

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2014 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall

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

ATTENDING K Shilton (Clerk) Locality Stewards D Atkinson and K Williams from Balfour Beatty and 2 residents

1. REMEMBERING BILL WALBY

D Williams on behalf of the Council reflected on the life of Bill Walby which was followed by two minutes silence for private reflection by members.

2. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC

A resident requested information regarding recent police activity in the Parish area. It was explained that a person had remarked the intention to harm himself and hence the police involvement. It was also understood as a separate incident that a local robbery had taken place.

A resident complained about the state of the hedgerows Sandyway Lane to Crockers Ash. It was explained that this was being investigated for action. There were also concerns regarding speeding on this road.

3. APOLOGIES S Lowthian Ward Councillor J Jarvis

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None

5. LOCALITY STEWARDS

Both Stewards gave an introduction and explained their function for our Parish which includes Public Footpaths. The Clerk Chairman and Footpaths Officer have all contact details. It was agreed that the Clerk include the Steward on the distribution of the Footpaths Officer reports.

It was confirmed by Balfour Beatty that where a landowners hedge causes problems to road users or pedestrians that they would be active contacting the landowner under the Highways Act.

6. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2014

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

7. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES

No Tipping sign. M Jenkins agreed to take action.

Litter pick up day / weekend. Dates and equipment to be organised by S Lowthian.

8. REPORTS RECEIVED

Chairman. It was suggested that a Community Litter Pick Up event should take place 14 November 2014 onwards.

New litter bins and dog bins are now installed.

The Chairman confirmed that he would attend the MP Surgery held in October 2014.

It was agreed following a site survey by the Chairman and T Roberts that additional grass areas would be included into the Lengthsman cutting schedule. A proposed schedule has been prepared by the Chairman and our Lengthsman has been requested to submit a quotation for the October 2014 Council meeting.

Play Area. The ROSPA report for 2014 has been circulated to all members. Only 2 items were considered medium risk. It was agreed to investigate re-structuring the slide and some equipment and eventually purchase new replacements. This would be considered within the 2015/16 budget and precept request. A Working Group of the Chairman R Smith S Cole and M Jenkins will investigate this matter further and report back to the Council. School roundabout. The bushes have been removed and The Old Court Hotel have now taken over the maintenance of this area. The Clerk was requested to obtain more detail on costs charged by the Lengthsman for the bush clearance.

Finance Working Group. The next meeting will take place on 30 September 2014.

Footpaths. The latest report had been distributed to all members. Two further footpaths have been walked, Path GN5 is blocked by a fallen tree and Path WC95 is blocked by overgrown branches.

The public footpath through Whitchurch village has now been cleared by our Lengthsman.

Publicity and Website Working Group. Development continues and will be used to report on the Parish Plan matters.

Commemoration of World War One. D Williams reported that activities continued to progress.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk reviewed the status of the bank account.

The following payments were agreed:

Play Area inspection £54.72

External Audit £120.00

NPower £34.95

Lengthsman work £342.00

Clerk fee £483.00 and administration £19.84

Travel £47.94

10. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS

Reference 142418F Calcott annexe change of use to carer accommodation.

No objections were given.

11. PARISH PLAN UPDATE

J Dixon reported that the initial draft of the Plan has been submitted to the working group. The 30 October 2014 has been selected to present the proposals to the public held at Whitchurch Memorial Hall.

12. OVERGROWN TREES AND BRANCHES IN THE PARISH

The Chairman made reference to the site meeting recently held with the Locality Stewards, Chairman and Clerk to demonstrate the problems to motorists between Daf y Nant to Crockers Ash caused by overhanging branches. As a result Balfour Beatty are investigating this matter for action. D Williams agreed to prepare a draft text that could be given to residents/landowners highlighting the need to cut back any branches overhanging onto roads or pavements.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Two letters have been received from residents. One regarding concerns on flooding issues on Whitchurch Main Street. It was agreed this was outside the Parish Council control and has therefore been given to our Ward Councillor who has agreed to respond to the resident directly. The other letter concerned speeding in the Parish. This is being addressed within the Parish Plan.

The Council members were informed of the following meetings.

16 September 2014 Code of Conduct presented by Herefordshire Council Monitoring Officer.

1 October 2014 Budget Meeting presented by Herefordshire Council Finance.

14. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA None.

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2014 AT 7.00 PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.50 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....