

Minutes of Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd September 2016 at 8.00pm at Allensmore Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Jim Lawrence, Jeremy Lawrence (Chair), S Lawrence, S Williams, D Cooke and T Cramp (Vice Chair)

In attendance: Mrs A Wright (Clerk), Ward Councillor Jon Johnson, and 2 members of the public.

1. Introduction and welcome by the Chairman

The Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Jeremy Lawrence, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr C Watkinson.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Open Session

There were no matters raised during the Open Session.

5. Brief Verbal Reports:

5.1 **Local Policing Team.** Bulletin Updates had been circulated.

5.2 **Footpath Officer:** Not present. The planned gates had now been fitted. The work for the year would be prioritised. There were some general funds available for works to be carried out.

5.3 Lengthsman Co-ordinator

Cllr Lawrence advised the meeting that the Lengthsman had completed a maintenance day. Strimming, drain clearing and ditch works had been undertaken. The aim was to try to keep the water moving and pipes clear. Money would need to be drawn down via the precept going forward as grant funding from the local authority was reducing. A letter had been received from a resident concerning responsibility for a culvert at her property. The Locality Steward had been to look at this and had offered advice. He was going to return with a camera, the Ward Cllr would liaise with the Locality Steward regarding the situation. There was an issue with a wall that appeared to be falling in

and some action would be required. The wall in question was the retaining wall of the garden and extra pressure was being placed on it.

The Ward Cllr said that in the past it had been cheaper to clean out ditches than to tarmac the roads. A recently advised further cut to available funding would mean an increasing emphasis on landowners being encouraged to do their best to keep ditches on their property clear. The Clerk would send the Riparian Responsibilities information leaflet to the resident.

Arrangements would be made for the ditch to be dragged.

5.4 Ward Councillor

Ward Cllr Jon Johnson updated the meeting regarding the decision to be made by Herefordshire Council on the terms of the financial settlement plan which would affect funding from Central Government, to the Herefordshire Council, going forward. He also updated regarding the plans around the South Wye Transport Package. He encouraged the councillors to look at the proposals and to comment if they see anything that they wish to happen, or not. The Council were looking at the next phase of the Western Bypass now.

6. To approve minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 28th July 2016.

Resolved: - The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th July 2016, were approved by the Council and then signed by the Chairman

7. Clerk Update and Correspondence

The Clerk updated the Meeting regarding the correspondence received including recycling, buses and a new way of applying for Traffic Regulation Orders. These could be instigated to be "fast tracked" upon payment of a fee.

8. Neighbourhood Plan – and also information re call for sites

The Parish Council had responded to the published "call for sites" initiative. This information would feed into any future Development Plan Document (DPD) for the area. Unsuitability of land and the identification of possible sites were included. A leaflet would be produced regarding the proposal to carry out a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Allensmore. People in the parish would be invited to advise if they believe that it would be worthwhile to undertake a plan for Allensmore. It was resolved that there would not be any approach regarding Poplar Road and the incorporation of the whole road into the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Clehonger Parish.

9. Finance

(9.1) **Resolved:** The following list of payments were approved, prop by Cllr Cramp and sec Cllr Cooke:

Mrs A Wright (salary £314.86, mileage £7.88, home office £50.00)	£381.24
Tax due on salary payment (Payable to The Post Office)	£78.60
Terry Griffiths (Lengthsman)	£452.40
Total	£912.24

(9.2) **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted at £2363.77. The next tranche of the 2016/2017 precept was due to come in.

10. Planning

There had been no further applications received.

10.1) Consideration of Planning Consultation Statement from ACAG (circulated separately)

The Parish Council had been approached by the Allensmore and Clehonger Action Group (ACAG) and asked to consider acceptance of the following statement (full letter details recorded):

"To Alison Wright, Clerk to Allensmore Parish Council

You will be aware of the Allensmore & Clehonger Action Group's involvement in a planning application for a large development which took the community by surprise and caused residents some considerable anxiety. This persists as the issue remains unresolved. We feel this level of uncertainty, anxiety and potential conflict could be avoided or at least reduced for future large developments being planned if pre-application engagement with interested parties was in place as an integral part of the expectations relating to the application process, as well as improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system. Pre-application engagement would require prospective applicants to work collaboratively and openly with interested parties and the local community at an early stage to identify, understand and seek to resolve issues associated with a proposed development, as laid down in National Planning Practice Guidance. We submit the following motion for consideration by Allensmore Parish Council. It reinforces best practice and, if adopted, we think it would be helpful to a variety of future Planning Applications in the parish".

"This Parish Council encourages and expects all potential applicants (via their engaged professional agents) who propose a major or obviously controversial development within or adjoining the Parish to engage with the local community, including the Parish Council, as advised by Central Government's National Planning Practice Guidance."

The Parish Council considered the request and looked at legal advice. Findings had indicated that consultation was found to be compulsory only in the applications, of a

certain size, for wind turbines. Following their deliberations they resolved, unanimously, not to adopt the proposed stance.

11. To discuss and update regarding broadband provision

Cllr Cramp updated the meeting. The box that had previously been thought would be upgraded would not now be so by BT. Instead they would be placing a box further down the network. People in the zone between the boxes were not now upgraded, at present. A list of houses which would be supplied (in the Fastershire Area) but these would not include Cobhall Common etc. The Church Road loop needed to be covered, the far end of Cobhall plus others. Matt Lloyd, of BT, would be making contact with Cllr Cramp by the end of that week. There was some uncertainty as to what was required at the moment in time.

12. Update on parish drainage, pipe work and flooding issues

Cllr Jeremy Lawrence was looking at the issues and ditches to be cleared.

13. Village Matters

There were comments regarding the popularity of ice creams at Locks Garage and some concerns over parking and traffic that sometimes resulted due to high volume sales of these.

The weather vane was still not back up on the Church.

14. Items for next Agenda

All the usual items would be on the Agenda and to include the budget plus precept. Agenda would also include the consideration of the Lengthsman and Footpath Scheme funding and requirements for any gates, stiles etc.

15. Confirmation of date of next Meeting

The next Meetings, Annual Parish and Statutory will be held on Thursday 24th November 2016, at the Allensmore Village Hall from 8.00pm.

The Meeting closed at 8.59pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

22nd September 2016

Signedas a true record by Councillor (Chairman)

Dated: - 24th November 2016

For information about what's going on, local groups and businesses, the Church, some local history and the Parish Council, including minutes of past meetings and dates for future meetings, visit the Allensmore website. www.allensmore.org.uk