

Minutes of Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 28th January 2016 at 8.00pm at Allensmore Village Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs A Wright (Clerk), Ward Councillor Jon Johnson, 1 member 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 no apologies received. Cllr C Watkinson was not present.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Open Session

No matters were raised.

5. Brief Verbal Reports:

5.1 Local Policing Team. Bulletin Updates had been circulated. The Ward Cllr had spoken to the Police Service regarding the lack of personnel and their non attendance at meetings. The Service is looking into the fact that the officers are not able to attend.

5.2 Footpath Officer: The Footpath Officer was not present.

5.3 Lengthsman Co-ordinator: Cllr Jeremy Lawrence reported that there were ditching requirements to be carried out and he would speak with the Lengthsman. It was confirmed that the Parish would continue in both the Footpath and Lengthsman Schemes for 2016/2017 at the same level of funding as in 2015/2016. The drain was working at Cobhall Common - the ditch was full but was still flowing well.

5.4 Locality Steward

Dave Atkinson was not present.

5.5 Ward Councillor

Ward Cllr Jon Johnson updated the meeting with his report (sic) as follows:

"Allensmore Parish Council, Ward update Wednesday, 28 January 2016

Happy New Year to you all!

One of the largest tasks in the Council at the moment is the budget for 2016 - 17. With figures and calculations only coming through from central government at late stages of last year changes are still impacting the coming year, and the budget to be taken to the full Council in February.

Locks garage junction update

I emailed out to all parish councillors the information that I received, but the general overview is that the design engineers, of the junction, have reported that the work is still not fully completed, and there is further work to be done. The main issues that have been raised though are that the junction is very dark at night and the signage is inadequate. This is all being looked at and completed please contact me or your parish councillors if you have any further concerns, I will keep pushing to get the work completed.

Herefordshire smallholdings update

As you'll be aware a Cabinet decision was made that the smallholdings estate should be sold.

Therefore, now the decision has been made, a plan is now being developed for the implementation of a sale which we expect to get sightings of a draft in late March early April time. Until that point there is no answer to how that may proceed.

Number one Ledbury Road

This is the provision that has been under threat due to the funding body bringing its funding to an end. This was a huge concern, as alternative provisions for young people and families with fundamental health and medical needs, was not easy to find. However the council have commissioned a further year's funding as plans are made for alternative provisions. A consultation started on 11 January 2016, so please refer the council newsroom to find information, if you have any thoughts of use please log on and have your say.

Southern link road SC2

A brief update, the council are currently working with Historic England around some aspects that came in from the last consultation. They are hoping that this work will be completed by March and then the application can go forward to the planning committee.

Council tax relief grant

Full council supported the reduction of the council tax relief grant scheme, this grant is in place to support those there are that are assessed to be at risk of being unable to pay the full cost of their council tax. Within these changes it should be noted that any retired person is exempt from the change. Receivers of the reduction will now receive 80% reduction rather than the 84% they previously received. If you know anyone that is affected by this or has concerns over this then they should feel free to contact me Jon.Johnson@Herefordshire.gov.uk or call or text me on (07989) 399670, as there will be an assessment available from a hardship fund should anyone find themselves in a difficult position"

The Ward Cllr also stated that he was still in conversation with Balfour Beatty about the entire replacement of the Cobhall Common drain as, although flowing, the concrete was being eroded.

6. To approve minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 26th November 2015.

Resolved: - The Minutes of the Meeting, held on 26th November 2015, were approved by the Council and then signed by the Chairman

7. Clerk Update on Action Items

The Clerk updated the meeting regarding the Lengthsman scheme and contracts plus issues regarding the future of the scheme.

There were also updates on the Local Transport Review including a major reduction in bus service provision. Other items were covered under the appropriate sections.

