

## **Minutes of Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 8.00pm at Allensmore Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs J Evans, S Lawrence, J Lawrence, C Watkinson (Vice Chair) T Cramp (Chair) Cllr Derek Cooke and Cllr S Williams

**In attendance:** Mrs A Wright (Clerk), Ward Cllr Christy Bolderson, and 9 members of the public.

### **1. Introduction and welcome by the Chairman**

The Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Tony Cramp, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies received.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4. Open Session**

Potholes were commented at Goose Pool and Cobhall Common. They were described as plentiful and difficult to miss. Some had been patched but had reappeared. Areas required resurfacing. The local ditches were full of water and it was not draining away. Cllr Jeremy Lawrence would speak with landowners regarding particular identified ditches.

Pipes running parallel to Cobhall Lane had water flowing straight past them and the situation needed to be assessed. A number of other pipe and drainage issues were identified and Cllrs J. Evans, T. Cramp and J. Lawrence would meet up to discuss these drainage issues. Matched funding had been set aside for the Lengthsman scheme grant funding for identified drainage projects.

Comments were made about the Litter Pick Event scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> March. There was a numbers problem, with more people not attending than doing so and also extra hygiene precautions to be followed. The pick would be postponed because of virus concerns. Some kit items had been acquired, grabbers, hi-vis vests, gloves and bags. There would be an aim to carry out three picks a year. Funding was required for extra kit, disinfectant etc. and a request was made for a one off donation towards the costs. A donation of £50 was proposed by Cllr Watkinson, seconded by Cllr Evans and carried unanimously. The picks would provide benefits to all, keep the environment clean and

tidy and also have a social impact with residents working together. The hope was to be able to respond more quickly and to improve health and safety. The group were looking at acquiring one of the free litter pick sheds to store the equipment.

The attenuation pond at the Bowling Green chicken farm was mentioned in that the water was allegedly not going into the pond but rather into the Goose Pool where it had almost entered a resident's cottage. Water was going straight down a land drain and not accumulating in the pond. The Chair would call the farmer regarding the issue.

## **5. Brief Verbal Reports:**

**5.1 Local Policing Team:** Bulletin updates had been circulated.

A dog bin had been kicked over in Kingstone. Sheep had been stolen from Bredwardine. Thefts of plant had been made from a building site in Clehonger. There was a reminder to report any concerns on 101 or, if urgent, call 999.

**5.2 Lengthsman Co-ordinator:** Cllr J Lawrence advised that the Lengthsman had been jetting out the drains on Cobhall and would be scheduled to clean the ditch put by the village hall. The Parish Council could ask if landowners wish to pay for the Lengthsman to clear their ditches. The parish walk around Alma Corner, with the Locality Steward, had seen items logged and a list circulated.

**5.3 Ward Councillor:** Ward Cllr Christy Bolderson gave an update.

The Ward Cllr would be meeting with Balfour Beatty and council officers to identify items regarding flooding that could be rectified by Balfour Beatty and others would be the responsibility of the riparian owners. Herefordshire Council had in the past cleared ditches and there was a requirement to re-educate land owners to clear their ditches. The plan was to clarify and communicate proposals as to who could deal with what items and an enforcement resolution would be available if recommendations were not actioned. Templates for the process would be out by the end of April. There would be central funding for help for homes and businesses to protect them from future flooding events. The Ward Cllr updated the Meeting about funding for flood victims and about budget matters at Herefordshire Council and the Corona Virus.

## **5.4 Locality Steward**

The Locality Steward had kept members informed via bulletins.

**5.5 Footpath Officer –** The Footpath Officer Cllr Steve Williams advised that rambles would be taking place and it was hoped that more people would get interested in this.

The paths were being used and were reported to be in "pretty good condition." Any defects with posts etc. would be advised.

## **6. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020.**

**Resolved:** - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020, were approved by the Council and then signed by the Chairman

## **7. Clerk Update and Correspondence**

The Clerk updated the Meeting regarding correspondence received. This included:

- Review of the Hereford transport strategy
- Recovery under way in parts of Herefordshire as response continues
- OFFER TO BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY FLOODING
- Support to dispose of water damaged items
- River Lugg internal Drainage Board : properties flooded – Haywood
- County Plan

## **8. Neighbourhood Plan – update on progression/examination**

8.1) Update on progression was given by a representative of the Steering Group:

"Allensmore Neighbourhood Development Plan  
Report for Parish Council 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### ***Steering Group and meetings***

*Since the last Parish Council meeting, there have been no formal meetings of the Steering Group.*

*No changes to the Steering Group.*

### ***NDP Examination Stage***

*As reported at the last Parish Council meeting, The NDP has progressed to the Examination Stage and an external examiner, Ann Skippers, has been appointed.*

*We received a document containing questions from the examiner on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020. There were eight questions in all which were mainly clarifications and requests for up-to-date information on planning applications, commitments and completions. The Steering Group discussed the responses to the questions via email and phone, and submitted a document of responses to Herefordshire Council on 26<sup>th</sup> February for them*

