

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2023 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall

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

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

APOLOGIES T Watson G Hassall

J Smith-Milne has regretfully resigned from the Council

The Clerk reported that 3 new candidates were interested in joining our Council.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None reported

1. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC

All residents attending were concerned that a property owner on the Doward had recently applied for planning permission – 232561 – but had actually fully built and renovated the building prior to the application and was using it for holiday let.

They considered that a retrospective application was unfair and that a decision should be subject to a full public planning meeting. The Ward Councillor confirmed that he would make such a request for consideration by the planning committee.

They were also concerned regarding the resultant traffic on this narrow lane and that visitors to the holiday let were using the passing layby area for parking and so making traffic movement on this lane increasing difficult.

The Chairman explained the decisions (objections) and actions so far taken by the council and that he had written to the enforcement officer with photographs and advertising features of the property. Following this meeting the council would write again to enforcement highlighting the residents' concerns and requests.

Other matters of concern. Grit bins not being filled for winter – it was explained should a need be required the council held some emergency stock of grit that was available.

Weeds growing on Meeks Well Lane with considered possible damage to the road – it was suggested this would be best to report directly to Herefordshire Council services.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES

Play area – reference status report issued – installation now brought forward.

Llangrove Road safety – Community Commissioning Model – waiting quotation.

Website photograph – reference status report and actions taken.

4. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS

232498 variations additional and consultation

This application had arrived just prior to the meeting and was not available to view on the HC website.

Members will send comments to Chairman and Clerk to forward to planning.

5. REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR

A summary of recent meetings / events and the work on parish BOATS was given.

6. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND WORKING GROUPS

Chairman – a busy month for both Chairman and Clerk. Several meetings attended and related discussions and correspondence with residents. Subjects including play area website BOATS finance matters and parish maintenance.

Footpaths – although criticised as unable to fully walk WC1 – this has been fully walked several times in mixed weather conditions without problem or hazard – a compliment to the landowners who have worked on this footpath.

The fallen area of church wall is reported to be repaired shortly as this is causing difficulty and safety issues.

Finance working group – estimated budget and explanation notes had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting for consideration.

The meeting resolved that the precept for year 2024/2025 remain at £52500.00 standing at this amount for several years and reflecting the understanding and consideration to residents and families through these harder economic times.

Lengthsman working group – a review site meeting planned for the Autumn and Winter period. The regular maintenance schedules are working well with several parish improvements.

Community Hub and Good Neighbour Scheme multi activities – good news from S Morris and team that the first games club is now starting. All activities and times are available on the pc website. The charity walk raised some £625 so a huge thank you and appreciation to all participants and public generosity.

It was agreed to purchase a wreath for Remembrance Day the Chairman representing the council although all members are welcome to support and attend the service.

Christmas related activities – it was agreed to repeat last year's visit to the residential homes with seasonal chocolates. Thank you to S Morris and friends for doing this.

Website / App / publicity – constant viewing continues and App chatter!

7. FINANCE MATTERS

The Clerk reviewed the status of the bank account and future expectations of income and spend.

Reference item 6 – resolved that the precept for year 2024/2025 remains at £52500.00.

Emergency fund – it was agreed that from accrued savings £10000.00 be held in reserve for future finance years should a parish emergency arise. It was resolved that the Chairman and Clerk were both authorised to action this reserve. Such spend being made known to the Council members by email and accounts at the Council meeting.

8. ROADS AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

The Council were delighted to report that Balfour Beatty have worked and surfaced Leaping Stocks Lane and Wye View Lane to a high standard using tarmac.

The Council appreciate the work done and thank everyone involved to make this happen.

The Clerk will write to Balfour Beatty and our Ward Councillor to thank them for all their efforts regarding these BOATS.

With winter approaching the offer from our Ward Councillor to organise supply of additional grit mix to our parish store was appreciated. Thank you also to Williams and Company for allowing storage as a community service.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED / DISTRIBUTED No further comments

10. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA No new items reported

NEXT MEETING 14 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL

The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 8.10pm

Signed

Chairman

Date