

ALLENSMORE PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the parish meeting held on 31st May 2012

Council members present: Mr. S. Williams (chair), Mr. J. Lawrence, Mr. A. Cramp, Mr. S. Mumford, Mr W. J. Lawrence, and Mrs S. Lawrence.

Members of the public: Mrs Liz Goodyear.

Apologies received from: Mr. D. Cooke, Mrs Ruth Pritchard - Footpaths Officer.

Police Briefing given by Fiona Witcher:

Crime figures were circulated, with only four dwellings broken in to in Allensmore in the last 12 months. A high level of confidence is felt in the local constabulary. It was brought to the Parish Councils attention that the cycle club which uses the Village Hall on Thursdays have a high attendance and that coupled with their supporting vehicles has lead to a car park over-flow on to the adjoining access road causing congestion, delay and possible danger due to obscured view on to the A465. Fiona asked the Clerk to email her details as a reminder to get someone over to monitor the parking and safe access for local traffic on to the A465 and subsequently should a potentially dangerous situation be noticed to make her aware.

Allensmore Afternoon Club

Allensmore Afternoon Club is a very friendly club which meets twice monthly on Thursday afternoons at Allensmore Village Hall. Meetings commence at 2.30 pm and members (both male and female) enjoy hearing talks on many varied topics followed by afternoon tea. Recent meetings included an old time musical sing song and a coach outing around the Malvern Hills to see the bluebells, finishing at the Hop Pocket. The speaker at our next meeting to be held on 17 May will be telling us about the life of a Magistrate. We support many local charities including St Michael's Hospice and our speakers often ask for a donation to a charity of their choice rather than charging us a fee for their talk. We have members from Allensmore and also the surrounding villages - everyone is welcome. Contact details: Michele Byrne (Secretary) 01981 251650.

Allensmore W.I.

Mrs Liz Goodyear gave us an insight in to our local Women's Institute Club. Our Allensmore WI now has 27 members as we have been joined this year by 5 new members. We meet every month on the 2nd Thursday evening at 7.30pm at Pateshall Hall and usually finish at about 9.30pm. Since the last Parish meeting we have had a super coach trip to Bath for the day, a lovely BBQ and Christmas dinner. We were very lucky to have a sunny Sunday during the summer where we held a garden fete in aid of the Midlands' Air Ambulance. We had several stalls ranging from a bottle stall, to Bric- a- Brac to gift baskets and the RSPCA. Our ladies and friends provided the most wonderful cakes and the Pimm's stall was a great success. When visitors required a rest there was cups of tea and small cakes for sale and of course a chance to buy raffle tickets. Other fantastic events were the "Guess the weight of the beautifully iced fruit cake", "Guess the amount of money in the bottle", the plant stall and the infamous "Chicken Plop". We managed to raise over £450 for the Air Ambulance. As with last year the 2012 programme is varied and interesting. We have had 3 speakers so far, on topics including Bead jewellery making, a slide show on the Caribbean and a talk about Animal Search UK. Our April and May meetings provided a chance to get to know our new members by having a musical film quiz in April and a pleasant one hour walk and delicious meal after cooked by some of our members in May. Our summer BBQ will be in July and we have a coach outing organised to see the "Collection of Penstemons" at Pershore in August. The WI is a wonderful way of getting to know people. All information can be found in a monthly magazine which is handed out at each meeting. Every year the National WI agrees on a resolution. The Resolution is the "Employment of more Midwives". Once again I would like to mention our very own college. The Denman College near Oxford has a vast number of courses available to WI members. These include the Lifestyle School, the Cookery school and the Craft School. The ladies at Allensmore WI are a friendly bunch and are happy to welcome any new members of any age.

Young Farmers

The club leader advised that this is a group of teenagers aged 13 – 20 who meet every other Wednesday for talks and activities. There is a fluctuating membership of between 10 and 30 youngsters. They have entered quizzes, served breakfast to the community, entered the county drama competition and participated in a number of competitions for the Young Farmers Pre-Rally and Rally day including cooking, flower arranging, stock judging, sheep shearing, photography, dancing, poultry boning, woodwork and craft.

Church

There is a service at the church each week. The Parish Church Council meets each week. Ramble and BBQ afternoons continued and have been well attended and helped with the never ending need to fundraise for the upkeep and running of the church. A Harvest Festival supper was well supported at the hall and a pass-over supper was held in the church attended by over 50 people from all the parishes. Events for the year ahead 2012, include various ramble and BBQ's and on Tuesday the 5th June a Village Party will be held by the lake at Home Farm.

