

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2023 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall

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

ATTENDING K Shilton (Clerk) Ward Councillor S Cole and 6 residents

1. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC

Residents were concerned that the recent road closure on the Doward – due to a collapsed road section – would be in place for a long period of time.

The Chairman explained the recent site meetings and follow up with the contractors Balfour Beatty and the time scale of additional work (part of the works already completed) required to allow opening with improved width.

This news was gratefully received, and the pc members complimented the contractor and team for the very fast response and quality of work repairs carried out.

The general condition of other BOATS was discussed the Chairman again giving a review of the actions recently completed and the site meetings that have taken place to assess all BOATS.

2. APOLOGIES G Hassall

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None reported

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2023

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

5. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MEETING

5.1 Play area upgrade – The Chairman reviewed the actions completed and the compliments received from parents. The Chairman also thanked the Clerk for all the efforts and time involved.

The next phase will take place in dry weather or early spring involving slabbing and picnic tables and a refurbished table tennis table for our local budding champions!

Adult / teenager outdoor gym equipment is also planned.

5.2 Llangrove Road – improved safety awareness. The Clerk explained that this was all in hand with Balfour Beatty but needing dry weather for the work and traffic control.

5.3 Website photograph litigation – the Chairman reviewed the most recent correspondence relating to this matter and the burden of time and efforts required by the Clerk. If the matter continues to a final completion of a court verdict, then this will involve both further efforts from the Clerk and further legal costs in respect of the claim sum being made against the Council.

The Clerk was determining whether costs would be covered by our insurance – but still awaiting confirmation.

Members took the matter very seriously and discussed the segment scenario options at length.

It was resolved being proposed by D Williams seconded by S Cole that our solicitors be instructed by the Clerk to terminate / settle the matter with the complainant and not use further efforts on this subject.

5.4 Remembrance Day – some 78 people attended the service our Chairman representing the Council.

5.5 Christmas activities and services – S Morris reviewed the services that will take place at St Dubricius and St Swithins also that chocolates were purchased for visiting the Residential Homes. The Chairman thanked Sue and the team for the time taken doing this kind gesture.

Christmas tree and alternative possibilities – T Watson had requested the pc to consider a Christmas tree for the season at the old location. Members reflected on the previous year's resolution of a permanent tree of a suitable variety at a location safe for all to enjoy and at a greater centre of resident community. Various locations past and future were debated including contributors who arguable benefit more. A permanent tree was sustainable and in the play area - as an example - had potentially greater enjoyment factor and others could - should they wish purchase an additional tree such as one being prepared by the local art gallery. The discussion ended being a note to the parish residents of this dilemma for their consideration and comment. It was minded that in the past a tree was initiated because they had been provided free from the Woodland Trust.

6. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS

233173 The Old Nurseries variation of some planning conditions.

The meeting gave no objections to these proposals.

232498 Wye Vale Symonds Yat revised design new dwelling and garage.

The meeting gave no objections to this proposal.

7. WARD COUNCILLOR

S Cole reviewed recent Herefordshire Council meetings attended including the Scrutiny Committee.

Residents have reported several situations regarding the lack of service of parish grit bins. Our Chairman is also involved in this matter and will investigate the reported sites for clarification. The meeting was minded of the reserves being held by us for residents' use should they feel urgent need.

8. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND WORKING GROUPS

8.1 Chairman – numerous site meetings attended and correspondence relating to grit bins and service being given. A full site review is taking place to fully understand the situation and the Clerk will then report matters to Balfour Beatty.

Enforcement Officer correspondence and involvement has also been a major part of this month's work.

8.2 Footpaths – considering the weather they all appear to be capable of walking and officer walks have not shown any situations for attention apart from the collapsed church wall which is being addressed.

8.2 Finance working group – waiting to submit precept request when notified. An emergency fund account is being prepared.

3.4 Lengthsman working group – several new projects completed and planned over the next months.

3.5 Community Hub / Good neighbour Scheme many activities – S Morris reported a new club starting January 2024 for residents suffering bereavement.

It is hoped that a future coffee morning will also be able to incorporate a defibrillator demonstration and involvement.

3.6 Website / App / publicity – all running well.

9. FINANCE MATTERS

The Clerk reviewed the status of the bank account.

Payments

Clock tower service £312.00

Legal advice £496.80

Website / photograph fee £390.00

10. Roads and traffic matters

Reference item 1 and the review of other correspondence related to this matter.

11. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED / DISTRIBUTED

The meeting was updated on resident correspondence related to litter / dog bins and hedge situations.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Co-option of new members and associated documents

The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 8pm

Signed

Chairman

Date

NEXT MEETING

UNLESS THERE ARE URGENT BUSINESS MATTERS TO ATTEND NO MEETING WILL BE HELD CALLED IN DECEMBER 2023 OR JANUARY 2024.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL.