

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2021 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall

PRESENT R Smith (Chairman) S Cole S Morris D Williams S McInerney

ATTENDING K Shilton (Clerk) Ward Councillor Y Watson and 4 residents

1. COOPTION OF A NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

Although not being able to attend this meeting for business reasons Graham Hassell had confirmed in writing to the Clerk his wish to be able to join the Parish Council.

It was proposed by S Cole and seconded by D Williams and agreed by all members present that G Hassell be coopted onto the Council.

2. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC

A resident living on Wye View Lane reported the very poor condition of the lane and the surface erosion that was now exposing service pipes.

The matter is known to Balfour Beatty / Ward Councillor / and the Parish Council and the situation along with the condition of other lanes / BOATS will be highlighted by the Ward Councillor at a meeting with senior Herefordshire Council management.

Flash flooding on Whitchurch main street – A resident reported to the meeting this latest situation which had happened September 2021. The fire brigade services had been called and they are said to have reported to local residents that the drains in the area were badly blocked with debris. However, it does not appear that they reported the concern to the County agencies.

The meeting agreed this matter should be reported to Balfour Beatty in the first instance for further investigation.

During this debate the brook was also reported for potential flooding concerns.

The Chairman and Clerk inspect the brook every Autumn ready for winter conditions and will arrange actions as necessary.

Parking Whitchurch main street – The growing frustrations of local residents regarding the volume of traffic and the related parking in the area of the village shop was again highlighted to the meeting.

All agreed that this was a continuous problem but had been warned by the police that although double yellow lines were in place the monitoring of them was beyond their resources.

This matter had also been discussed with our Local Community Police Officer at the September 2021 pc meeting to determine what actions (if possible) could be considered.

Traffic speed concerns Llangrove Road – A resident reported the concerns for walking and travelling on this road (a part of which is in the area of the parish). Discussion highlighted the actions / site meetings / speed measurements that had taken place over the past years with regrettably no satisfactory solution. The meeting will give this matter further thought to determine if other possibilities can be investigated.

3. APOLOGIES T Watson J Smith-Milne

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

R Smith declared an interest in planning application 212970 Quarry Wood Barn which was recorded in the register.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

6. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MEETING

6.1 Community Police Officer – to date we are waiting feedback from the issues raised.

6.2 Dropped curbs specific locations – Balfour Beatty (a new team compared to 12 months ago) have been honest enough to report that there are no budget reserves available at present. The Chairman and Clerk continue to investigate what other possibilities might be available and request the Ward Councillor to highlight this situation whenever possible at County management meetings.

7. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS

213520 Under Rock Symonds Yat proposed demolition and replacement buildings with associated earthworks – part retrospective.

The Council are concerned that these proposals take place in an area already having land slippage problems. They recommend a survey of the land mass takes place before any further considerations are taken. Reference HC 785347

212970 Quarry Wood Barn proposed 2 storey building with agricultural storage and office for domestic use. Removal of horse box vehicle.

The Council object to this application – comments submitted reference HC 785377

8. REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR

The monthly report would follow shortly and would include the summary of meetings recently held with Herefordshire Council members.

The latest situation of Fastershire was highlighted and the funding constraints which had an influence on the roll out of the programme.

9. REPORTS RECEIVED

9.1 Chairman – Involved this month in site meetings / correspondence and meetings with residents / dropped curb requirements.

9.2 Footpaths – all footpaths have been walked with no immediate urgent issues.

Overgrown hedges Old Ross Road were reported preventing walking on the pavement.

The Clerk will request Balfour Beatty to investigate with the homeowners.

9.3 Finance working group – the precept request has been submitted and acknowledged.

9.4 Lengthsman working group – Chairman has held a site meeting with the lengthsman.

9.5 Website and publicity – The pc website continues to attract readers.

9.6 Good Neighbour Scheme and Sticky Little Fingers – Both groups are enjoying their new locations.

10. FINANCE MATTERS

The Clerk reviewed the status of the bank account.

Citizens Advice Ross on Wye – No correspondence has been received.

Parish facilities – It was agreed to purchase a further dog bin for the camp site area Doward.

Consider an electric vehicle charge point – it was considered that the local service areas would address this subject.

Christmas activities – the tree and delivery has been organised also the time settings for the lights.

It was agreed to purchase chocolates for the local Residential Homes.

A tea party would be pending local interest and covid restrictions.

Payments

Lengthsman scheme work and parish maintenance £3418.20

Clerk fee £667.00 Administration £32.79 Travel / training £81.93

11. ROADS AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

Reference Item 2 of the minutes.

12. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED

No further comments were made.

13. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Visitors to the Doward Methodist churchyard

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL

The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 8.15pm

Signed

Chairman

Date