

Minutes of Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Allensmore Parish Council Meetings held on 19th May 2022 from 7.30pm at Allensmore Village Hall

Part One Annual Parish Meeting (open session)

In attendance: Cllrs J Lawrence (from 7.41), S Williams, Y Chapman, J Evans, S Lawrence, C Watkinson and T Cramp (re-elected as Chair) and Mrs A Wright, (Clerk) plus Ward Cllr Christy Bolderson and seven members of the public

Cllr T Cramp delivered his Chair Report (copied here).

Allensmore Parish Council – chair’s summary of 2021 to 2022

Again, a busy year but thankfully things are in the process of returning towards "normal" following Covid – Of the last 6 meetings 4 face to face, 1 hybrid and 1 online only.

NDP: strong support at referendum on 6 May 2021 with 85% in favour (157 people). The plan was made on 7th June 2021. Many thanks for the hard work by all involved and for the strong support of residents. Important that we continue to review the plan. Higher than expected housing supply for the county ensures that plan will be given full weight. Planning: At least 12 applications reviewed and responded. Development underway the new houses down Cobhall Lane and two behind Murrayfield. Work not yet started for the six on Church Road.

Drainage: Completed almost £10,000 of drainage repairs and maintenance included in the Sept 2020 grant. Works finally progressed to alleviate problems near Alma Cottage. New pipe installed behind Murrayfield in Cobhall by residents with £3,000 contribution from PC. New drainage grant applied for and £4,339 approved. No progress as yet on upgrading pipe in Cobhall from bus stop across front of Montrose. Drainage of new passing place on Cobhall Common lane installed but not connected. Leaflet on Riparian responsibilities distributed.

Village Matters: Progress with road safety proposals in partnership with Kilpeck and also now Much Dewchurch. Approval for Church Porch conservation work. Phone kiosk library now has new caretaker – Jude Mabe.

Dog fouling: additional signage, declined request for bins. Footpaths: 3 stiles in need of replacement have been upgraded to kissing gates one of which funded by donation from local resident. Waiting for correct sized bridge to be provided (12ft not the 8ft provided) for AN12.

Broadband: Plans for Gigaclear to fill remaining main gaps now plans cancelled and abandoned by HC and Fastershire. (properties on Green Farm Lane, Church Road and neighbouring parts of the A465). Their current solution is to "put us forward for consideration by the government Gigabit project ". More later.

Finance: End year 2021 to 2022 with around £10,000 in hand, up around £700 over the year, though before £3,000 donation for pipe in Cobhall. Kept precept unchanged at £6,250 so our reserves are 1 - 1.5 x our precept.

1. Open Session with parishioners

The situation regarding the outstanding pipe arrangements for Cobhall Common were discussed. The Balfour Beatty representative was unconvinced now of the value of the works and it was not in the current work plan. The job had been previously agreed. A letter would be sent to the Herefordshire Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure, Cllr John Harrington, to explain the situation and to try to obtain resolution.

Due to available grant funding figures the 2022 drainage grant aims would have to be scaled back from what had been hoped for. It was noted the crowd funded pipe account had £379.00 remaining. This may be used as seed funding for further projects and a bank account would be set up in the new entity.

Part Two Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

2. Election of Chair and acceptance of office

Tony Cramp stated that he would be willing to stand as Chair of the parish council again on the understanding that there would be an allocation of tasks across the other members to ensure help and support with various topics and to share the workload.

The following responsibility areas were identified:

Drainage Leads: Cllrs Evans and J Lawrence

Planning Lead: Cllr Watkinson

NDP Monitoring, Road Safety and Village Matters Lead: Cllr Chapman

Lengthsman Lead: Cllrs Evans and J Lawrence

Footpaths Lead: Cllr Williams

Other/Misc Lead: Cllrs S Lawrence and T Cramp

The office of Chair received one nomination and Cllr. Tony Cramp was proposed by Cllr Y. Chapman and seconded by Cllr. C. Watkinson. Cllr. T. Cramp accepted the Office of Chair.

3. Election of Vice-Chair and acceptance of office

The office of Vice-Chair received one nomination and Cllr. J. Lawrence was proposed by Cllr J. Evans and seconded by Cllr S. Lawrence. Cllr J. Lawrence accepted the Office of Vice Chair. (Subsequently corrected to read Cllr J. Evans was proposed by Cllr. J.

Lawrence and seconded by Cllr S. Lawrence. Cllr J. Evans accepted the Office of Vice Chair).

4. Election of Parish Council Officers (incl. Footpath Officer)

The Planning Sub Committee was confirmed as comprising all members.

