

**WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL****Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2021 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall**

**PRESENT** R Smith (Chairman) D Williams D Powell S McInerney S Morris S Cole G Hassall

**ATTENDING** K Shilton (Clerk) Community Police Officer and 4 residents

**COVID AWARENESS**

All Council members and visitors had sanitised hands before and leaving the building and had worn face masks throughout the meeting. Contact references were known for all people present.

The Chairman highlighted that although it was the intention to fully discuss items on the agenda short responses and summary of matters was appreciated so that business could be concluded effectively.

**1. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC**

Our appointed Community Police Officer reviewed his recent inspection of the parish including the parking situation near the village shop and at the key times at the village school.

Posters were given to the Chairman / Clerk for distribution on parish and related notice boards and the pc website.

This appointment of a Community Police Officer to our parish is a new incentive and one which is very much welcomed by the Council members.

Planning application 212225/0 re consultation. Correspondence had been received from the applicant prior to the meeting and circulated to all Council members.

Following questions and responses the Council resolved to support the proposed application for 2 self build bungalows.

**2. APOLOGIES** Ward Councillor Y Watson Council members J Smith-Milne T Watson

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None reported

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2021**

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**5. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES**

5.1 Community Police Officer – Reference item 1

5.2 Christmas activities update – The Chairman gave a big thank you to all members and residents for giving their time and tremendous efforts to making the Christmas events as normal as possible in these difficult times. All these efforts are very much appreciated.

5.3 Condition of BOATS – A meeting is arranged through our Ward Councillor for our Chairman to meet the responsible heads of Herefordshire Council in the New Year and discuss BOATS as an agenda item.

**6. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS** – Reference item 1.

**7. REPORT / COMMENTS FROM WARD COUNCILLOR**

The monthly report will be distributed shortly.

## **8. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND WORKING GROUPS**

8.1 Chairman and Footpaths Officer – meetings have been held with the Clerk / lengthsman / and various residents including correspondence with residents on parish related matters. A full footpaths inspection which highlighted several fallen trees as a result of our recent weather. A particular dangerous tree situation is on Wye View lane which will be reported to Balfour Beatty.

WC 1 – no recent update on inspections but this will be followed with Balfour Beatty.

8.2 Finance working group – will meet January 2022 to review and propose certain matters to Council members.

8.3 Lengthsman working group – a report has been received from our lengthsman reference drain inspection Whitchurch main street following recent flash flooding. No apparent immediate cause could be found – no sign of debris or blockage. Balfour Beatty will also carry out a similar inspection following the reported concerns from the Parish Council.

8.4 Website and publicity – G Hassall reviewed the suggestion / possibility of a Council facebook but for the immediate future his research indicated that our present vehicles of communication are considered satisfactory.

8.5 Good Neighbour Scheme and Sticky Little Fingers – considering the present covid situation S Morris reported meetings are going well.

The Chairman and Clerk will meet with the church pcc in January 2022 with the objective of an application for grant funding towards these schemes.

S Morris minded the meeting that a open air carol service will take place on the grass area Grange Park at 4pm 19 December 2021 and all are welcome !

## **9. FINANCE MATTERS**

The Clerk reviewed the status of the bank account – the finance working group will meet January 2022 to review spend to date and discuss potential projects.

Defibrillator Memorial Hall Committee – the meeting was made aware of this initiative from the Hall committee and the Clerk was requested to contact them regarding funding.

Correspondence from Ross on Wye Town Council regarding Citizens Advice funding – reading all correspondence now received on this matter and the breakdown of residents applications the meeting resolved not to further consider this matter in relation to our parish.

Payments

Lengthsman scheme and parish maintenance £3061.20

Clerk fee £667.00 administration / travel meetings £55.61

Website £46.80

## **10. ROADS AND TRAFFIC MATTERS**

Reference item 1 and additional concerns regarding some cars regularly parking on the pavement on the main street causing walkers to go onto the road.

## **11. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

11.1 Working with other Parish Councils in the Ward towards the Herefordshire Council Local Plan.

Members had given this consideration but felt it gave little advantage in comparison to our established and adopted Neighbourhood Plan Scheme.

11.2 Doward Farm – vehicles in the field. Residents have complained to our Chairman regarding this continued situation in respect to an enforcement notice that was issued.

The Clerk was requested to discuss this matter with our Ward Councillor and by opportunity determine the present status and planned further intentions from Herefordshire Council.

11.3 Illegal fencing on Doward Common land. Residents have reported that persons are illegally

fencing off common land on the Doward. The meeting requested that the Chairman and Clerk investigate this further as a matter of urgency and seek the advice of the Ward Councillor and police as this was considered a serious matter against historical public rights.

**12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Cooption of a new Council member  
Common land – illegal fencing – actions being taken

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7PM AT WHITCHURCH  
MEMORIAL HALL.  
NO MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY 2022 UNLESS THERE ARE URGENT  
BUSINESS MATTERS TO ATTEND.**

**WISHING EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW  
YEAR**

The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 8pm

Signed

Chairman

Date