

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2025 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall

PRESENT R Smith (Chairman) S Morris S Cole R Mutlow G Hassall S Hickton

ATTENDING K Shilton (Clerk) Ward Councillor S Cole and 5 residents

APOLOGIES D Williams T Watson

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None reported

1 OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC

Mobility scooter and state of pavements. The resident described the difficulties being experienced on the pavements within Whitchurch area (especially Old Ross Road). It was agreed to carry out an inspection and gain clearance improvements where possible. Dropped curbs. The resident also explained the difficulty of mobility without some potential further dropped curbs. The meeting explained that a full survey by Herefordshire Council had been carried out some years ago to address this situation however positioning is a balance of safety for both motorist and mobility scooter.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2024 NOTES FROM 10 DECEMBER 2024 MEETING

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3 ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES

Grit bin review – working with Balfour Beatty. Very positive and helpful meetings have taken place with BB locality steward and management / Chairman and Clerk. New mapping of locations will be carried out and we will gain delivery of some new all-weather bins and grit reserves. Ultimately it may well result in a combination of service to the 89 bins by BB and the pc / lengthsman (difficult locations).

Community Police Officer parish visits. Regular visits have been made at differing times but to date no problems have been experienced – speeding concerns Crockers Ash / churchyard car park area / suspicious vehicles on the Doward. A visit to the village school parking at key times has also been made and advice given.

4 PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS

243213 Symonds Yat petrol station – replacement tanks

The meeting gave no objections.

241317 Sawpits Lane extend and convert building

The meeting objected to this application.

The unit has not been a dwelling and this lane / access is in a very sorry state of repair and further living and visitor activity should not be encouraged.

250133 Bungalow Ganarew remove conservatory and replace with garden room.

The meeting gave no objections to this application.

250272 Ganarew convert barn into two dwellings

This application could not be discussed at the meeting – the relevant documents not yet available on the HC website.

5 WARD COUNCILLOR

The recent report had been circulated to all members and is available on the wagpc website. The condition of Sawpits Lane was invited for pc comments. The lane being described as very poor and probably the worst condition of all Doward BOATS. It has been recommended for resurfacing but access by normal size equipment could be a problem.

6 REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND WORKING GROUPS

Chairman. Meetings attended Balfour Beatty with Clerk / zoom HC workshops / site meetings with our locality steward / site meeting with our lengthsman.

Footpaths. The recent complaint / correspondence by residents trying to walk a PROW (WC93) near Dry Arch was highlighted. Our Ward Councillor requesting details to discuss the matter further with an investigation.

Other footpaths now require clearing – reference site meeting lengthsman.

WC55 broken stile and damaged gate being investigated by PROW officers.

Finance working group. Year-end approaching for review. This will be followed by a further account segment review to estimate Real Time Values for discussion by the council.

Lengthsman working group. Reference above comments.

Community Hub / Good Neighbour Scheme group activities – all going well.

The meeting was minded of 8 May 2025 80 years VE day celebrations also involving churches country wide.

Website / app / publicity – all working well.

7 FINANCE MATTERS

The Clerk gave the status of the accounts including reserved matters.

Doward Group funds held £934.10 (potential defibrillator)

Good Neighbour Scheme activities £413.95

Parish emergency fund £10000.00

Council election cost fund £2000.00

Play Area second phase upgrade. The meeting approved this next phase for teenager and family all weather equipment including matting estimated cost £10000.00

Memorial Hall new roof – request for funding contribution. Council members had received copy of the correspondence from the Hall committee. Following discussion, it was agreed by all members that further information was required before any financial decision was made.

The council required copy of an independent survey of the roof condition. Copy of the latest year end Hall accounts and a statement showing three quotations for any such work required.

8 ROADS AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

A40 landfall situation – reference latest works update.

Whitchurch village dropped curbs – reference item 1.

9 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Inter parish meeting relating to the river Wye. Chairman and Clerk will attend.

10 PARISH RELATED CORRESPONDENCE

A resident has copied the clerk / council on a letter to Herefordshire Council and the damage to their driveway as a result of surface water issues.

11 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

No new items reported.

The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 7.55pm

Signed

Chairman

Date

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON 11 MARCH 2025 AT 7PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL