

Minutes of Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd January 2014 at 8.00pm at Allensmore Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J Lawrence (Chairman), S Lawrence, S Williams, D Cooke, C Watkinson and T Cramp (Vice Chair)

In attendance: Mrs A Wright (Clerk), Ward Councillor Jim Knipe, Lengthsman Terry Griffiths and 1 member of the public.

1. Introduction and welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He wished everyone a happy new year. The Chair introduced the new Parish Clerk, Mrs Alison Wright, and both he and she then signed the Contract of employment.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr J Lawrence.

3. Declarations of Interest

Resolved: Cllr S Williams declared a prejudicial interest in matters relating to the planning application, and planning appeal, for Trap House Nurseries (Appeal No:APP/W1850/A/13/2201226)

4. Open Session

Ward Councillor Knipe gave a brief resume of the traffic priorities to be introduced in Hereford City Centre around Newmarket and Blueschool Streets. There would be new traffic movements to allow for new priorities going forward.

5. Brief Verbal Reports:

5.1 **Local Policing Team.** Not present but the police bulletin was noted and in particular the discovery of bags full of animal carcasses, which contained the remains of rabbits and sheep, in the parish.

5.2 **Footpath Officer** The Footpath Officer was not present but sent the following report.

“Since my last report I am pleased to inform you that the work on the gate at AN25 has now been completed. The Committee may recall that this work was approved prior to my appointment, but due to the previous footpath Officer leaving and then the landowners planting crop in the field the work could not be done prior to September. By this time it was impossible for the Contractor to obtain any gates. £130.00 was held over from last year’s grant, but the work in fact cost £155.56. I would therefore

ask the Committee to approve payment of this sum to Mr. Wright with our thanks. I understand from Mr. Wright that there are still some delays in ordering items, particularly posts. I have not been given any telephone number to contact Jonathon Roger, although I did obtain his e-mail via a third party some time ago. The delay in providing materials will affect the speed with which Mr. Wright can complete the required work on AN12 (missing fingerpost), but hopefully it will be done soon. I have yet to obtain consent for the works to AN3 and 5, but hope to do in the next two weeks."

5.3 Lengthsman

The Lengthsman described the ditching and flood alleviation works that he had been carrying out. There had been huge rainfall and flooding issues around the parish and Winnal Common had seen improvements after drain rodding and ditching operations had been carried out. Water levels were generally high in all ditches and pipe erosion, and the crushing of pipes by vehicles, had contributed to drainage problems in the area. Priorities for next year would be clearing ditches and increasing pipe depth to help water flow away more readily and avoid the pooling of water that had been observed. The Lengthsman had obtained a jetter and would be undertaking jetting to further clear the drains and gullies. The situation highlighted by the previous Clerk at her home, The Butts, was noted and photographs of the water lying around the property were viewed. The Lengthsman would endeavour to try to clear any blockages that were exacerbating the problem in that area. There had also been problems around the church area from the "webtree" where water had reached 3 to 4 inches in depth across the road. The Lengthsman also made it known that he had access to grit, and small bags, which may be useful for small specific winter gritting projects around the parish. The Clerk would liaise with the Lengthsman and would also look into reclaiming the VAT spent on goods and services so far.

The Clerk would be attending a meeting with Balfour Beatty, about the way forward for the Lengthsman Scheme, on 29th January 2014.

6. To approve minutes of the Meeting held on 07/11/13.

Resolved: - The Minutes of the meeting, held on 7th November 2013, were approved by the Council and then signed by the Chairman

The web address on the bottom of the minutes would be modified to read:-

www.allensmore.org.uk

7. Clerk Update on Action Items

The Clerk updated the meeting re the action items including the setting up with HMRC of the council as an employer under PAYE and the RTI obligations had been met. The Council now had an employer's reference and paying in book for tax payments due.

The Clerk had carried out a survey of local roads, in readiness for the meeting, to ensure awareness of local issues.

8. To note correspondence

The Clerk advised re some of the correspondence received. These included details of an Open Garden Scheme to raise funds by St Michael's Hospice and various Herefordshire Council updates, as circulated.

9. Finance

9.1 **Resolved:** The following list of payments were approved:

Lengthsman (T. Griffiths)	£150.00
Longfield Services (P3 Footpaths)	£155.56
Mrs A Wright - (salary £271.40 mileage £10.80)	£282.20
Tax due on salary payment (Payable to The Post Office)	<u>£67.80</u>
Grand Total	£655.56

9.2 **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted. The Change of Address form, for the new Clerk's address to be used for correspondence, was completed and signed. The Clerk would take this to the bank.

9.3 **Precept:** The Vice Chair had completed a budget forecast for the likely expenses for the coming year and, after discussion, it was resolved that the precept request should be submitted for a precept of £3500.00 for 2014/2015 and the request form was completed and signed accordingly. The precept proposal was made by Cllr Cramp and seconded by Cllr Williams. Carried

10. Planning

There had been no new applications.

There was an appeal scheduled for Trap House Nurseries to be held on 4th February 2014.

(Appeal No:APP/W1850/A/13/2201226). It was commented that the spending of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments, made on planning applications, would most likely be directed by the Planning Authority.

11. Ward Councillor's Report

The Ward Councillor updated the meeting in regard to Herefordshire Council budgetary decisions concerning Hoople, the Libraries and other matters with final outcomes of the recommendations due the following week. Some library services may be moving into the Information Centre.

12. Village Matters

The Winnal Speed Limit proposal to reduce the limit to 40mph had been presented to the Chief Constable and he had not approved the proposal saying that it was not enforceable. The campaign to reduce the speed limit on the Winnal Road had started many years previously, when the blind bends and difficulties in crossing, had originally been noted. If anything the situation was now even more in need of a reduction in the speed limit. The Clerk would write again to stress that the 40mph speed limit was felt to be an important safety requirement.

The naming of the new development of houses off Poplar Road was discussed at this point. The proposed name of "Gardiners Oak" was discussed and the general consensus of opinion was that the name Landimore was preferred. The Clerk would write to the planners suggesting "Landimore" as a preferred name to that proposed. It was noted that Landimore was the name of an existing property on the site and this was felt to be more appropriate.

13. Items for next Agenda

All usual items and confirmation of meeting dates for the year

14. Setting of dates of future meetings

The next Meeting will be held on Thursday 27th March 2014, at 8.00pm, at the Allensmore Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

23rd January 2014

Signedas a true record by Councillor Jeremy Lawrence (Chairman)

Dated:- 27th March 2014

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