

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2022 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall**

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

ATTENDING K Shilton (Clerk) Vicar Tim Starling and 4 residents

1. COOPTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER

The meeting welcomed and fully supported the cooption of Lucy Gardner. The required papers relevant to a Council member were signed and completed.

2. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC

2.1 Representation from St Dubricius Vicar Tim Starling (reference correspondence sent to the Clerk)

Carols on the Green – this had been very well supported by residents and the church would like to repeat this event and possibly expand the Green as an informal meeting point to enjoy throughout the year.

The Chairman explained that this was not within the authority of the Council – the Council did not own the land (merely had the lengthsman cut the grass) and was not able to authorise events or expand the leisure facilities. Neighbours should respectfully also be consulted and made aware of these intentions. The Chairman would attempt to determine the owner of the land and pass this information to the church.

Jubilee Celebrations – the church wondered if the Council would consider forming a working group of residents and local organisations for this event.

S Morris and L Gardner agreed to represent the Council.

The finance working group had proposed £500.00 contribution to both St Dubricius and St Swithins which was agreed by the meeting.

2.2 A resident was concerned at the considered speed of traffic along the main street and at the amount of increased car parking causing difficulty to residents and road users.

The Council explained the measures and investigations that had taken place over the recent years and that the present speed limit was considered appropriate by the authorities.

Double yellow lines recently installed had demonstrated little respect by motorists even after police intervention.

The resident also requested that consideration should be given to increased street lighting.

2.3 A resident complained that the sewage overflow problem on the Doward was once again happening. The Chairman was aware of this through the regular parish inspection and will be reported to Herefordshire Council.

2.4 The condition and appearance of the old café was causing residents distress and concern. It appears the café was sold during 2021 – the Chairman will try to determine the new owner - however it is unlikely that Herefordshire Council will force improvements regarding the present situation.

3. APOLOGIES G Hassall D Powell Ward Councillor Y Watson

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None reported

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

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

6. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES

Fencing of the Doward Common Land – it appears that the people responsible have now removed most of the fencing – hopefully as a result of the adverse publicity raised by Doward residents.

The Council together with our CPO will continue to monitor the situation and report to the regulation authorities if required.

7. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS

214423 land to the north west Losito Stud change of use of agricultural land to secure dog walking area proposed ancillary building car park and associated infrastructure.

The meeting objected to this application. The access on this busy road is already difficult and dangerous to traffic and this proposal is considered to make the situation worse.

220057 White Roses Whitchurch various external and internal works / replacing 3 windows replace rendering and removal of internal partition wall. Listed building.

The meeting gave no objections to this application.

8. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

This will be circulated to Council members and will be available on the pc website.

The Chairman thanked the Ward Councillor for the initiative to organise a meeting with three leading members of Herefordshire Council and the other Parish Councils in her Ward to highlight and discuss the problems and concerns of each parish.

9. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND WORKING GROUPS

9.1 Chairman

A very busy month with the following meetings / work assignments attended.

Grant for the Good Neighbour Scheme / wifi achievable for St Dubricius / Common land residents concerns / routine parish survey / meeting reference item 8 / zoom meeting spatial options housing programme / site meetings including potential ditch grant work / review meetings with Clerk.

9.2 Footpaths

Reference WC 9A septic tank overflow problem – reported to Herefordshire Council.

9.3 Finance working group – reference the notes / proposals from the working group to pc members.

The meeting made a resolution to support and further action these proposals in the coming new financial year.

S Morris agreed to investigate the needs regarding the consideration to help certain residents with warm blankets for use over the winter months.

9.4 Lengthsman working group

A further grant is possible for ditch related work in our parish.

9.5 Website and publicity

We continue to have increased readership on the website.

9.6 Good Neighbour Scheme / Sticky Little Fingers – reference the grant application with Herefordshire Council.

10. FINANCE MATTERS

Resolution to support St Swithins and St Dubricius for the Jubilee Celebrations.

Resolution to subscribe to Open Spaces

Clerk to apply for grant / ditch drainage related work next financial year.

Payments

Lengthsman scheme maintenance work £2560.98

Clerk fee £667.00

11. ROADS AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

Many residents are contacting the Chairman and Clerk regarding their concerns relating to parked vehicles in Symonds Yat area Paddocks and the consequences to emergency services. Through our Ward Councillor an inspection will take place with HC appointed traffic engineers to determine what is of practical possibility together with potential consequences to road users and local residents.

12. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED

Reference Herefordshire Council Local Housing Plan strategy consultation with reference to rural area housing.

13. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

No new items were submitted.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 8 MARCH 2022 AT 7PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL.

The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 8.10pm

Signed

Chairman

Date