

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2012 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall

PRESENT P Walshe (Chairman) J Smith- Milne S McInerney W Walby J Everard G Hiscox T Roberts D Williams.

ATTENDING K Shilton L Wilcox (HALC)

1. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC Not required.

2. PRESENTATION FROM HALC UPDATING THE PARISH PLAN

L Wilcox confirmed that following the adoption of the Parish Plan in 2006 this was now due for revising and updating. The initial steps were advised including an Open Day for residents and families to offer their views and opinions. At present some European funding is still available to contribute towards the total costs that will be involved. Application for a grant is made by the Steering Group after its formation. The mechanism for the development of the Plan was recommended as follows:

Steering Group formation

Open Day for residents. Planning for Real.

Question paper to all households.

Monthly Agenda Item at Parish Council meetings for input and updates.

The Steering Group is formed from residents. The Chairman confirmed that J Dixon has agreed to act as co-ordinator between the Steering Group and the Parish Council.

3. APOLOGIES S Bucknall J Dixon M Norman R Smith Ward Councillor J Jarvis.

The Chairman reported that we have received the resignation of W Lapping.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 10 JULY 2012

There was some confusion regarding the resolution of actions to be taken for the slabs near the notice board at Whitchurch, most probably as a result of the lengthy discussion on this subject and the several changes of opinion.

The Clerk confirmed his understanding of the situation and the final decision made. It was again agreed the slabs would be made to ground level by S Lothian and G Hiscox.

The minutes were then agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

6. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES

The action points required by the Ward Councillor remain outstanding.

Parish Plan. Following discussion it was resolved by majority (one abstention) to re-visit the Parish Plan. It was agreed the Chairman would

make contact with HALC in the absence of J Dixon. Regarding the proposed Steering Group members G Hiscox and J Everard agreed to join.

7. REPORTS RECEIVED

Chairman. The following main points were highlighted:

A Chairman file is being created for potential future Chairman as a reference point. A memory stick has been purchased to store important Council matters which will be used between Chairman and Clerk.

Working Groups were requested to prepare short notes and proposals for discussion at Council meetings and to distribute these brief notes to all Council members prior to a Parish Council meeting.

An initial approach has been to the Clerk to study for the CILCA qualification with a parallel view that the Parish Council work towards and achieve Quality Parish status which will be further discussed and resolved at a later date.

The Chairman encourages training for all Council members and the next series of courses were discussed. However no members were available to attend on the dates specified.

Website. The grant application has been submitted.

Dog bins. After discussion the meeting resolved to revert to the original and successful practice that our Lengthsman would empty and inspect the bins to an agreed rota. S Lothian would discuss this with the Lengthsman.

Christmas Tree. It is possible the tree can be funded through the Woodland Trust. A power supply needs to be investigated and correct certification is also necessary. It was agreed to investigate further if Portland House was the most suitable site.

Ward Councillor. The following notes had been received by the Chairman: Roots and Branch Community Workshop meetings are being held over the next weeks.

Work on Ashes Lane has now started.

It is hoped that in the future Herefordshire Council can be persuaded to have more involvement with BOATS.

Finance Working Group. A recent meeting resulted with an initial suggestion of £12000.00 precept for 2013/14 and £16000.00 for 2014/15.

Play Area. The Chairman recommended that this should be an item for the new Parish Plan and that actions/expenditure are not taken from the precept but from grants.

Amenities. A 'No Dogs Sign' has now been installed by the Play Area.

Coffin Slide. It is hoped work will start soon.

S Lothian confirmed he is co-ordinating with Amey work on roads and trees.

An article has been submitted to the Village News addressing the problem of overhanging branches on to roads and pavements and for the appropriate landowners to take action.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The meeting was informed on the status of the bank account.

The following payments were agreed:

Grass cutting £276.00

Footpaths £72.00

Lengthsman work £268.00 and £274.95

Audit £162.00

Chairman expenses £29.98

Clerk expenses:£25.40 and travel £5.85 part share

Clerk fee £1200.00

The estimate for Lengthsman work for Whitchurch was agreed.

S Lothian to inform the Lengthsman to proceed on this project.

Old Ross Road weed control. It was suggested that this was now not the season to address this problem. S Lothian will discuss the matter with the Lengthsman at some future date.

9. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS None.**10. CODE OF CONDUCT REFERENCE LOCALISM ACT 2011**

The meeting resolved to adopt the latest Code of Conduct prepared by Herefordshire Council and NALC and that all Parish Council members will abide by this code.

11. NOTICE BOARDS

After discussion it was resolved that only two notice boards were necessary for our Parish, one situated at Ganarew and one opposite the village shop at Whitchurch. It was agreed that the notice board at Daf y Nant will be used to replace the notice board opposite the village shop. All other boards to be taken down and stored (if this is applicable due to their condition) the exception being the board at the Memorial Hall which has been donated to them. S Lothian was authorised to co-ordinate this work with the Lengthsman as soon as possible.

12. REVISED MEMBERSHIP OF WORKING GROUPS

No actions were taken as it was considered the revised Parish Plan would offer ample opportunities for participation of Council members.

13. CORRESPONDENCE No further matters discussed.**14. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Parish Plan revised times of meetings starting 7.00 pm ending 9.00 pm

Training for Council members.

Neighbourhood Watch correspondence already distributed to all members.

NEXT MEETING

As the Chairman and Vice Chairman would not be available for the 9 October 2012 meeting, the Chairman recommended that no meeting would take place unless there were matters requiring discussion. In this event it was agreed D Williams would act as Chairman for such a meeting. The Clerk agreed to inform all Council members of this decision. Under these circumstances, the next proposed meeting would be 13 November 2012 at 7.30 pm at Whitchurch Memorial Hall unless an October 2012 meeting was called.

The meeting started at 7.30 pm and ended at 9.35 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....