

Minutes of Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 24th November 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, Locality Steward Dave Atkinson and 11 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

The Open Session incorporated item 10. Planning Application: 163391

The outcome of the discussion is reported under item 10.

5. Brief Verbal Reports:

5.1 Local Policing Team: Bulletin Updates had been circulated.

5.2 Footpath Officer: Not present.

5.3 Lengthsman Co-ordinator: The Chair advised that routine maintenance was ongoing.

5.4 Ward Councillor: Ward Cllr Jon Johnson updated the meeting regarding the one-way system in the city centre, Widemarsh Street, while construction of the city link road was taking place. It was noted that Edgar Street would not be closing to facilitate the building of the city link road. He also highlighted the availability of free wi-fi in the city centre. Compulsory purchasing of land for the Southern Link Road would be commencing in August 2017. It was reported that a number of Neighbourhood Development Plans were being processed.

5.5 Locality Steward

The Locality Steward advised the meeting that day to day "low key" works were ongoing. Drainage issues were being attended to routinely. The Chair would catch up

with the Footpath Officer. It was noted that the Parish Council would need to fund any footpath furniture going forward. Materials may be obtained via Balfour Beatty at cost price. Drains were being cleared on the A465 and kerb lines were being refaced and white lining renewed. There were some ongoing issues with signs. The Locality Steward noted that the wall by the orchards in Church Road would require some bricks to be removed to facilitate drainage. The drain on the B4349 at the corner on the way to Thruxton would be jetted out. It was also noted that near to the orchards in Church Road, on the right hand side going towards the Church, there was a raised steel cover that could be an issue for tyres where the tarmac had shrunk back. The Locality Steward had 150 empty sandbags which he would pass on to Cllr D. Lawrence for storage.

6. To approve minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd September 2016.

Resolved: - The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd September 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 consultation on flooding issues, as below:

"This is to inform you that our public consultation on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Herefordshire Council has just commenced.

The strategy, which provides an overview of flood risk in Herefordshire, sets out five key objectives for managing local flood risk:

- *Understand flood risks throughout Herefordshire*
- *Manage the likelihood and impacts of flooding*
- *Help the community to help themselves*
- *Manage flood warnings, response and recovery*
- *Promote sustainable and appropriate development*

The consultation period is open until Monday 30 January 2017.

To find out more, please visit <http://newsroom.herefordshire.gov.uk/have-your-saylocal-flood-risk-management-strategy.aspx>

8. Neighbourhood Plan – update

Cllr Cramp advised that the information sheet was now ready and would be circulated via the village e mail address book and would be placed in the Notice Boards. The

Clerk's details would be published and she would be happy to receive and collate any comments.

9. Finance

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

Mrs A Wright (salary £346.73, mileage £11.25, stationery £3.99)	£361.97
Tax due on salary payment (Payable to The Post Office)	£86.80
Terry Griffiths (Lengthsman)	£452.40
Total	£901.17

(9.2) **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted at £3962.60.

(9.3) To set budget and precept for 2017/2018 (including Lengthsman and Footpath Funding)

Cllr Cramp had worked on the budget position and this was presented to the Parish Council for their consideration. There was an explanation of the fact that funding was being reduced from Herefordshire Council and that it would be prudent to precept for the funds to be able to maintain a standard of service in regard to lengthsman services and footpath maintenance provision. Following discussion it was proposed that the precept for 2017/2018 be requested as £6000.00. This represented a rise of £1000.00 over the 2016/2017 precept request. This was proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Cooke and carried. The Lengthsman and Footpath required mandatory contributions to qualify for the grant funding available and these stipulations would also be met. The relevant forms would be completed and submitted by the Clerk.

10. Planning

10.1) Consideration of Planning Application No. 163391 Bowling Green Farm for proposed erection of four poultry units, feed bins, service building, alterations to existing access and associated development.

The Parish Council heard representation from the public present. The following comments were consolidated to be sent to the Planning Authority.

"The Allensmore Parish Council have heard representations from the public on the planning application 163391 for broiler rearing buildings at Bowling Green Farm.

*The Parish Council wish to **object** to the application because of the following, non exhaustive, factors:*

1) Concern that flooding issues would be exacerbated.