The Footpath Officer was confirmed as Cllr Steve Williams

The Finance Working Group was confirmed as all Cllrs.

The Lengthsman Co-ordinator would be Cllr Jeremy Lawrence

The internal auditor would be Trefor Edwards (subject to his consent)

5. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence received.

6. To note Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

7. Brief Verbal Reports:

7.1 **Ward Councillor** The Ward Cllr updated the meeting and advised that there would be a meeting of the full council on 20th May 2022. A new Code of Conduct for the Herefordshire Council was being proposed. Parish Councils may also adopt this? In regard to drainage works the Ward Cllr was making visits to local developments and checking aspects of the works, lay-bys etc. for example.

8. To approve minutes of the Meeting held on 17/03/22

Resolved: - The Minutes of the meeting, held on 17th March 2022, were approved by the Council

9. To receive any correspondence and Information Update

Talk Community Newsletters

Local Area Plan Consultation slide show

May road closures

New information on new reporting details for PROW (Public Rights of Way) and TRO (Traffic Regulation Orders):-

Herefordshire Council contact information

PROW E mail: - PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk

PROW Tel. No: - **01432 383550**

TRO E Mail: - TM@herefordshire.gov.uk

Balfour Beatty

James Howells, the Locality Steward, has circulated his reports.

West Mercia Police

Newsletter circulated when received and charter awareness survey had been completed.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee would see a celebration in the form of a Platinum Picnic on the 5th June. Various activities and attractions would be on offer. It was resolved that the parish council would contribute £100.00 towards the funding for the celebrations.

10. Finance and Policies

(10.1) to approve list of payments (separate list)

Mrs A Wright - salary paid in accordance with contract	
Tax due on salary payment (Payable to HMRC only)	£118.60
BHIB Ltd (PC Insurance)	£331.80
Information Commissioner (ICO)	£40.00
Pateshall Hall (hall hire)	£40.00
T. Griffiths (Lengthsman)	£5178.00
Donation for Queens Platinum Jubilee (total)	£100.00

(10.2) **to note bank balance**

The bank balance was noted as £13506.74

(10.3) **To sign and approve the Exemption Certificate 2021 – 2022**

The Exemption Certificate 2021 – 2022 was approved and signed

(10.4) **To sign and approve Annual Governance Statement 2021 – 2022**

The Annual Governance Statement 2021 – 2022 was approved and signed

(10.5) **To sign and approve Accounting Statement 2021 - 2022**

The Accounting Statement 2021 – 2022 was approved and signed

11. Planning - to review any planning matters (including NDP outcome)

There were no new planning consultations to review at the time of the meeting.

12. Drainage and related matters – update

Cllr J Lawrence explained about the pipe arrangements in the environs of Mawfield Farm. A meeting with Andy Byng of Herefordshire Council would be meeting with the Ward Cllr and the Chair on the 20 May 2022 to discuss the situation in regard to the

pipes under the road etc. Questions were involved as to the solution dependent on supply of pipe and whether the drain could go under the road or not. The section 278 agreement would be on hold until the drainage arrangements had been resolved and agreed.

In regard to the current grant aims claim, the parish council would seek to prioritise the works to make best use of the reduced sum of grant funding on offer. This would be finalised and circulated by e mail. It was noted that Cllr Evans had cleared out both sections of the ditch behind the pool.

13. Road safety and initiatives update

Cllrs Chapman and Evans had been to a meeting with Kilpeck Parish Council. The proposals presented had been received but not discussed. The Much Dewchurch Parish Council was also going to join in.

There had been a further accident in the vicinity of Locks Garage. The air ambulance had been in attendance. Proposals for road safety improvements had predominantly been centred around the A465, the demarcation of the side roads and the speed on the A465. All three of the parish councils, in the safety alliance, were concerned about the configuration of roads at Locks Garage. The three parishes would meet to discuss ideas as a joint venture.

Broadband

Cllr Cramp gave a brief update on the situation concerning broadband. Most of the parish were being served by superfast broadband connected back to the cabinet. The Giga clear solution would not be going ahead. There were some alternative options, a Digital Household Grant with antenna arrangement and Project Giga Bit may also be something that would happen for a solution. The community broadband solution could only be progressed if there was enough community demand to make it cost effective. People could register their interest in this.

14. Items for next Agenda

All the usual items would be included for July.

15. Date of next meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as 21st July 2022

The Meeting closed at 8.43pm

Signedas a true record by Councillor Tony Cramp (Chairman)

Dated: - 21st July 2022

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