

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2014 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall**

PRESENT G Hiscox (Chairman) S McInerney T Roberts D Williams J Dixon S Cole R Smith S Lothian G Litson.

ATTENDING K Shilton (Clerk) and 3 residents.

1. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC

The following subjects were discussed:

Commemoration of World War 1. The Memorial Hall was built for those people who sacrificed their lives during this War. On 8 and 9 November 2014 a special service is being held in the Memorial Hall together with a possible event showing a series of short films. A booklet is being prepared together with a display of memorabilia. The Parish Council agreed to give further consideration as to how they could contribute to these events.

Flicks in the Sticks/Arts Alive. Films are mainly shown in the Autumn and Winter months. The equipment was provided by Arts Alive through a pay back scheme of £90.00 per film. To date attendance costs have covered all outlay costs. The organisers appreciate the concern from the Parish Council for these events to continue and confirmed that to date all costs are covered.

Woods of Whitchurch/Christmas Activities. They wish to continue Christmas Activities and are trying to gain more cohesion for the various events taking place within the parish. There is a proposed Children's Party on 6 December 2014 together with the Christmas Tree and Father Christmas, followed by an evening event. They requested the Council consider their own possible contribution towards these activities. The Chairman reviewed the Council involvement at Christmas regarding the Tree, cost of lighting and cost of power and gifts and cards to Residential Homes. They will discuss this matter at a further Council meeting.

2. APOLOGIES Ward Councillor J Jarvis W Walby and J Smith-Milne.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2014

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

5. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES

Traffic Island near the Village School. Agreement has been acknowledged from Balfour Beatty that The Old Court Hotel can take over the maintenance from our Lengthsman for this area. This proposal was agreed by the meeting. It was also agreed that the Clerk contact the Lengthsman to remove all bushes which are now causing traffic visibility problems, but to leave all trees and other plants for the handover to The Old Court Hotel.

The Clerk made reference to the meeting held with Balfour Beatty and other selected Parish Councils. It was anticipated that a Locality Steward would be appointed to our Parish in May 2014. It was agreed Council members should initiate a list of their concerns and matters for further investigation in readiness for this appointment.

6. REPORTS RECEIVED

Chairman. Reference was made to the recent heavy wet weather and how this had affected the Parish. Examples were given such as the brook wall which requires attention and that a store of sand bags has been organised at the Fire Station.

Play Area. The Chairman requested a Council member to take responsibility of a weekly inspection. D Williams would consider this, however, it was not possible in the short term. The Chairman will therefore continue the inspection until a Council member will take over this required duty.

Lenghman and Grass Cutting Working Group. S Lothian reported the actions that had taken place on Sandyway Lane to divert water from the lane onto the adjacent field. The landowner had objected to this and had re-diverted the water back onto the lane as he had not been approached by the Council and had sheep in this field. Sandyway Lane is for much of its length a sunken lane, making it difficult to amend the water flow.

A further incident of ponds overflowing above Whitchurch was reported. This had resulted in flooding at the Crown Hotel. S Lothian had offered the landowner the facility of the lenghman to identify the reason for the overflow, but this had been rejected. D Williams offered to approach the landowner to review the situation.

Dog bin relocation. This will be actioned by the Lengsthman as agreed at the February 2014 Council meeting.

The Lengsthman is reviewing a list of locations where jetting is required either by the Lengsthman or Balfour Beatty. The Clerk will co-ordinate this.

Finance Working Group. The group will meet prior to the April 2014 Council meeting.

Footpaths Officer. R Smith submitted the latest Footpaths Report and action elements. An estate agent has requested the Council to inspect and comment on the footpaths to The Ledge. Inspection of these paths by the Footpaths Officer and Chairman highlighted a dangerous situation on one footpath with a collapsing wall on the land belonging to this property. The Clerk will inform the estate agent of this situation.

Publicity Working Group. G Litson had prepared initial thoughts for the proposed integrated website for the community and Parish Council. A meeting will be held on 26 March 2014 at 4 pm at The Old Court Hotel for a presentation on the draft proposals of the website. R Smith kindly offered to assist the working group if this was required.

Informal Planning Meeting with other Ward Councils. The Clerk outlined the main elements of this meeting and the initiation of a closer relationship between the Councils and Planning Department.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk reviewed the bank account status.

J Dixon reviewed the financial situation of the Parish Plan funding and payments and the future financial outlay required. Based on the grant agreement remaining funding will only take place on the completion of the Parish Plan. The meeting resolved to advance £1440.00 from Parish Council funds to the Parish Plan account, being proposed by S Cole, seconded by S McInerney and agreed by all members present.

The following payments were agreed:

Lengthsman £348.00

Clerk fee £400.00

HALC subscription £487.08. This payment was agreed following discussion by the members present and by a majority of 1 vote with 2 abstentions.

8. PLANNING

Losito Stud. The meeting was minded that the appeal for the log cabin to be made permanent has been granted.

Greston Whitchurch 140366FH single storey extension. No objections.

Marsden House 140498F conversion of Marsden House / Coach House to 9 dwellings. Erection of 4 terrace dwellings car park and associated works.

The meeting objected to this application for the following reasons.

The additional overload on the present insufficient sewage system.

Parking concerns onto the main street from both visitors and residents.

Apparent limited access for emergency services.

Riverside Nurseries. T Roberts highlighted that the enforcement order to remove the mobile homes, does not appear to have taken place. It was agreed that the Clerk and T Roberts prepare background information and request a present status and proposed actions from Herefordshire Council Enforcement Officers.

9. PARISH PLAN UPDATE

The question papers hand delivered to all residents will be collected within the next few days. It is anticipated that the analysis of responses should be completed by end of April 2014.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW (NP)

The Chairman and J Dixon have prepared a grant application. It was agreed The Service Level Agreement should be signed by the Chairman. The Chairman has recently attended an Open Day held by Eardisley Parish Council who are progressing well with their NP and could serve many good ideas for our own NP. It is estimated that a budget of £13000.00 will be required to develop our NP.

11. CORRESPONDENCE No further comments.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Commemoration of the First World War.
- Woods of Whitchurch Christmas Activities
- Situations List for future Locality Steward
- House project near the Fire Station

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 8 APRIL 2014 AT 7 PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL

The meeting started at 7 pm and ended at 9.15 pm.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....