Little Fingers. Sadly as a consequence of the coronavirus meetings are not possible.

8. FINANCE MATTERS

The Clerk reviewed the bank account status.

VAT recovered to date represents £2185.56

The second part of the precept payment is expected middle September 2020.

Payments

St Dubricius churchyard maintenance contribution £550.00

St Swithins churchyard maintenance contribution £550.00

Play area annual inspection £58.60

Lengthsman scheme work and parish maintenance £3822.08

Clerk fee £567.00 Administration £57.84 travel £63.80

CPAD defibrillators £191.22

9. ROADS AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

Reference comments from Chairman – Reports Received - traffic and associated problems.

Doward – the repainting of double yellow lines is required. Balfour Beatty are aware of this and we continue to follow up with them.

Saw Pits Lane – delivery vehicles continue to get blocked and a resident has requested if a width limit sign can be installed. This will be discussed with Balfour Beatty.

Doward ring road – the west side of the road is breaking up badly and could become dangerous to traffic. Balfour Beatty have been informed.

Residents are concerned regarding the high volume of traffic on Whitchurch high street and walking is becoming increasingly difficult. The Clerk will send details to our Ward Councillor for further investigation.

10. CORONAVIRUS – ACTIONS HELPING RESIDENTS

The Chairman and all Council members gave a huge thank you to all the residents and local businesses that have supported and given their time and help to others during this very difficult period. All members agreed that the community spirit has been outstanding.

11. TALK COMMUNITY HUBS

Reference was made to the recent informal meeting held with Herefordshire Council our Chairman Ward Councillor S Morris D Powell and Clerk to learn more about this incentive.

Basically a number of the elements are already being carried out in our parish but by joining this coordinated group further support and information can be gained.
The meeting resolved to join Talk Community Hubs being proposed by S Cole seconded by S Morris and agreed by all members.

12. PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – FREQUENCY AND LOCATION OF ROOM

With the continued uncertainty of safety by meeting in groups during the coronavirus it was agreed not to hold a meeting in October 2020 unless there were urgent business matters to attend.

Regarding the Memorial Hall there was the opportunity to have the meetings in the main hall on a Wednesday starting at 7.30pm or continue using the usual meeting room – but not using tables – on a Tuesday at 7pm.

The Council resolved to use the usual meeting room on a Tuesday starting at 7pm with the precautions against coronavirus.

13. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED

No further comments were made.

14. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Proposed budget and precept for the next financial year
Cooption of new Council members
Christmas activities
Clock Tower

NEXT MEETING – TO BE DECIDED PENDING GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE ON CORONAVIRUS POLICIES

The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 8pm

Signed

Chairman

Date