

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2013 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall

PRESENT G Hiscox (Chairman) R Smith J Dixon S McInerney D Williams T Roberts S Cole B Hendley J Smith-Milne

ATTENDING K Shilton (Clerk) Ward Councillor J Jarvis

1. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC Not Required

2. APOLOGIES S Lowthian M Jenkins W Walby

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

J Smith-Milne planning application 132995L The Old Court Hotel which was recorded in the register.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2013

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman

5. REPORTS RECEIVED

The meeting noted that reference the roundabout near the School Balfour Beatty should be informed of the intention to look after this area and gain their approval.

Chairman. The Chairman thanked R Smith for all his work inspecting and reporting on the public footpaths.

The first public meeting for Whitchurch Fire Station has taken place, being chaired by our Ward Councillor (separate notes of the meeting prepared by the Clerk).

The Chairman has attended together with S Lothian a review meeting by Balfour Beatty.

A second letter has now been prepared and sent (reference road conditions on The Doward) to Herefordshire Council.

Ward Councillor. A second public meeting will be held on 18 December 2013 at The Old Court Hotel to discuss the future of Whitchurch Fire Station. A further public meeting will be held in January 2014 when the Chief Fire Officer will also attend.

A planning meeting involving all three Parish Councils in the Ward is being co-ordinated for February 2014 to discuss matters with S Withers and M Willimount.

Herefordshire Council are withdrawing funding for Flicks in the Sticks from their budget.

Lentsman and Grass Cutting working group. The brook in the village has now been inspected and reported as satisfactory.

Finance working group. T Roberts reported that a working group meeting will be held prior to the February 2014 Council meeting.

Footpaths Officer. R Smith has issued a further footpaths report and a priority list of work to discuss with the Lengthsman at the next site meeting. Publicity working group. B Hendley reported that he is relocating away from the Parish and therefore regretfully will resign from the Parish Council. Initial research regarding funding for the Play Area has highlighted that the main source would be Awards For All with match funding. Play equipment companies also offer both a planning application service and grant application service to Councils. Website. The final stages of development will be completed shortly.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk reported the status of the bank account.

The following payments were agreed:

Clock Tower annual service £198.00

Clerk fee £400.00

Travel £45.80 and administration £74.55

8. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS

The Old Court Hotel 132995L replace roof. J Smith-Milne left the meeting to allow discussion and did not return until the remaining members had given their comments which concluded with no objections.

Proposed Bus Stop and Cycle Shelter co-ordinated by Balfour Beatty. No objections.

Land adjacent to the Fire Station. The Chairman reported that planning permission had been granted for 2 semi-detached homes. There was concern from the meeting as to how this application had been processed as the Clerk and Council had not been informed through the usual communication route.

9. PARISH PLAN UPDATE (PP)

J Dixon presented the timetable of events and procedures for this PP. The final draft of the question paper is being completed and will be presented to the Parish Council in the new year for their agreement. The second part of the grant will only be given when the PP is actually completed and therefore, it may be necessary to request a short term loan from the Parish Council.

Present estimates show a possible shortfall of funding of some £400.00 against the grants given when the PP is fully completed.

The Steering Group thanked The Old Court Hotel for their kind hospitality in providing a room for their meetings, which was very much appreciated.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

The Chairman and J Dixon will attend a workshop organised by Herefordshire Council to assist in applications for a grant. The Clerk will arrange and confirm the booking for this meeting.

11. WHITCHURCH FIRE STATION PROPOSED CLOSURE

Reference was made to the above minutes/public meetings and the notes from these meetings prepared and circulated by the Clerk.

12. CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS RESIDENTIAL HOMES IN THE PARISH

T Roberts reported on the actions being taken to provide a Christmas card and a small gift which will be distributed to all residents of these Homes on 23 December 2013.

13. SEWAGE SYSTEMS

It is anticipated that Welsh Water will attend a public meeting in February 2014 which will be coordinated by the Ward Councillor.

14. UNPAID WORK / SPECIFIC PROJECTS

Following discussion it was agreed that our Footpaths Officer consider possible potential projects.

15. NOTICE BOARD NEAR THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

It was resolved that this should be used as an information board for the Parish Council along with the present board near the village shop.

16. TRAINING

The meeting was minded of the courses available from HALC.

17. MUSIC FESTIVAL

It was agreed to defer this matter to the February 2014 meeting when the proposer S Lowthian would be present.

18. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND CIRCULATED

Letters have been received from St.Swithins and St.Dubricius regarding consideration of a contribution towards their costs for churchyard grass cutting. It was agreed that the Finance working group review and propose the contribution to the churches for the next 2014/2015 financial year.

Herefordshire Council have informed the Citizens Advice Bureaux that they intend to withdraw financial help. The meeting agreed that the Clerk write a letter of support to the CAB to assist them in their consultations.

Flytipping. An incident has been reported by a resident. It was agreed the Clerk and Footpaths Officer investigate and organise the required actions.

19. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Flicks in the Sticks future funding

Neighbourhood Plan

Parish Plan

Music Festival

Publicity working group new member required

**NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7PM AT
WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL
NO MEETING WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY 2014 UNLESS THERE ARE
URGENT BUSINESS MATTERS THAT REQUIRE ATTENTION**

The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 8.50pm

Signed

Chairman

Date