

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2015 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall

PRESENT G Hiscox (Chairman) S McInerney S Cole R Smith J Dixon D Williams T Watson
E Curtis S Morris M Woodward

ATTENDING K Shilton (Clerk) Ward Councillor P Newman and 2 residents

1. OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC

Residents from Pritchards Lane described their difficulties as a result of the sudden closure of this BOAT by Balfour Beatty. The Parish Council and Ward Councillor gave their full sympathy to this situation and described the efforts made to date to determine more information and that further action would be taken in an attempt to gain a resolution.

2. APOLOGIES G Litson J Smith-Milne.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None submitted.

4. CO-OPTION OF 3 NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

It was proposed by S Cole seconded by D Williams and agreed by all Members present that E Curtis S Morris and M Woodward be appointed to the Parish Council. All 3 Members signed their Declaration of Office and will submit their Registrable Interest forms to the Herefordshire Council Monitoring Officer.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2015

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

6. ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES

Bank at Crockers Ash. Removal is still not fully completed and will be added to the list of Balfour Beatty work matters outstanding.

Horse box on pavement A40. This matter has now been resolved.

7. WARD COUNCILLOR

Flooding concerns Lewstone. P Newman reported that the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward considers that the bank has now stabilised itself. It is understood that no engineer has visited or reported on this matter. P Newman stated that he would not be taking further action or responsibility on this issue.

Litter on the A40. Balfour Beatty have reported to P Newman that the litter has now been cleared. This was disputed by Parish Council Members, however, the Ward Councillor reported that further involvement would not be taken on this matter.

Potential Fracking in our area. Consultation documents will be circulated to Council Members. D Williams requested if further progress or investigation had been made regarding the new school transport. No further information was available.

8. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS

152287 Kirby's Yard proposed 9 two bedroom dwellings turning car parking and associated works.

Following discussion it was agreed the Chairman and Clerk would prepare comments to this application to be distributed to all members for their agreement / comments before submission to Herefordshire Council. (Attached to the main minutes).

9. REPORTS RECEIVED

Chairman. The Chairman and Council Members expressed disappointment with the service received from the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward. Following discussion the Ward Councillor will invite the Locality Steward to our October 2015 Parish Council Meeting.

Litter Bins. These are now emptied on a weekly basis to cope with the summer visitor density. Parish Council Newsletter. The second letter is being prepared for distribution late September 2015.

Footpaths. The Chairman suggested that perhaps other residents would be interested to make up a small task force to assist our Footpaths Officer.

Training. Members were encouraged to consider attending future courses available.

New notice board. This is now ordered and will be situated in a new location opposite the village store.

Website. Progress continues to update both websites.

Finance working group. In the absence of J Smith-Milne the Clerk gave a summary of the notes of the last meeting held on the 19 August 2015 which had been distributed to all Parish Council Members.

Lengthsman and grass cutting working group. It was agreed this working group now involved G Hiscox D Williams E Curtis and the Clerk.

Footpaths Officer. R Smith reviewed the latest status and was pleased to report that WC73, 74, 79 and 72 were now made passable and that further clearance work would continue on these footpaths.

Hewlins Lane. The situation regarding the gate and dog effluent from the kennels remains unresolved despite several emails to the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward.

10. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk reviewed the status of the bank account.

Lengthsman and Footpaths grant claimed for the first quarter represents £2600.00

Payments

Lengthsman work £1078.00 and Footpaths £300.00

Audit fee £240.00

New dog bin £138.00

Play area inspection £60.72

Clerk fee £483.00 Administration £38.42 Travel part share £36.30

11. PARISH PLAN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chairman reviewed the progress made with the Community Scheme organised from PC and PCC Members.

Tourism Forum. The first public meeting was held July 2015.

Re-cycling. This is being investigated by P Lewis and T Watson.

Question paper to residents. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are preparing a questionnaire to be hand delivered to all Parish residents homes early October 2015. This is a first major segment in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

J Dixon reminded the meeting that it is the Parish Council that are responsible for the Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group being a working group towards the Plan development.

12. PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

It was agreed the Chairman and Clerk prepare this document and circulate to all Parish Council members for approval / comment before submitting to Herefordshire Council.

13. PLAY AREA

The Chairman reviewed the conclusions from the past site meeting and that clearance and general ground improvement was required before the installation of new fencing (estimated £2000.00 from the agreed budget of £10000.00 for this project).

The new Parish Council Newsletter to residents will invite families with small children to comment and express their wishes as to what new equipment should be considered.

14. SPEED/PARKING/ROAD SIGNS INCLUDING CROCKERS ASH

A small Working Group has now been formed as a part of the Neighbourhood Plan development. The Clerk reported that the issues submitted to an engineer designated by Balfour Beatty had resulted in no responses despite several follow up reminders.

15. ROAD SWEEPING

It was agreed to remove this subject from the agenda.

16. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED

No further comments were made, the matters being addressed during the meeting.

17. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Response from Balfour Beatty Locality Steward on work outstanding.

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2015 AT 7.00 PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.50 pm,

Signed

Chairman

Date