

Minutes of Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 26th January 2017 at 8.00pm at Allensmore Village Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs A Wright (Clerk), Ward Councillor Jon Johnson, Footpath Officer Debbie Mumford and 10 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 Derek Cooke

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Open Session

The issue of accidents occurring on the Allensmore Road B4348 close to Alma Cottage was raised. There had been a number of accidents where vehicles had gone through the hedgerow on the corner close to Alma Cottage. Jim Knipe, who owns land close to the road there, put forward some proposed ideas about how the road may be widened so as to allow cars to pass and to help overcome the "blind spot". The road is locally known as "the narrows". Mr Knipe explained how he would like the Parish Council to consider a proposal to build a small number of homes (some "affordable ones") in the field adjacent and there would be improvements to the access made accordingly. The Parish Council determined that, should a planning application be put forward then they would consider this when the time came.

A resident brought up the issue of flooding at the Alma Cottage corner area and there was a silted up culvert and a blocked drain pipe notified at the location. This situation would be followed up by the Ward Councillor, in conjunction with the Locality Steward, and they would both arrange to meet with the resident who had highlighted the issues of drainage at the location.

5. Brief Verbal Reports:

5.1 Local Policing Team: Bulletin Updates had been circulated. There should be a police representative at the March 2017 Meeting.

5.2 Footpath Officer: The Footpath Officer, Debbie Mumford was in attendance. There was a discussion on footpath matters between the Footpath Officer, the contractor and the Parish Council. The Footpath Officer was under the impression that the payment of a previous invoice covered four gates rather than three and voiced her opinion strongly. Works that had been grant funded had been carried out in that gates had been fitted to three locations, steps installed and temporary repairs carried out to a damaged gate. It was noted that materials were now chargeable and would be set against the grant monies repaid by Herefordshire Council via Balfour Beatty. Meetings had been held with the Locality Steward and materials had been ordered and then the system changed with the ordered materials left outstanding. The contractor had managed to persuade Balfour Beatty to supply two of the outstanding gates and the third had been agreed for purchase against the grant funding by the PC. The Footpath Officer outlined that there was still a latched pedestrian gate required for Home Farm and a permanent repair required to a damaged gate on AN5. Information on works carried out would be sent to all parties by request of the Parish Council.

The Footpath Officer had identified further works, information summarised here:

- AN25 (Clelonger, by Yew Tree Farm) the finger post was noted as missing
- AN27 (Clelonger, Wellfield) the finger post was overgrown by a hedge
- Junction CH15 and AN2 the post supporting the gate had rotted through.
- AN9 (Cobhall Common by allotments) consider possibility of replacing stiles with gates.
- AN7 (Home Farm to Allensmore Church) consider possibility of replacing stiles with gates.
- AN25 (Clelonger Yew Tree Farm) consider possibility of replacing stile with gate.

It was agreed that decisions would be made earlier, for the following year's projects, and that site visits and estimates would be carried out. The Footpath Officer and the contractor left the room. The contractor returned, alone, after several minutes. Points would be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting.

5.3 Lengthsman Co-ordinator: Cllr Jeremy Lawrence reported that the Lengthsman had been unwell. Church Road ditching was on the list to be actioned. Also ditches near to the "Butts".

5.4 Ward Councillor: Ward Cllr Jon Johnson updated the meeting regarding the budget being presented to full council the following week. Changes had been made to central government funding for new home building. The Adult Social Care Budget was

ring-fenced and was a priority spending area. He explained how the Herefordshire Council had decided to raise the precept and by the percentages.

Over 4000 defects had been reported on the A465 from Tesco Belmont to Llangua Bridge. These had been reported into Balfour Beatty. The white lining on the road near to the Three Horseshoes Public House had been deemed unsafe and signs had been erected to cover the issue. It was his intention to look at the highway proposals by Alma Cottage. A large chevron sign, which had previously been there, appeared to be missing from the corner of the road at the location? Traffic Regulation orders can take years to be implemented but can be fast-tracked if the cost of the action was to be met by the Parish Council.

5.5 Locality Steward

The Locality Steward was not present but had kept members informed via bulletins.

6. To approve minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 24th November 2016.

Resolved: - The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th November 2016, were approved by the Council and then signed by the Chairman

7. Clerk Update and Correspondence

The Clerk updated the Meeting regarding correspondence from AON Insurance, Pensions Regulator, Clerks & Councils Direct and Western Power. The Probation Service Community Payback initiative was described and the councillors noted the option of utilising "offenders" to assist with community projects.

The precept and grant funding for the Lengthsman and Footpath Schemes had been applied for and the necessary schedules completed.

8. Neighbourhood Plan – update

Cllr Cramp advised that the e mail and notices published had brought people forward to volunteer to help with the possible instigation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Allensmore. The Parish Council would need assistance to carry the plan forward, if engagement should be decided. The next step would be to get the volunteers together and a meeting would be arranged, with a representative from Data Orchard, who would describe the process activities to inform the interested parties. Cllr Cramp would take this action forward.

9. Finance

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

Mrs A Wright (Clerk) (salary £346.73, mileage £11.25)	£357.98
Tax due on salary payment (Payable to The Post Office)	£86.80
Total	£444.78

(9.2) **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted at £3517.82.

10. Planning

There were no new applications to be discussed.

11. To discuss and update regarding broadband provision

Cllr Cramp updated the meeting regarding where the situation was with broad band. Chase ups were ongoing and there had been some issues with orders getting held up in the system. Residents shared their experiences. A proposal to get remaining homes on line was being orchestrated. Funds were to be raised and Broad band vouchers would be used to help defray the cost. Another phase of Fastershire was coming through. The intention was to provide a faster service to those who had missed out previously. The position should be clearer by the beginning of April 2017. It was commented that the 4G system was working for some households. An assessment of viability for the consortium approach was being undertaken.

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

As reported in the Open Session.

13. Village Matters

Grant funding had been secured for the works required to the church roof. Tenders were being sought for the works and it was hoped that some of these works, at least, would be completed before May (bat season). The weathervane was also scheduled to be re-positioned.

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, Mr Knipe's road proposal and Footpaths.

15. Confirmation of date of next Meeting

The next Meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd March 2017, at the Allensmore Village Hall from 8.00pm.

The Meeting closed at pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

26th January 2017

Signedas a true record by Councillor (Chairman)

Dated: - 23rd March 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