*Allensmore already experiences problems from flooding after periods of persistent rainfall. The watercourse into which water from the attenuation pond is proposed to discharge has flooded in recent years including in the Goosepool area and also further downstream where the watercourse crosses Church Road, Allensmore. This flooding has caused serious difficulties accessing the nearby properties and to vehicles and others using Church Road, Allensmore. Whilst the attenuation pond is designed to moderate the **rate** of water discharge (assuming it is properly maintained and works exactly as intended), it is also designed to ensure that **all** the rain from the very considerable roof area of these sheds will discharge into this watercourse. Given that the flooding experienced in these areas has persisted for days, then the continuing discharge from the pond means that a considerable additional volume of water is added to compound the problem of flooding. This means the flooding would be deeper and last for longer. The fact that this water will, to a degree, be contaminated by the dust and debris discharged from the fans and deposited on the roof of the shed to be washed off by the rain, further aggravates this issue. The Parish Council also wish to highlight this concern on behalf of the residents who may be unaware of this potential impact from a development on the other side of the parish.*

2) The proposal will inevitably lead to an *increase in large Heavy Goods Vehicle movements* on relatively narrow and busy country lanes and roads. The Parish Council has noted the stretch of road between the Bowling Green Farm and Dunan as having had a higher than average propensity for accidents to occur. The proposal to widen the splay has been considered, however, it is not believed that this will assist greatly in minimising the potential risks to road users.

3) *The issue of odour and toxic content* of air ejected from the units containing spores, faecal matter, bacteria, pathogens and dust particles (list not exhaustive), on a continuous basis, and with periods of high level nuisance likely due to strong effluent smells when the buildings are cleared. Concern over increased levels of odour nuisance from the broiler shed clear out process and consequent effects to human health in terms of breathing, medical problems and lung conditions.

4) *Impact of odour, noise and heavy goods vehicle movements* on local businesses. Impact on quality of life for local residents. Issues for tourism, walking and enjoyment of the countryside due to noxious and unpleasant smells emanating from the units. Proximity to residences, and relatively short distance from local schools, and the fact that odours and toxins carry on the wind over a long distance.

5) *Concern regarding potential leach out and overspill from attenuation pond*, and during wash down processes, leading to increased levels of contamination and phosphates in the water course and local river tributaries. Broiler units are a known and proven generator of high levels of phosphates from foul water run off. Particular concern was raised over the possible contamination, by faecal matter and pathogens

etc, of local bore hole water supplies, which, once contaminated, will be very difficult to restore.

6) It is noted that there has been a change of position of the units in the latest application version, to attempt to facilitate better concealment, but the fact that the area covers the same acreage as two football pitches and will still be visible from a nearby bridle path, and a footpath, plus other vantage points mean that the objection via landscape amenity stands. The revised plan has also moved the houses closer to certain residences and this may impact on the enjoyment of their properties."

11. To discuss and update regarding broadband provision

Cllr Cramp updated the meeting. A resident reported an increase in speed obtained following a visit from BT. Planned changes in a local cabinet connection would be going live that week. Any updates notified by BT would be communicated.

There was also notification of a survey as follows:

"Tell us what you think about broadband in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire!"

A survey looking at the availability of broadband in the two counties is being undertaken by independent researchers at the Royal Agricultural University (RAU) as part of the 'Evaluation of the impact of superfast fibre broadband in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire' and is due to be published in 2017.

The responses will directly feed into to the Fastershire project and the results will also help demonstrate the level of demand in communities that are yet to benefit from the Fastershire rollout and help raise their profile for better broadband with potential suppliers.

The survey will be live until the end of November and takes around 5 minutes to complete, with questions relating to how residents and businesses currently use broadband and internet services and where better broadband services are required."

To complete the survey, please visit, www.broadband-feedback.com

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

All routine clearance and drainage matters were in hand.

13. Village Matters

No further items to add.

14. Items for next Agenda

All the usual items would be on the Agenda and to include update on any responses to Neighbourhood Plan correspondence.

15. Confirmation of date of next Meeting

The next Meeting will be held on Thursday 26th January 2017, at the Allensmore Village Hall from 8.00pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.44pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

24th November 2016

Signedas a true record by Councillor (Chairman)

Dated: - 26th January 2017

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