

**WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2020 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall**

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

**ATTENDING** K Shilton (Clerk) Ward Councillor Y Watson and 2 residents

**1. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC**

With the present virus situation and government warnings to stay at home if people are not feeling well the Council members supported the proposal that should they develop a cold they would submit their apologies to attend a meeting.

As a consequence should a meeting not be quorate and the members attending felt that a subject was worthy of action it was resolved that the Clerk would email all members on the matter. Communication would then be carried out by email or telephone to the Clerk so that a resolution / action can take place.

**2. APOLOGIES** J Smith-Milne

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None reported

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2020**

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**5. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES**

5.1 Dropped curbs – This has been a most elongated subject where the agency appear to have lost all communication. As it was now of lower priority the meeting resolved that for the present time no further action would be taken.

5.2 Highways England A40 situation – They continue to take advice from supporting agencies on the accidents that have taken place and the Chairman and Clerk will continue to seek a review meeting with them.

5.3 Fly tipping Whitchurch – the original matters have been resolved but a new incident has occurred which will also be reported to Herefordshire Council.

Council members were minded that they can report such matters to Herefordshire Council directly with notification to the Clerk so that follow up by Balfour Beatty can take place.

**6. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS**

6.1 200252 Old Court Bank 2 new dwellings retrospective.

This came as a surprise to Council members and the NPlan Steering Group in that notification could not be recalled and the matter had not been submitted or considered during the call for sites development. Although they fall within the defined settlement boundary it was generally considered that they were not required within the Plan and housing requirements.

6.2 200383 Elmstead Whitchurch construction of new double garage.

Council members have no objections to this application.

6.3 Footpath proposed diversion WC 96.

This detail came directly from the applicant. The Council members resolved not to comment until formal notice came from Herefordshire Council.

## **7. REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR**

The monthly report had been circulated to all members and is available on the pc website. There is a possibility that a visit to our local recycling plant can be arranged which was welcomed by Council members.

## **8. REPORTS RECEIVED**

8.1 Chairman. Involvement with the recent flooding incidents at Whitchurch visiting residents whose homes were affected and local businesses including assistance to the emergency services. The meeting thanked all the response teams attending our Parish for their caring and diligent efforts also the Old Court Hotel and Woods of Whitchurch who supplied hot drinks and snacks to the various crews attending. The meeting also thanked Sue Morris and Donna Powell for all the preparation work they had made at the Village Hall in anticipation that the building might be used for the residents of the flooded Residential Home.

8.2 Footpaths Officers. As soon as the ground has dried out inspections will continue.

8.3 Finance working group. Discussion took place relating to correspondence received from the Local History Group to renovate the second Red Telephone Box. The meeting supported the proposals of the Finance working group that the recommendations stand as the email sent to them in October 2019 leaving the earth beside the unit to protect the electrical cables and filling the gap under the unit and leaving the entrance as it is.

Financial contribution towards our Parish churchyards. A paper describing the advice notice from NALC and the opinions of central government and consultant solicitor had been prepared by the Finance working group and distributed to all Council members prior to the meeting.

This paper is attached to the main minutes and is available on the Council website. The meeting supported the views of the Finance working group and resolved to continue the contribution towards churchyard maintenance of St Dubricius and St Swithins being proposed by G Litson seconded by S McInerney and agreed by all members present.

8.4 Lengthsman working group. Following the recent bad weather there is now an accumulation of debris and silt on the A40 and at the exit to Ganarew causing flooding on the road. The Chairman will take photographs and send them to the Ward Councillor and Herefordshire Council.

8.5 Website and publicity. It is positive that the website usage continues to increase.

8.6 Good Neighbour Scheme / Sticky Little Fingers. Both groups are growing in popularity.

## **9. FINANCE MATTERS**

Payments

Lengthsman scheme scheduled work £2943.36

Clerk fee £567.00 Administration £2.70 Travel meetings £22.96 Training £15.00

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

Residents on the Doward are concerned regarding overgrown branches encroaching onto the lanes. A site meeting has been requested with Balfour Beatty to determine if work can be carried out.

Wye View Lane. Residents continue to be concerned regarding delivery and service vehicles turning on this narrow lane. This will also be the subject of a site meeting with Balfour Beatty to determine if any actions can be taken.

## **11. FLOODING IN THE PARISH – ISSUES AND FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

Reference section 8.1 Chairman.

Following discussion it was agreed that for future situations it would be good to have a workable Resilience Plan in place. The meeting agreed that as a first step the Chairman and Clerk meet

with Herefordshire Council Resilience team members to determine in realistic terms how our Parish Council and selected residents could participate in such a Plan.

**12. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED**

Residents' concerns – dog fouling. The Clerk had reported the matter to Herefordshire Council and a prompt response received with assistance that the responsible people will be approached.

The meeting was also in agreement to consider a dog bin in this location.

Bidding for grants. G Litson suggested that with training courses being available it would be good for a member to attend to assist us in future grant applications.

**13. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Clock Tower

Cooption of new Council members

**NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON 14 APRIL 2020 AT 7PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL.**

The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 8.20pm

Signed

Chairman

Date