Pateshall Hall

The hall has continued to be a popular venue and is well used by various groups (WI, Allensmore Afternoon Club, Young Farmers, Ballet lessons, Bicycle Club) and for regular Bingo and Whist Drives. The ladies who ran the Bingo for many years have decided that they could no longer continue. We thank them for all their hard work and contributions. Currently running costs are being reviewed and reduced wherever possible. Energy and insurance are the main focus.

Two Grants have been applied for over the past year:

1. A council Community Technology Grant to install a media screen, but unfortunately this application was unsuccessful.
2. A Caplor Energy grant to install solar panels. This was successful, but the decision was taken not to proceed as this was only a partial grant and the overall cost was viewed to be prohibitive. They may look at different grant schemes to fund this for the future.

Upon reviewing the results of the Hall Energy Survey, no real recommendations were made. Tariffs change in July, which may impact on grant levels and break even period possibly of 6-8 years.

Allensmore Morris Men

They are happy to continue and offer their services free of charge to village events. New members are needed to join in 'practice' on Monday evenings from 7.30pm.

Police

The parish council have a good relationship with local Community Support Officer Fiona Witcher. Either Fiona or one of her colleagues attend council meetings and welcome feedback from members regarding local policing issues.

Communication

We are progressing well with the Allensmore Parish Website.

Local events can be advertised on local notice boards available at the hall and on Cobhall Common, or in the church magazine 'Tracking the News' or the village e-board.

Chairman's Report

We have just completed the first year as a newly elected Council and it has been a busy one.

Graham Powel gave an overview of the proposals for Super-fast broadband. Lynda Wilcox gave us an outline of what would be involved in the Parish Plan. Each year we receive requests for donations to local charities. This year Dore Community Transport received £50. We raised the Precept to £1500 this year, to cover the costs of the elections. Planning Applications: 12 Passed, 3 refused 1 appeal used, 1 passed on an amendment. The Planning Subcommittee made 3 visits. Once again we are in the P3 Scheme. Our Footpaths Officer has done a good job facilitating. We now have a good website and feel that this will really help in having a thriving village. There have been many Herefordshire Council meetings over the past year regarding the changes as part of the 'Consultation' and it is apparent that in view of the level of importance that these meetings should always be attended.

Parish Council

Twenty Planning Applications have been considered this year and many were visited by the Planning Working Group who felt that this was an effective and beneficial way forward.

The parish council consists of 7 unpaid members: Mr. Steve Williams (current Chairman), Mr. Jeremy Lawrence, Mr. Steve Mumford, Mr. Tony Cramp, Mr. Derek Cooke, Mrs Sally Lawrence and Mr. Jim Lawrence. We have an unpaid Footpaths Officer: Mrs Ruth Pritchard. Steve Williams outlined the likely impact of the future changes within local government.

Footpaths

Allensmore is part of the P3 Parish Paths Scheme. We receive a grant for minor repair work on our local footpaths. Some materials that are required are sourced through the council therefore some delay may be seen when repairs are reported. Requests can be made to our Footpaths Officer Mrs. Ruth Pritchard on 01432 277380 (evenings only) - orchardhouse1@gmx.com.

Various paths were cleared and trimmed around stiles and gates. Ruth has had confirmation from Tim Thompson that we will be getting the P3 Grant, but that there is a delay in sorting out the paperwork. Work will shortly be scheduled on the stiles crossing into Poplar Road to replace with gates, also the stile into AN9 (next to allotments).

Planning

As usual, some applications are relatively straightforward and cause no concern for the Parish Council, but others require careful thought for neighbours and the surrounding area. Whilst we can offer local knowledge to comment, support or disagree on proposed planning, ultimately the final decision lies with the planning officers and Hereford Council planning committees, who have to follow the relevant planning acts, policies and unitary development plans to come to a decision. Members of the council who have an interest, family involved or neighbour a planning application will declare an interest and act accordingly. We have dealt with many planning applications this year and although a few were returned for changes, most were accepted by Hereford Council planning officers.

Signed as a true record Councillor Steve Williams (Chairman)

Dated : 31st May 2012

ALLENSMORE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Annual meeting held on 31st May 2012

Council members present: Mr. S. Williams (Chair), Mr. J. Lawrence, Mr. S. Mumford,
Mr W. J. Lawrence, Mrs Sally Lawrence and Mr Tony Cramp
Members of the public: None.

Members were reminded that 'Declaration of Acceptance Forms' and 'Financial Information Forms' should be updated within 28 days of any changes.

