

## **DRAFT**

# **Minutes of Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Allensmore Parish Council Meetings held on 28th May 2015 from 7.30pm at Allensmore Village Hall**

## **Part One Annual Parish Meeting**

**Present:** Cllrs J Lawrence (re-elected Chairman), S Lawrence, J Lawrence, D Cooke, C Watkinson and T Cramp (re - elected Vice Chair)

**In attendance:** Mrs A Wright (Clerk), Ward Councillor Jon Johnson, P3 Footpath Contractor Paul Wright and Lengthsman Assistant Richard plus one member of the public and Dave Atkinson, Locality Steward.

### **1. Annual Parish Meeting - Introduction and welcome by the Chairman**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reflected on what had been happening in the Parish over the last year.

### **2. Annual Reports**

#### **Parish Council**

Cllr Jeremy Lawrence gave a report on behalf of the Parish Council and conveyed that it had been a busy year and there had been fifteen planning applications reviewed during the year. The precept had again been raised to meet budget requirements and to enable adequate funding for commitments. The Lengthsman Scheme and P3 Footpath Schemes were ongoing and had received additional plus matched funding from the Parish and County Council. The Parish drains, ditches and verges were kept in good order by the Lengthsman. In conjunction with liaison with the Locality Steward and others, the safety rails had been replaced along Blackhall Lane, drains had been attended and new speed limits had been introduced through Winnal. Allensmore had been in conversation with Clehonger regarding the incorporation of part of the Parish (Poplar Road) being included in the Clehonger Parish Neighbourhood Plan designated area. This was because any development there could impact on Clehonger Village and the services there.

Cllr Steve Williams had sent through some reports as follows:

#### **Allensmore Young Farmers Report**

The Allensmore Young Farmers are still going with members in the age range of 12 years to 24 years. There was a YFC Rally the previous week and a member came second in the Floral Cup. Overall the Club came second in the tally of most points per member. The Club currently has between 12 and 15 regular members attending.

### **"Pateshall Hall "Report**

Pateshall Hall has had another busy year. Regular users include the WI, the Afternoon Club, YFC, Ballet, Keep Fit and Monthly Whist Drives held by the Cobhall Clangers. We are ever grateful to our secretary Mrs Di Tricklebank who keeps the hall running smoothly and Mrs Janet Smith for keeping the accounts in good order. Pateshall Hall continues to be in a good state of repair and decor something which we strive hard to maintain. We are continually reviewing the running costs of the hall and the electricity supply has been moved to Extra Energy and fixed for 3 years. Martin Watkins has completed the electrical test which keeps the hall within the guidelines for another 4 years. Our thanks go to those using and supporting this valuable facility and to our continued presence in Allensmore.

### **"St Andrews Church"Report**

St Andrews is now under the leadership of the Rev Hilary Morgan at Kingstone. We have four services per month, two led by Clergy and two led by Lay People. The Church Councils Officers are almost the same as last year with Rev Hilary Morgan as the Chair, Mrs C Williams Vice Chair, Mr E Thomson Treasurer, Miss D Harthill Secretary and Mrs J Smith with Mr S Williams Churchwardens. The Church is kept looking tidy by volunteer cleaners and churchyard mowers on a rota basis. Our Parish Share is now just over £8000 and when you factor in insurance and heating etc the yearly running costs are a fraction under £12000, a figure that up until now we have always managed to pay. Our fundraising efforts this year included some Ramble & BBQs, Whist Drives, The 100 Club and the Christmas Lunch. We are always indebted to those who help and support these events to keep St Andrews open. Our Bell ringers practice every other week and ring for weddings and special services throughout the Church year. We have several learners and can have as many as 10 at a practice. We hope to have St Andrews as part of Allensmore for many generations to come.

## **Part Two Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**

### **3. Co-optation of Councillor, Election of Chair and acceptance of office**

Steve Williams had expressed a wish to be co-opted. He had omitted to submit his green form in time. He was proposed by Cllr. T. Cramp and seconded by Cllr. D. Cooke. The Chair received one nomination and Cllr. Jeremy Lawrence was proposed by Cllr T. Cramp and seconded by Cllr. C Watkinson. Cllr. J. Lawrence accepted the Office of Chair and the appropriate declaration forms were signed and witnessed.

#### **4. Election of Vice Chair and acceptance of office**

There was one nomination for Vice Chair. Cllr. T. Cramp was proposed by Cllr. S Lawrence and seconded by Cllr. Jim Lawrence, the role of Vice Chair was accepted and the appropriate declaration form signed and witnessed. All other Councillors signed their acceptance of office for Parish Councillor Form and Register of Interest Form. The Clerk would deliver all of the forms to the Town Hall.

