

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2013 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall**

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

ATTENDING K Shilton (Clerk) Ward Councillor J Jarvis and 2 residents

1. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC

- Residents attending expressed concern regarding the sewage system in Whitchurch, particularly with the understanding that 10 further new homes are being proposed. Also there is a rumour that a site for up to 60 homes is being considered, with access from Grange Park. The Chairman explained the planning application process and confirmed that the Council had no knowledge of the proposed 60 homes. The Ward Councillor confirmed that Herefordshire Planning Department had had no application for this area. The Chairman confirmed the concern of both the Council and residents in the apparent inadequacy of the present sewage and drainage system. The Council resolved that the sewage system should be investigated further with the responsible agencies. It was agreed that the Ward Councillor and Chairman would undertake this. G Jones recommended that until the sewage system was at a satisfactory level no new build should be allowed.
- The owner of Woods of Whitchurch presented proposals for Christmas celebrations and submitted financial proposals for consideration by the Council. It was agreed this would be discussed at the next October 2013 meeting.
- The Clerk will discuss with the Chairman various approaches to the presentation of planning applications e.g. on the notice boards. It was also agreed that when a web site is available applications would be added to this site. The meeting was minded that both Council members and the public can view and obtain planning information and many other matters from the available Herefordshire Council web site.

2. APOLOGIES J Dixon S Cole and M Jenkins**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

J Smith-Milne explained to the meeting future proposals for a small number of houses on land owned by him. This was noted by the meeting and recorded in the register.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 9 JULY 2013

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

5. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES

The meeting was minded of the separate email on action points sent to all members. The Chairman reviewed these and referred to agenda items.

6. REPORTS RECEIVED

Chairman.

- For future consideration, with a possible decision May 2014 at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, that in the month of August a short meeting is held to review action points so that there are no delays to projects or matters concerning the Parish.
- Balfour Beatty presentation. The Clerk and T Roberts had attended this meeting and gave a review of the main elements of the presentation.
- Neighbourhood Plans. The Chairman explained that an informal meeting was being arranged with Herefordshire Council and that the Chairman T Roberts J Dixon and Clerk would attend this meeting prior to the Council October 2013 meeting and report back to the Council.

Ward Councillor. Reported on further aspects of the Balfour Beatty meeting and highlighted revisions being proposed to Adult Social Care in the County including rural areas.

Lengthsman and Grass Cutting working group. Reviewed the latest Lengthsman reported defect sheet. It was agreed S Lothian and M Jenkins discuss these matters with the Lengthsman and give proposals to the Chairman. It was agreed the working group confirm to the Lengthsman that the designated grass cutting areas should be given a final year cut during October 2013.

Financial working group. T Roberts reviewed the main elements of the last group meeting. It was agreed the next working group meeting would be held on the 17th October 2013.

Litter Bins. It was agreed 2 new additional litter bins should be ordered. The Clerk will arrange this and S Lothian co-ordinate the suitable locations and installation with the Lengthsman.

Footpaths Officer. R Smith recommended that footpath W1 as one of the most used footpaths in the Parish, should receive improvement. R Smith will also contact selected Council members with the objective to assist in the inspection of other public footpaths.

Publicity working group. The Chairman reviewed the development of the website and reported that hopefully this could be operational by the year end.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk reviewed the status of the accounts.

The following payments were agreed:

Lengthsman £547.74

NPower £46.01

Clerk fee £400.00 and administration £18.05

SLCC publication £56.00

The meeting agreed to transfer £545.00 from the Parish Council account to the Parish Plan account as an agreed contribution to the Parish Plan development programme.

8. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS

Highway Star 131930/0. Proposed 10 new dwellings. The Ward Councillor declared an interest in this matter.

After discussion it was agreed by a majority to object to this application. The reasons being concerns for traffic entering and leaving this development onto a critical junction and that this development would give increased strain on the already inadequate sewage and drainage system.

Biblins 132364FH. Solar panels. No objections.

Rosemount 132127FH extension and alterations. No objections.

9. PLAY AREA

The Chairman reviewed the latest stages of the work programme and reported that the area should re-open in the very near future.

B Hendley reviewed the investigation work to date regarding funding. It was suggested the Council also consider a possible new location with a larger area to allow suitable use of any equipment.

The meeting agreed a letter should be sent to M Littlewood who has been most helpful during the play area improvements.

10. PARISH PLAN

Approximately 170 residents visited the Planning For Real open days. The next stage is to develop a question paper due to be distributed to every home in the Parish.

11. WEED CONTROL

It was agreed that S Lothian should obtain a quotation from the Lengthsman to trim down weeds in the agreed designated areas. Weed kill treatment would be considered in Spring 2014.

12. FLOODING CONCERNS

After discussion it was agreed S Lothian conduct a site meeting with the Lengthsman on the condition of the brook through the village of Whitchurch. A report from the Lengthsman was requested together with any appropriate recommendations and estimated costs involved.

13. ROAD SAFETY CROCKERS ASH

A number of cars are now regularly parked on the road causing concern to other road users. After discussion it was agreed the Clerk would contact Ross Police to request them to investigate the matter and take any appropriate actions required.

14. STANDING ORDERS

The meeting was informed that NALC would in the future be issuing revised guide lines.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

All members had been circulated with the letter from Llangarron Parish Council concerning overhanging branches on the road between Whitchurch and Llangarron. It was agreed that S Lothian and M Jenkins meet with the Lengthsman to investigate the matter and report back to the Council with any estimated costs involved or advise if other agencies are responsible.

Weston Power had requested the electricity needs for the Christmas period. The meeting agreed that the Clerk and T Roberts should complete the information required.

A letter from the MP Jesse Norman had been sent to some councillors but its content had not been available for the meeting. The Chairman undertook to clarify this situation.

16. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- The sewage and drainage situation.
- Neighbourhood Planning.
- Proposals from Woods of Whitchurch
- Initial suggestions for consideration 2014/2015 budget

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2013 AT 7PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL

The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 9.35pm

Signed

Chairman

Date