

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2016 at Whitchurch Memorial Hall

PRESENT G Hiscox (Chairman) D Williams S Morris M Woodward G Litson S McInerney T Watson E Curtis J Smith-Milne.

ATTENDING K Shilton (Clerk) Ward Councillor P Newman.

1. **OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE PUBLIC** Not required.

2. **APOLOGIES** R Smith S Cole.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None.

4. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2015**

These were agreed and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

5. **ACTION POINTS FROM THE MINUTES**

New notice board installation. The Clerk is waiting for the quotation from our Lengthsman.

Tourist notice boards. G Litson will investigate possible suitable maps through the N Plan Steering Group. The meeting was minded that these notice boards are in poor condition and either require attention or removal.

Review of Christmas activities. The tree was well received with many positive comments. The visits to the Residential Homes with gifts and cards was also very much appreciated.

Discussion resulted in future consideration for a further activity for older Parish residents during December, possibly as a part of the Good Neighbour Scheme.

The Christmas Lunch organised by a local family at the Memorial Hall was regrettably not very well attended. The meeting discussed possibilities where the Parish Council could help raise future awareness of this event.

Road junction missing white lines. Such matters have been reported to Balfour Beatty and the meeting was minded that overall in the Parish/Ross on Wye area local roads were all suffering from similar poor marking situations. The Chairman requested members to be aware of these conditions and to report any issues to the Clerk.

6. **REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR**

P Newman highlighted the following main points:

- Herefordshire Council have received £3.2 million less from Central Government than had been expected.
- Budgets will reflect on service levels an example being the recent consultation process from Balfour Beatty to reduce its 5 depots to 2 depots.
- The licence for fracking methane related products has been granted, most possibly exploratory work will be in the Forest of Dean area.
- LED lighting conversion for Herefordshire will be completed by the end of February 2016.

- BOAT Pritchards Lane. Repairs are scheduled in the 2016/17 work programme pending budget availability.
- The burst water main at Symonds Yat is scheduled for repair.

7. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS

- **153814 Tyn Yr Hoel.** Proposed portal framed implement storage building. The meeting gave no objections.
- **153563 The Orchard** Symonds Yat proposed decking area. The meeting gave no objections.

8. REPORTS RECEIVED

Chairman:

- The next Parish Council Newsletter will be distributed early March 2016. Any input from members must be submitted by end of February 2016.
- Members were invited to participate with the N Plan Steering Group for example comments on the evidence gathering segments available on the website would be appreciated. G Litson will also distribute the future Steering Group meeting dates.
- Members were encouraged to be aware of any local news (including planning matters) and report them at Council meetings.
- Litter pick. It was proposed that the next community litter pick will take place before the start of the tourist season.
- Training. It was agreed to invite HALC for an in house training session, particularly for newer members an example being Rolls, Responsibilities of Parish Council Members and of a Parish Council. Members were requested to send their date preferences to the Clerk.

Finance Working Group:

- E Curtis reported that a meeting would take place during March 2016 to review the budget segments and allocate funds for the planned projects during this next financial year.

Lengthsman and Grass Cutting Working Group:

- D Williams and T Watson were appointed to this working group. A meeting will take place with the Lengthsman over the next few weeks in preparation for the summer working schedule. The Lengthsman has been requested to reserve 2 full days per month for scheduled maintenance work.

Footpaths Officer:

- The Lengthsman has been requested to reserve 1 full day each month for projects/maintenance work as directed by the Footpaths Officer.

Website and Publicity:

- G Litson reported that website development continues and will include activities, meeting dates example Good Neighbour Scheme. Further input for similar activities should be sent to G Litson/R Smith.
- J Smith-Milne suggested that the Parish Council should investigate how the website could be associated with Facebook to encourage further public participation. The meeting agreed to investigate this matter further. The Chairman requested that any further suggestions to help improve the website should be sent to the Clerk.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- The Clerk reported the bank account status and that VAT refunds have now been received for the period 1 January 2015 to 21 December 2015 and the 2nd and 3rd quarter Lengthsman Scheme/Footpath Scheme claims have been received from Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty.
- The precept request for 2016/17 representing £28000.00 has been submitted to Herefordshire Council and that the first payment will be received April 2016.
- The Clerk highlighted the revised Lengthsman Scheme future changes recently presented by Balfour Beatty. These will be considered by the Finance Working Group and proposals presented to the Parish Council for comment.

Payments

- The following payments were agreed.
- HALC subscription £654.62
- Lengthsman work £462.00
- Website services £28.80
- Clerk fee £483.00 Administration £23.21 Travel £45.90

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE / MONTHLY STEERING GROUP STATUS REPORT

G Litson highlighted the following main points.

- The Project manager is P Lewis.
- Evidence gathering of the required segments is completed with the exception of one segment.
- Following this preparation a Community Event weekend will take place at the Memorial Hall most probably in April 2016. A question paper to be hand delivered to all homes in the Parish is being prepared.
- G Litson is meeting the appointed consultants Foxley Tagg to review the road map progression together with time objectives.
- Dates of the future Steering Group meetings will be agreed and submitted to the website. Parish Council members receive all minutes/action points from each meeting through the Clerk.

11. GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

- S Morris and M Woodward reported that these meetings from 10.30 am to 12 noon at the Memorial Hall continue to be well attended. The meetings are every first and third Wednesday of each month. All details will be submitted to the website to encourage further support.
- It was agreed that at the March 2016 meeting consideration would be given by the Parish Council to support the Hall rental cost for this event.
- It was agreed S Morris would discuss with the Memorial Hall Committee the possible availability of Wifi.

12. SPEED/PARKING/ROAD SIGNS INCLUDING CROCKERS ASH

- The Chairman reported that the N Plan evidence base transport/traffic issues will be available on the website and comments would be appreciated.
- A meeting including a site tour of the Parish road situations has taken place with the Safety Partnership and a meeting has been planned with the Cabinet Member for Roads.
- Examples of “Village Gateway” signs were shown to the meeting with a view to possible use to address issues of excess speed at locations in the Parish.

13. PLAY AREA/NEXT ACTIONS

- Clearing of branches around this area will commence in the near future, followed by new security fencing. The objective is to have this completed by end of June 2016.

14. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED No further comments**15. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

- “The Village News”.
- Technology progression/funding considerations.
- Good Neighbour Scheme/funding considerations.
- Red telephone boxes.

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON 8 MARCH 2016 AT 7.00 PM AT WHITCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.45 pm

Signed

Chairman

Date