

# **Minutes of the Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023, at the Allensmore Village Hall, from 7.45pm**

**In attendance:** Cllrs T Cramp (in the Chair), J Lawrence, C Watkinson, J Evans and S Williams plus Mrs A Wright (Clerk), and Ward Cllr Richard Thomas

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

Cllr Tony Cramp (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Cramp advised the meeting of the sad news that Cllr Tracy Morriss had passed away. The parish council expressed their sympathy to Tracy's family and there was a one minute silence observed in memory of Tracy.

## **2. Co-option of councillor(s) (1 current vacancy) and acceptance of office**

No candidates were presented.

## **3. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **4. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **5. Open Session**

There were no matters raised.

## **6. Brief Verbal Reports:**

### **6.1 West Mercia Police**

Bulletins had been circulated.

### **6.2 Lengthsman Co-ordinator**

The Lengthsman Co-ordinator

### **6.3 Ward Councillor:**

Ward Cllr Richard Thomas updated regarding Herefordshire Councils budget strategy. The Council had taken over a deficit budget and he stated that "cuts should have been made some time ago" in terms of "housekeeping". The council had inherited a "reasonable" capital fund. Roads were "going to get a boost". The roads will not all be done by Balfour Beatty. Efficiencies were to be looked at and there were lots of things

to be sorted out. Announcements would be made the next week. The Shire Hall needed to be repaired. The Ward Cllr had looked at the new settlement between Cobhall and Thruxton. He advised that something had to be defined as "harmful" for action to be taken. There was a comment made that it "could be a precursor for something more permanent."

#### **6.4 Balfour Beatty (Locality Steward)**

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

#### **6.5 Footpath Officer**

Cllr Williams updated regarding the footpaths. Cllr Williams advised that the footbridge on footpath AN12 had been fitted ahead of the lengthsman carrying out the works. There was uncertainty as to who had fitted the bridge. There were no new "complaints" relating to the parish paths and the issues outstanding at footpath AN3 were to be resolved.

### **7. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

**Resolved:** - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023, were approved by the Council

### **8. To receive any correspondence and Information Update**

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

#### **Herefordshire Council**

Talk Community bulletins

Precept request information

### **9. Finance**

(9.1) **Resolved:** The following list of payments were approved:

Mrs A Wright (salary paid in accordance with contract)	
Tax due on salary payment (Payable to HMRC only)	£116.40

(9.2) **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted at £10339.31.

### **10. Planning**

No further Planning applications had been received for consideration of comments. The parish council had received an update on recent applications from Cllr Watkinson.

**11. Update on parish drainage, pipe work and any flooding issues**

It was reported that the ditches were working so far during recent spells of rain. There was no further update on the outstanding pipe-work behind the bus shelter at Cobhall Common.

**12. Speeding and road safety – update if applicable**

The Ward Cllr had mentioned the initiative on speeding at the Kilpeck Parish Council Meeting. Proposals for safety measures had been sent to Herefordshire Council in the form of the road safety findings collaboration document. The suggestions would all be funding dependent. There had been a further accident near Locks Garage between a push bike and a vehicle. Traffic calming was believed to be needed. Police were doing speed-watch but their speed audit had indicated that speeding was not a “sufficient issue.”

**13. Broadband – update**

Cllr Cramp updated the meeting regarding the broadband position. Church Road were no longer eligible for the grants and that a company, “Airband”, were considering putting in the supply. This was to be reviewed every four to five months. “Airband” were gathering data and considering their position. The EE service was described as “worse than it was”.

**14. To review the Lengthsman Contract works, grant and update**

The Annual Maintenance Plan had been sent in. Repairs at Goose Pool and Church Road were scheduled to link up pipes. Five maintenance days were planned. The first half would be grant funded and with the second half “match funded” at £1290.00.

**15. Items for next Agenda**

All the usual items would be on the Agenda in September 2023. Plus Co-option of councillor, budget and precept

**16. Confirmation of date of next Meeting**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 from 7.45 pm at the Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 8.20 pm

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

Dated: - 16 November 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](http://www.allensmore.org.uk)