*to supplement a couple of answers and provide the most recent maps of planning applications, commitments and completions.*

*Herefordshire Council provided their response based on different dates and quoted a figure that we questioned. We provided our evidence to Herefordshire Council and requested them to make the correct figures clear to the examiner. We are still not sure that the final response from Herefordshire Council to the examiner was exactly correct and we were still questioning it last Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March. However, later on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, we received the confidential draft examiner's report for "fact checking". This report has been circulated to the Parish Council for information.*

*The examiner's report is very positive and she generally suggests changes that either clarify and/or strengthen our policies. There is one recommendation that we would like her to reconsider – that is to change our settlement boundaries to include the site behind Murrayfield in Cobhall Common. We intend to argue that the draft settlement boundaries deliberately exclude all double-depth dwellings (ie houses behind other houses) in order to preserve the linear character of all the settlements in our area. To include this site would be inconsistent and contrary to our draft Policy A4, which has already been used by the council to reject three applications since the examiner received the draft plan. These are:*

- *the development on the land behind Bramble Cottage in Allensmore*
- *two development sites near Cobhall House in Cobhall Common.*

*The Steering Group would like to ask the Parish Council if they support this argument.*

### **Next Stage**

*Responses to the examiner's report are to be submitted by Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March. It is anticipated that the final report will be received from the examiner soon after. The final edit of the NDP will then be completed by us and the document submitted to Herefordshire Council for checking. Herefordshire Council will then organise the referendum which is expected to take place in April or May 2020. "*

*Nick Chapman, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020*

The Parish Council confirmed support of the actions as recommended by the Steering Group with reference to any input from Samantha Banks as to queries raised. Any anomalies would be corrected.

## **9. Finance**

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

Mrs A Wright (salary paid in accordance with contract)	
Tax due on salary payment (Payable to HMRC only)	£96.60
T. Griffiths (Lengthsman TGC 0954)	£90.00
T. Griffiths (Lengthsman TGC 1013)	£150.00
T. Cramp (website hosting)	£48.95
Allensmore Village Hall (hall hire)	£48.00
Donation towards litter-pick activities (payable to B Ratcliffe)	£50.00

(9.2) **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted at £8797.95.

## 10. Planning

There were applications advised for discussion at the meeting:

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 200299 – Land adjacent Garnom, Birch Hill, Clehonger, Herefordshire  
**DESCRIPTION:** Proposed erection of two dwelling houses with shared vehicle access.  
**GRID REF:** OS 345180, 237113  
**APPLICATION TYPE:** Planning Permission

The Parish Council discussed the planning application 200299 and a response would be consolidated for circulation and submission to the Planning Authority.

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning consultation - 200560 – 1 Webtree Cottages, Allensmore, Herefordshire, HR2 9AA  
**DESCRIPTION:** Proposed two storey side extension and rear single storey extension  
**GRID REF:** OS 347182, 237037  
**APPLICATION TYPE:** Full Householder

The Parish Council discussed the planning application 200560 and a response would be consolidated for circulation and submission to the Planning Authority.

## 11. Update on parish drainage, pipe work and flooding issues including update regarding visit with the Locality Steward

The items were discussed during the open session (Item 4) and in the Lengthsman Co-ordinator update (Item 5.2).

## 12. Village Matters

12.1) Accident risk on the Road A465 – to receive any update

The Village Hall Committee plus local property owner had attempted to inspire speed limit changes, signage etc. which had so far proved unsuccessful. The grass verges

would need to be kept cut short and any obstructing branches would need to be trimmed back to ensure non obstruction of views either side of the village hall junction. Opportunities to continue to lobby for change would continue as applicable.

#### 12.2) Consideration of "Smart Water" property marking system

An information e mail had been circulated. This had given rise to 18 responses, 17 in favour of the kits and one against. The question was "should the PC fund the kits for everyone?" It was resolved to postpone any take up for the time being.

#### 12.3) Consideration of signage for A465 etc.

The repositioning of the P(arking) sign had been agreed, at least in principle. Wherever it was positioned it had the potential to block visibility when pulling out. HGV directional signs would not be pursued by the PC and volume numbers were appearing to diminish.

#### 12.4) Defibrillator – update

Cllr Williams advised that the most beneficial installation site had been decided – Locks Garage. The donor was happy for it to be placed there. A meeting would be held on 15 March to finalise the plans and it was hoped that it would be up and running by Easter. The defibrillator would be registered with the Ambulance Service and Heart Safe.

### **13. Items for next Agenda**

All the usual items would be on the Agenda and to include Smart Water and drainage

### **14. Confirmation of date of next Meeting**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council (Annual Parish and Annual Statutory) would be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020 at the Allensmore Village Hall, from 8.00pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.55 pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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

Dated: - 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020

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)