

**WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**PRESENT** P Walshe (Chairman) T Roberts D Williams G Hiscox S McInerney J Dixon R Smith J Everard J Smith-Milne

**ATTENDING** K Shilton (Clerk) Ward Councillor J Jarvis R Ball Herefordshire Council

**1. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC** Not required

**2. APOLOGIES** M Norman S Lothian W Walby  
The Chairman has received a letter of resignation from M Norman.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None

**6. REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR AND R BALL  
HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

J Jarvis highlighted the following main points.

Herefordshire Council are presently in a lock down process regarding spending.

Adult Social Care continues to take a substantial proportion of the budget. Root and Branch consultation Workshops have taken place over the County to allow the public to express their views and opinions.

Richard Ball reviewed the road network on the Doward and made reference to the following main points.

Evolution of these roads from a historical situation were not designed as roads as we know them today and especially the present increase and frequency in usage. As a consequence they are difficult to maintain.

A site survey has been carried out regarding Parish Council and residents concerns. Herefordshire Council has a duty to maintain roads in line with their character and the usage of the road. Meeks Well Lane as a BOAT is the lowest class of road and less than U designated roads. A review of spend on the Doward roads and their general condition was reviewed and it is estimated some £100,000.00 is required to re-construct Meeks Well Lane. In terms of what can be done it was explained that the main priorities due to the present weather conditions will go to the main Highways. However, starting April 2014 as a target it was stated that a monitoring process would be initiated to decide the levels of maintenance which were considered necessary.

J Jarvis distributed a prepared letter to Council Members and one for residents which summarised the above situation. These are attached to the main minutes.

Open discussion highlighted the following points:

D Williams. Self Help Schemes to fill in pot holes requested guidance as to what the situation was to residents and Council Members including Health

and Safety Regulations. Herefordshire Council agreed to explore this matter further also for other Parish Council requests and report back in the near future with clarification.

J Dixon requested a copy of the report from Amey and stated that he was more than disappointed in the lack of response from Herefordshire Council when requesting this report in the past. The question was asked if Meeks Well Lane was considered safe. No response was available from R Ball to this question.

S McInerney reported on his own recent inspection of the BOATS on the Doward and in his opinion Meeks Well Lane was not considered unsafe and that in contrast with many of the other BOATS which were in a far greater state of disrepair and need of attention. This was supported by D Williams. An inspection report of these roads was given to the Clerk by J Jarvis who also reported that an email version would be sent to the Clerk for distribution to all Council Members.

#### **4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2012 AND 26 NOVEMBER 2012**

These were both agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

#### **5. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES**

Reference was made to the specific agenda items.

#### **6. FURTHER REPORTS RECEIVED**

Chairman. A thank you notice has been prepared for the notice board regarding the Christmas Tree and referring to all the people involved. Salt and grit mix has been delivered by Amey as part of the winter Self Help Scheme.

It was agreed that no meeting would be held in January 2013.

Christmas arrangements. T Roberts reported on the latest developments and actions and thanked J Everard and M Norman for their participation in this project. The meeting also thanked these Council Members for their time and effort.

J Dixon. Parish Plan review. The Steering Group will hold their first meeting on 23 January 2013 at 7.00 pm at Whitchurch Village Hall.

#### **7. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Clerk reviewed the status of the account.

Shared costs towards the tree lights have been received from T Roberts representing £237.50.

Received £170.00 towards the Defibrillator Fund.

The following payments were agreed:

Chairman expenses £65.19.

Clerk expenses £29.64 and travel £19.48.

Clerk fee £1200.00

New litter bins x 2 £525.60

N Power £29.19.

HALC training for Council Member £30.00.

It was confirmed that the precept request of £15000.00 for 2013/14 had been submitted to Herefordshire Council.

**8. PLANNING**

Whitchurch School new classroom. No objections.

Marsden House conversion into flats and additional family houses. This was supported by the meeting but with concerns regarding increased traffic flow and greater safety precautions being required on the main street and children’s play area. The meeting requested under Section 106 Agreement a financial contribution towards road improvements on the main street and further safety measures for the children’s play area.

2 Sandyway Lane. Further extension. No objections.

Sterretts Caravan Park. Amenity Building and land for games and caravans and additional parking. No objections.

**9. CO-OPTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The meeting resolved to request the co-option process to replace 3 Council Members W Lapping, S Bucknell and M Norman following their resignations.

**10. TRAINING**

No courses will be attended this month.

**11. CORRESPONDENCE INCLUDING MATTERS CIRCULATED PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

No further comments were made.

**12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Defibrillator Demonstration.

Parish Plan update.

Training.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2013 AT 7.00 PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL**

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.45 pm.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....