#### **5. Election of Parish Council Officers**

The Planning Sub Committee was confirmed as comprising Cllrs Jeremy Lawrence, T Cramp, S Williams and C Watkinson, however all members would be circulated if possible.

The Footpath Office was confirmed as Debbie Mumford

The Internal Auditor was confirmed as Trefor Edwards

#### **6. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence

#### **7. To note Declarations of Interest**

There were declarations of interest recorded for Planning Application 150841 by Cllrs Sally, Jim and Jeremy Lawrence. The declarations sheet was duly signed.

#### **8. Brief Verbal Reports:**

8.1 **Local Policing Team.** Not present, but bulletins and the annual report had been received and was noted.

8.2 **Footpath Officer** The Footpath Officer was not present but had sent her apologies. She had reported that the P3 projects were continuing.

##### **8.3 Lengthsman**

Richard, Terry's colleague, was present at the Meeting. Terry and Richard would continue to resolve any issues and would be carrying out works to ensure good visibility at junctions and splays etc.

8.4 **Locality Steward** Dave Atkinson, the new Locality Steward, introduced himself and explained about the changes to the boundaries and that Linzy Outtrim, Senior Locality Steward, had moved to a different remit. Dave would now be the Wormside

Steward and would cover 18 parishes in total. He explained about his background and his 39 years experience in Highways at Monmouthshire, latterly as a Highways Inspector. He had also been a Parish Councillor for some 15 years and was therefore aware of the issues faced by Parish Councils. He explained that with 18 parishes to look after he would not be able to attend every meeting but would try to attend as often as possible. He said that he was getting familiar with the idiosyncrasies of Allensmore and that the invitation to meet and go around the parish was there and to feed matters through the Clerk for an audit trail. He acknowledged that local knowledge was invaluable and would be reliant on this in order to perform his duties the best that he can. The new Balfour Beatty Knowledge Centre Number was 01432 261800. Calls to be filtered through the Clerk. There would be dialogue with the Ward Councillor, Jon Johnson, and a weekly bulletin would be produced to keep parishes updated with an overview as to what had been happening.

As regards the local flooding issues that had been experienced in the parish, it would be helpful if parties could meet up and get an update on the history, formulate a plan of action and ask the Land Drainage Team to pick up on the situation. The situation should be resolvable but would require new pipe work and there were environmental health issues to be addressed also. E mail histories would be sent to Jon Johnson and Dave regarding the history regarding the drainage issues etc.

A comment was made about a quantity of soil that had been tipped in a lay-by on the A465 and on other roads also. Ward Cllr Johnson would follow this up.

### **9. To approve minutes of the Meeting held on 26/03/15**

**Resolved:** - The Minutes of the meeting, held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015, were approved by the Council and then signed by the Chairman

### **10. Clerk Update on Action Items**

The Clerk updated the meeting re the action items including completion of the Year End accounts and Audit.

### **11. To note correspondence**

The Clerk advised re some of the correspondence received and the request for forms to be returned to the Town Hall regarding the Elections was noted.

### **12. Finance**

12.1 **Resolved:** The following list of payments was approved:

Mrs A Wright (salary £295.80, mileage £20.93 and stationery £7.70)

£324.43

Tax due on salary payment (Payable to The Post Office)	£73.80
Information Commissioner (ICO)	£35.00
AON UK Ltd (Insurance)	£295.56
Patteshall Hall (Hall hire)	<u>£25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£753.79</b>

12.2 **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted.

### 12.3 To approve end of year accounts

The Clerk had completed the end of year accounts and read out the statements on the Audit Form to Council for their acceptance. The End of Year papers were then signed by the Clerk and Chair. A big "Thank You" was recorded to Trefor Edwards for auditing the Parish accounts once again this year.

## 13. Planning

Responses had been sent in regarding planning applications as follows:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 150425 - Plot adjacent The Three Horseshoes, Winnal, Herefordshire

DESCRIPTION: Proposed construction of detached 4 bed house with integral garage.

APPLICANT(S): Mr Colin Cooke

GRID REF: OS 345479, 233903

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

### Allensmore PC objects to the application for the following reasons:

1. The proposal represents a gross over development of the site and is in open countryside. It is a large building for the plot size and consequently has limited outside space for a family to use.
2. There are concerns about drainage on the site, both sewerage and rainwater, and these are exacerbated by the large scale of the development in proportion to the area of the site.
3. There are also concerns about vehicular access, with the scale of the development leaving a restricted space and consequently turning vehicles within the site will be difficult.
4. The aspect is in open countryside and given the road position, and close proximity to it, the site does not appear to be suitable for a residential property.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 150959 - Land at Wellfield, Poplar Road, Clehonger, Herefordshire, HR2 9SW

DESCRIPTION: Proposed demolition of redundant and derelict agricultural buildings and the erection of up to five dwellings, including associated access

APPLICANT(S): Mr R Cooper

GRID REF: OS 344886, 237220

APPLICATION TYPE: Outline

### Allensmore Parish Council wishes to comment on the application as follows:

"The Parish Council is sympathetic to this "brown field" development but, due the limited size of the site, feel that 2/3 bedroom houses would be more appropriate in serving the needs of the rural community.

