

Minutes of Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Allensmore Parish Council Meetings held on 18th May 2023 from 7.30pm at Allensmore Village Hall

Part One Annual Parish Meeting (open session)

In attendance: Cllrs J Lawrence, S Williams, J Evans (re-elected as Vice Chair), C Watkinson and T Cramp (re-elected as Chair) and Mrs A Wright, (Clerk) plus Ward Cllr Richard Thomas and two members of the public

Cllr T Cramp welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a welcome and congratulations to the new Ward Cllr; Richard Thomas.

1. Open Session with parishioners

The question was asked about progress regarding speeding issues. A significant report had been sent to Herefordshire Council on the topic and this had been a matter of record. Feedback had indicated that, unfortunately, there were no resources to progress anything on this at present. Cllr Cramp would send a copy of the report to the new Ward Cllr.

Part Two Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

1. Co-option of councillor(s)

There were currently two vacancies for new councillors, following only five councillors standing at the local parish recent elections. There were no candidates for possible co-option this time. The vacancies would be advertised through the village e mail.

2. Election of Chair and acceptance of office

Cllr Tony Cramp was nominated as Chair of the parish council by Cllr Steve Williams and seconded by Cllr Charles Watkinson. There were no other nominations. Cllr Cramp was duly elected as Chair.

The following responsibility areas were identified:

Drainage Lead: Cllr Evans (with Cllr Lawrence)

Planning Lead: Cllr Watkinson

Lengthsman Lead: Cllr Lawrence

Footpaths Lead: Cllr Williams

Finance Lead: Cllr Cramp

3. Election of Vice-Chair and acceptance of office

The office of Vice-Chair received one nomination and Cllr. J. Evans was proposed (in his absence) by Cllr J. Lawrence and seconded by Cllr C. Watkinson. Cllr J. Evans had previously indicated he would accept the Office of Vice-Chair.

4. Election of Parish Council Officers (incl. Footpath Officer, Lengthsman Co-ordinator)

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

5. Apologies for absence

There were apologies for absence received from Cllr Evans.

6. To note Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

7. Brief Verbal Reports:

7.1 **Ward Councillor** - The new Ward Cllr; Richard Thomas updated the meeting and advised that there would be a meeting of the full Herefordshire Council on 19th May 2023. The Conservatives had the most seats but not a majority enabling them to form a Conservative Cabinet. The Liberal Democrats would support if agreeing with the policy. The Ward Cllr said that he would be attending all of the parish council meetings where possible and would send a newsletter advising on what was going on at County level and Ward level. The parish council would keep the Ward Cllr informed regarding speeding etc.

8. To approve minutes of the Meeting held on 16/03/23

Resolved: - The Minutes of the meeting, held on 16th March 2023, were approved by the Council

9. To receive any correspondence and Information Update

Talk Community bulletins

Election bulletins and updates – stop press – Richard Thomas has been elected as the Wormside Ward Councillor

Balfour Beatty

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

West Mercia Police

Newsletter circulated when received.

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)	£122.60
BHIB Ltd (PC Insurance)	£340.17
Information Commissioner (ICO)	£40.00
T. Griffiths (Lengthsman)	£5400.00

(10.2) **to note bank balance**

The bank balance was noted as £17412.33. It was resolved that the cash deposit of £379.00, made by Cllr Chapman in March to the bank, (residual pipe crowd fund) would be ring fenced to future pipe works.

(10.3) **To sign and approve the Exemption Certificate 2022 – 2023**

The Exemption Certificate 2022 – 2023 was approved and signed

(10.4) **To sign and approve Annual Governance Statement 2022 – 2023**

The Annual Governance Statement 2022 – 2023 was approved and signed

(10.5) **To sign and approve Accounting Statement 2022 - 2023**

The Accounting Statement 2022 – 2023 was approved and signed

(10.6) **To adopt the new Code of Conduct (as circulated)**

The parish council resolved to adopt the new Code of Conduct for 2023.

11. Planning - to review any planning matters

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

Cllr Watkinson had circulated an update, with the current position, concerning applications that had been reviewed and commented on, for information purposes. It was agreed that no further comments would be submitted, by the parish council, in respect of agent observations made in reference to a consultation for Trap House.

12. Drainage and related matters – update

The meeting was advised that the pipe-work pending for completion by Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty was still awaited. The Ward Cllr had reviewed the commons drainage with a local resident. He would be meeting with the Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty drainage teams to follow up.

The Lengthsman Co-ordinator would liaise with the Lengthsman in regard to grant applications and days required. Action was required for Goose Pool and Church Road. Goose Pool could have another pipe installed higher than the existing – attempting to drain the water lying there. Pool Farm jetting of drainage required there. Clerk would chase up the new Lengthsman Contract and grant information.

A footpath finger post had been knocked down by "Aconbury Sprouts".

13. Road safety and initiatives update – as applicable

Cllr Cramp would send the report with findings on the subject of speeding to the new Ward Cllr.

14. Broadband update

Cllr Cramp gave a brief update on the situation concerning broadband. Airband still ad areas outstanding for connection. The Community Broadband appeared to be "focussing on the big stuff." There was a new officer in post dealing with the situation and negotiating – a small possibility there may be some movement. Open Reach were supposed to be getting fibre sometime between the present date and 2026. Cllr Cramp was chasing for specifics and would circulate any updates.

15. Items for next Agenda

All the usual items would be included for July. Also co-option of councillor(s)

16. Date of next meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as 20th July 2023

The Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

18th May 2023

Signedas a true record by Councillor Tony Cramp (Chairman)

Dated: - 20th July 2023

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