

## WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2021 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall

**PRESENT** R Smith (Chairman) D Williams S McInerney S Cole S Morris T Watson  
J Smith-Milne

**ATTENDING** K Shilton (Clerk) Chairman of the Local History Society our Community Police Officer and 2 residents

#### 1. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC

The Chairman of The Local History Society gave a presentation of the groups most recent activities - presentation sheet attached to the main minutes – and highlighted their wish to work closer with other groups in the parish including the Parish Council.

The Council agreed to the request that articles and announcements could be added to the pc website.

Although coronavirus has limited meetings and some work the Society have been able to produce a scrapbook about life in the village and a very successful Swinging Sixties Exhibition at the Memorial Hall.

Community Police Officer introduction and visit. The Council members were asked to identify any problems / situations in the parish where they could be of assistance.

Members reported that flytipping was becoming an increased problem along with parking situations near Woods of Whitchurch and the village school.

The meeting was informed that they would seek further advice on these matters and report back at a future meeting.

Residents attending reported to the Council their concern on the lack of mobility available in the village. More dropped curbs were required at specific points to allow access for mobility scooters and young families with push chairs.

The Chairman and Clerk explained the efforts already taken over the past year with Balfour Beatty and stewards who were regrettably no longer with the agency. Further recent contact has now been made possible and a meeting held to once again highlight this problem and hopefully gain a positive resolution.

**2. APOLOGIES** Ward Councillor Y Watson and Council member D Powell

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None reported

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2020**

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**5. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES**

Reference was made to the agenda items.

**6. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS**

213294 Ridgeway Crescent proposed single storey rear extension

The Council gave no objections – reference 780468 Herefordshire Council

213158 land adjacent Lavender Cottage site for proposed dwelling

The Council objected to this application – reference comments sent to planning officer

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

Reference the monthly report circulated to Council members and website.

## **8. REPORTS RECEIVED**

8.1 Chairman. Site meetings with Balfour Beatty are again possible and recently held with our new Locality Steward together with the Clerk to review outstanding parish problem situations.

Footpaths. WC1 route of this footpath will be tracked and the findings reported back to the Chairman and Clerk.

8.2 Finance working group. A review meeting was recently held and the estimated budget for the next financial year prepared for consideration by Council members. Following discussion it was resolved that the precept request for the financial year 2022 /2023 should be £52500.00 remaining as the 2021 /2022 precept.

The working group had also been requested to discuss a recent request - that the beacon presently on private land be considered by the Council. A new beacon would be required as the present one is beyond repair and a new location determined.

The working group recommended that the location of the beacon should best remain in the present location as it would not be possible to find a new location that would satisfy insurance health and safety policy issues.

The Council members fully supported this proposal that the beacon remain at the present location.

8.3 Lengthsman working group. Five new litter bins have been installed at critical litter points and frequency of collections increased during the holiday period.

8.4 Good Neighbour Scheme and Sticky Little Fingers. Both groups now have new locations. GNS will now meet at St Dubricius church and SLF will meet at the village school.

## **9. FINANCE MATTERS**

The Clerk reviewed the status of the bank account.

Payments

Lengthsman scheme work and parish maintenance £4857.00

Clerk fee £667.00 Administration £39.60 Travel £40.60

ROSPA play area annual inspection £63.40

External audit £360.00

## **10. COOPTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS**

It was agreed this be added to the next agenda.

## **11. ROADS AND TRAFFIC MATTERS**

The increased parking related problems throughout the village was again highlighted and Council members requested to consider what further options could be taken.

## **12. CLOCK TOWER – REVIEW OF WORK CARRIED OUT**

The Chairman updated members on the work programme carried out on the clock to be able to keep accurate and reliable time. All original mechanical parts remain as a part of the clocks history and heritage.

**13. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED**

The Chairman reviewed the correspondence received by a resident requesting the installation of a pavement near their home for safer walking and from the same resident their concerns on light pollution.

For both situations our Ward Councillor and Balfour Beatty are dealing with the matters.

**14. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

- Cooption of new Council members
- Citizens Advice Ross on Wye branch
- Parish facilities – additional dog bin
- Consider an electric charge point for vehicles
- Christmas activities
- Wye View Lane – concerns from a resident

**NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2021 AT 7PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL**

The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 8.30pm

Signed

Chairman

Date