This would potentially reduce the number of vehicles and, with more green space, lessen the burden on the clean water drainage. Our greatest concern is over the use of a cesspit, and its associated emptying, and would ask that rigorous investigations are carried out to assess the impact on the new, and existing, dwellings especially as the cesspit is sited against a neighbouring garden. We would ask that the developer should seek assurances from Welsh Water that the site could be connected, at some future date, and carry out the infrastructure work for that eventuality".

There had been a further application received:

<b>APPLICATION NO &amp; SITE ADDRESS:</b>	<b>150841 - Plot at Cobhall Common, Allensmore, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 9BW</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	<b>Proposed erection of a dwelling.</b>
<b>APPLICANT(S):</b>	<b>Mr &amp; Mrs M J Lawrence</b>
<b>GRID REF:</b>	<b>OS 345639, 235446</b>
<b>APPLICATION TYPE:</b>	<b>Planning Permission</b>

The three councillors who had declared an interest; Jim, Jeremy and Sally Lawrence, all left the room for the duration of the consideration of the application number 150841. Cllr. Cramp took the Chair. The Parish Council discussed the application and the following response was commented:

The proposal being for the erection of a dwelling, the actual design is not "inspiring" and there is a history to the site. Letters of support for this are noted, but a previous application was turned down for the plot on the grounds of sustainability factors. This being said, the plot has a house on either side of it and has a reasonable frontage. The proportions seem reasonable for the size of the plot. There was a question regarding the land being used for landfill, at some point in time, and there remain questions over the water, drainage and sewerage which would need to be properly addressed. The Parish Council would broadly support the application provided that the issues of water and sewerage are met satisfactorily and that any question of overlooking for neighbouring properties is mitigated.

The three councillors Lawrence then all rejoined the Meeting and Cllr. Jeremy Lawrence re-took the Chair.

There was a discussion on the planning application for the Southern Link Road No: 151314. Some route plans were viewed by the Councillors. The deadline for comments would fall between meetings of the Parish Council.

#### **14. Ward Councillor's Report**

The new Ward Councillor, Jon Johnson, updated the meeting. He introduced himself and said that it was an honour to be there. He was looking forward to the next four years. He spoke of the cuts made by the Council Administration and of the need for further cuts to be made. Adult and Child social welfare payments take half of the

available budget but must be assured. This means that other budget areas may be shaved to meet the payments for adult and child care.

He explained that the Core Strategy Inspection was now closed and that the final report was awaited. It was hoped that it would be adopted and then the Neighbourhood Plans could be adopted and have power. Speculative developments coming forward at the moment are getting permission if they fit the specification. Regarding the Southern Link Road, comments were invited and the comment was made to make sure that voices are heard. Funding cuts are putting pressure on partnership working. The Ward Cllr. explained that patients from Powys were required to ensure the viability of services at Hereford Hospital. In order to keep the Hospital going the population would need to rise. Herefordshire has the fourth lowest population density in the whole country. He went on to speak about the Together Foundation for Mental Health and explained that one in four people will experience mental health issue during their lifetime. Partnership working and the Localism Bill have given lots of things to think about. Rural policing figures report that about half of their resource efforts go on dealing with mental health issues.

He went on to talk about Balfour Beatty who when they took over the contract 18 months previously inherited around 55,000 issues on the network. This was now down to a figure of 2000 on the books, as reported. More budget money would be going in for roads this year. The current drop in PCSO's for the area was explained as being due to recruitment, and not funding, issues.

### **15. Village Matters**

E mails re the flooding and drainage problems to be forwarded and a meeting arranged to discuss with the new Locality Steward, Dave Atkinson.

The Notice Board outside the Village Hall was broken beyond economic repair. Cllr. Williams was going to see if a new Board could be made.

### **16. Items for next Agenda**

All of the usual items plus consideration of the damaged Notice Board as regards repair or replacement. The deadline for comments on the Southern Link Road Application Number 151314 would fall before between meetings.

### **17. Setting of dates of future meetings**

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015, at the Allensmore Village Hall, 8.00pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.07pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

30<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Signed .....as a true record by Councillor Jeremy Lawrence (Chairman)

Dated: - 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015

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](http://www.allensmore.org.uk)