1.0 Apologies
Mr. D. Cooke

2.0 Elections
Steve Williams has resigned as Chairman and has asked for a volunteer for the role
Proposed by Mr. W.J. Lawrence and seconded by Mr. Tony Cramp and agreed by all members.
Chairman: Mr. Jeremy Lawrence.
Proposed by Steve Mumford and seconded by Mrs. Sally Lawrence and agreed by all members.
Vice Chairman: Mr. Tony Cramp.

3.0 Planning Committee
It was agreed that the Planning Committee would comprise of:
Mr. W.J. Lawrence, Mr. S. Williams, Mr. J. Lawrence and Mr. S. Mumford.

4.0 Finance
It was agreed that any two signatories between the Chairman (Mr. Jeremy Lawrence), Vice-Chairman (Mr. Tony Cramp) and Mr. Steve Williams would sign cheques on behalf of the Parish Council.

An income and expenditure record was inspected and approved by the Council, subject to finite approval by Trevor Edwards. Mr. Trevor Edwards has confirmed that he is happy to continue as our internal auditor.

Grant Thornton is the appointed Auditors with for next year.

5.0 Other items for consideration
It was agreed that the District Councillor Mr James Knipe should be invited to attend meetings.

6.0 Planning

- a) The following applications have been passed by Herefordshire Council;
Cobhall Manor Farm, Allensmore, HR2 9BG. – Application no:S121095/AM.
Non Material Amendment to Planning Permission S113067/F to extend the accommodation for Unit 1 by one structural bay thereby reducing the accommodation of Unit 2. The original date of permission 3rd Feb 2012.
<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/housing/planning/58286.aspx?ID=121095>
- Brooklyn, Clehonger, HR2 9TP. Application No: 112674.
Proposed Gabion Basket Wall.
The development hereby permitted shall be completed within 12 months of the date of this permission. Reason: To secure compliance with policy S2 of the Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan in the interests of visual amenity.
<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/housing/planning/58286.aspx?ID=112674>
- Elm Tree Cottage, Cobhall Lane, Allensmore, HR2 9BW.
Application No: S120996/FH – Lean to extension and canopy.
Approved with conditions.
<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/housing//58286.aspx?ID=120996>
- b) The following application was refused by Herefordshire Council;
St Andrews Mead, Allensmore, HR2 9AG. - Application No: S113263L
Installation of photovoltaic panels on South facing roof.
The continued prominent display of photovoltaic panels on the roof of this grade II building detracts from the character and integrity of this historic building. This discordant array of solar panels is also compounded by the existing roof lights. Therefore, the proposed retention of solar panels is contrary to Policies S2, DRI, HBA1 and CF4 of Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan. Not removed as yet and has now been passed to the enforcement officer.
<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/housing/planning/58286.aspx?ID=113263>
- c) The following application has been reviewed;
Elm Tree Cottage, Cobhall Lane, Allensmore, HR2 9BW.
Application No: S120996/FH – Lean to extension and canopy.
It was mentioned that stone rather than grey bricks may be more in character with the existing cottage, but this was only a suggestion and there were no objections to these proposals.
<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/housing//58286.aspx?ID=120996>
- d) The following new application to be discussed;
Winnal Farm, Allensmore, HR2 9AR.
Application No: Agricultural Building for housing Cattle.
Notification has been received that Planning Permission will be required.
<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/housing/planning/58286.aspx?ID=11273>
No Application has as yet been received so no discussion was possible.

7.0 Finance to consider

The following payments were agreed:

AON Local Council Insurance renewal date 1 st June 2012	£ 347.88
Hall hire fee for 2010-2011	£ 30.00
Clerks Salary April/May	£ 100.00

The P3 Footpath grant has been confirmed, but not as yet received.

8.0 Annual Audit 2011/12

Members confirmed that they do not use the appointed auditors for personal or business purposes. A short discussion regarding the effectiveness of last year's internal audit was held and the Annual Audit for year to 31st March 2012 was reviewed, approved and signed.

9.0 Mr. James Knipe (District Councillors Report).

Strategic Planers have not given sufficient thought to the fact that there is no spare sewage capacity in Kingstone and Clehonger. There is a local problem with the levels of phosphate. There will be a new Fire Training Tower at Peterchurch. Graham Powel is now in the Cabinet.

10.0 Matters for the next meeting

Clerks Salary.

11.0 Date of the next meeting.

Thursday 23rd August.

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Signed as a true record Councillor Jeremy Lawrence (Chairman)

Dated :.....