

Minutes of Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 30th July 2015 at 8.00pm at Allensmore Village Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs A Wright (Clerk), Lengthsman Terry Griffiths and 7 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 the Footpath Officer Debbie Mumford and the Ward Councillor Jon Johnson.

3. Declarations of Interest

There was a declaration of interest, by Cllr Jeremy Lawrence, regarding the proposed planning application for a solar voltaic array and transformer on land at Green Farm, Allensmore, Herefordshire. At the time of the meeting the formal planning application details had not been received by the Parish Council.

4. Open Session

During the Open Session the publication of important details issue was discussed. It was agreed that when matters of importance to the parish were to be discussed, such as the Allpay Broadband situation, then as wide a circulation of the information as possible would take place using e mail contact lists, such as that held by Mr Mumford, and the Village Web Site where possible and as appropriate.

5. Brief Verbal Reports:

5.1 **Local Policing Team.** Not present although Bulletin Updates had been circulated.

5.2 **Footpath Officer:** The Footpath Officer had sent her apologies.

5.3 **Lengthsman Co-ordinator:** Cllr Jeremy Lawrence reported on items carried out and the Lengthsman, Terry Griffiths, updated the meeting regarding scheduled maintenance, jetting carried out, culverts cleared and splays strimmed. More attention to ditches would be required. Terry reported an increased level of health and safety

threshold requirements expected from him in relation to his contracts. The effect of this, overall, would be to increase the cost of carrying out the works so this fact would need to be taken into account when requesting action items. An inspection by a locality steward could happen at any time and non-compliance with prescribed health and safety signage, and other recommendations, could result in a reprimand or suspension. The Chair thanked the Lengthsman for his works and report. The issue of increased costs potential would be on the next Agenda.

5.4 Locality Steward not present and apologies sent.

5.4 Ward Councillor was not present but a report had been sent. The report covered the Herefordshire Council budget and the requirement for a further £10 million to be saved from the budget this year. A Public Consultation has started with a meeting held at the Shire Hall on the 22nd July and the Council is seeking input from the public. Details of the Consultation can be found on the Council website. There was information regarding the suggestion of roadside car parking meters in Hereford. This was again to be consulted upon. The Small Holdings Review was being conducted and a Group of Members from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been tasked to liaise with tenants etc. and the outcomes would be evaluated.

The Hereford Butter Market sale for redevelopment received an update. Local businessman Darren Sockett had been selected as the preferred bidder. As well as ensuring the future of the Market the Council will receive payment for the site equivalent to the current market value. The Butter Market which currently offers fresh produce as well as other traditional retail stalls will be extended to offer a more diverse range of products and services.

6. To approve minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Statutory Parish Council Meeting held on 28/05/15.

Resolved: - The Minutes of the Meetings, held on 28th May 2015, were approved by the Council and then signed by the Chairman

7. Clerk Update on Action Items

The Clerk updated the meeting re the action items including items discussed with Balfour Beatty and details as per the Information Sheet.

A meeting took place, on the afternoon of 21st July 2015, between the Parish Council (Alison and Tony), the Ward Councillor Jon Johnson, Locality Steward Dave Atkinson and Senior Locality Steward Linzy Outtrim plus other Balfour Beatty specialists.

The drainage route from the bus shelter on the Cobhall Common, and down the main street, was examined and the covers were lifted for inspection. The opinion given, in brief, was that the pipes are inadequate to deal with the flow likely to be experienced. A recommendation of the installation of 60cm piping was made and this will now go forward as a formal request for action. There is currently no concrete assurance that this will happen but a strong case for this plan of action will be presented.

More information will be known once the cost of the upgrade has been considered by the BB Management.

8. To note correspondence

The Clerk advised re some of the correspondence received including information from Balfour Beatty regarding the Cobhall Common drainage issues and the Clerks Direct Journal.

9. Finance

9.1 **Resolved:** The following list of payments were approved, prop by TC and sec SW:

Mrs A Wright (salary £295.60, mileage £16.65 stamps £8.53)	£320.78
Tax due on salary payment (Payable to The Post Office)	£74.00
Terry Griffiths (Lengthsman)	<u>£480.00</u>
Total	£874.78

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

10. Planning

There were no actual planning applications to consider. An application was pending for a proposed solar development by G Owens and Son at Green Farm, Allensmore. Mr Owens had attended the parish Council Meeting to outline his proposals to the Parish Council. An extensive range of assessments such as visual impact, wildlife impact and surveys for vertebrates like the great crested newt had been commissioned and carried out. A survey of the footpath had also taken place. Around 100 yards of public footpath was involved. The field was actually located in Much Dewchurch. Seven articulated lorry loads of solar panels would be brought into site and thereafter there would not be any further construction traffic involvement. The Farm was currently using more power than was being generated. There would be no increase in hard standing. There was a question regarding the potential impact on drains and the answer was that there would be no temporary or permanent increase in hard standing from a "run off" point of view.

11. To discuss recent communications regarding broadband provision

There had been an e mail from an Allpay Engineer, Mr Upcott. There were questions around technical ideas such as altering the angle of the antennae. It was mentioned that Ward Cllr Graham Powell would need to be asked how "Fastershire" was going to plug the hole in broadband provision left by Allpay's service withdrawal. Some people will lose their broadband service. The e mail from the Allpay Technician would be forwarded to the parish contact list for information. Cllr Cramp would write a preamble to accompany the message. It was resolved that a meeting would be arranged to discuss options and a strategy of approach, in liaison with the Ward Cllr Jon Johnson, to look at cost analysis and maybe the possibility of the request for a subsidy to bridge the gap until "Fastershire" is installed. There would be a request for a corporate response. The e mail list held by Steve Mumford would be useful to pass the information to the Parish and he would be asked if he would assist with this. Cllr Cramp and the Clerk would liaise on the content of the information to be sent out.

12. Drainage and pipe systems - update

Matters were in hand following a visit from Balfour Beatty to examine the drainage systems at Cobhall Common on 21st July.

13. Village Matters including update on notice board

The notice board repair was reported as being in hand.

14. Items for next Agenda

Drainage, Allpay broadband, Lengthsman remit and funding match re potential Health and Safety increase to costs

15. Confirmation of date of next Meeting

The next Meeting will be held on Thursday 24th September 2015, at the Allensmore Village Hall at 8.00pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.12pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

30th July 2015

Signedas a true record by Councillor

(Chairman)

Dated: - 24th September 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