8. To note correspondence

The Clerk advised re some of the correspondence received including

9. Finance

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

Mrs A Wright (salary £332.60, mileage £14.40, cartridge £44.99)	£391.99
Tax due on salary payment (Payable to The Post Office)	£83.20
Total	£475.19

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

9.3 To confirm precept request: The request form had been sent to the Herefordshire Council to confirm the parish's request.

9.4 To adopt the Donations Policy. The Donations Policy for Allensmore was proposed for adoption by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Cooke. This was carried.

9.5 To consider a request for a donation from ACAG

The request for a donation was considered by the Parish Council. Following consideration, and advice taken from HALC, it was resolved that the request would be declined. The request did not meet the Donations Policy criteria and it was not the policy of the Parish Council to donate to Action Groups.

10. Planning

There had been one application recently commented on that had been withdrawn:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:	153121 - Land South of Bowling Green Farm, Clehonger, Hereford, Herefordshire,
DESCRIPTION:	Proposed erection of 4 no broiler rearing buildings, 10 no feed bins, boiler building, straw storage building, hard standings, attenuation pond and re-alignment of access.
PARISH:	Allensmore
APPLICATION TYPE:	Planning Permission

There had been two further new applications to be commented on:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:	153691 - Land off Gardiners Oak, Clehonger, Herefordshire, HR2 0EL
DESCRIPTION:	Proposed erection of 4 detached bungalows and garages with ancillary works.
APPLICANT(S):	The Owner and/or Occupier
GRID REF:	OS 344681, 237320
APPLICATION TYPE:	Planning Permission

The Parish Council commented as follows:

The Parish Council of Allensmore has considered the planning application, as detailed. There is no outright objection to the application, however the new properties would appear to be placed over the top of the existing "soak aways" for properties already built at the location. There are therefore concerns around how efficient drainage is to be achieved and also for the existing sewerage network and water supply.

also:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:	153368 - Trap House Farmhouse, Allensmore, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 9BP
DESCRIPTION:	Proposed sun room to rear and new

	detached garage.
APPLICANT(S):	Mr R Wall
GRID REF:	OS 345196, 235411
APPLICATION TYPE:	Full Householder

This application was considered, via e mail, and the following response returned:

“There is concern as to the height and dimensions of the proposed garage and possible closeness to, and overshadowing of, the neighbouring property. There is some concern expressed, also, as to the overall gradual enlargement of the original property”.

11. To discuss further developments regarding broadband provision

The meeting heard an update on the position regarding local broad band. Qualification criteria were being looked at and other options explored as well as Open Reach. Cllr Cramp explained that a working group, Cllrs S Lawrence, T Cramp, Jeremy Lawrence and Mr Hancocks were looking at options for a community venture and an online enquiry form had received 72 responses to date. Following up with leaflets, a further 17 households making 89 in total have signed up to try to arrange a community package. Further details of numbers were as follows and a link for more information is included:

“A total of 72 households responded asking to be included, with a large majority (92%) needing broadband for general social and domestic uses such as emails, browsing, banking etc. In addition, over half (54%) of the households need it for working from home, over a third (36%) for running a business and nearly a quarter (22%) to support full or part time education. A few other uses were also given such as for gaming, video calls, running an educational charity and running a local facility. There are also around 70 more households in the parish who might want to be included but have not responded so far, so we will be following up with those households to see if they are interested. Once we have done that, we will be providing the list of households who want to be included in the project to BT’s Community Fibre team.”

Further information is available at: broadband@allensmore.org.uk

12. Update on parish drainage, pipe work and flooding issues

The issues were as reported previously under the Lengthsman update item 5.3 and the Ward Cllr update 5.5.

13. Village Matters

Cllr Williams advised that the church weather vane had still not been refitted, however the church roof was now watertight.

14. Items for next Agenda

Update on drainage issues and broad band update

15. Confirmation of date of next Meeting

The next Meeting will be held on Thursday 24th March 2016, at the Allensmore Village Hall at 8.00pm.

Due to the confidential nature of the business of this agenda item, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3) it is proposed to put forward a motion to exclude members of the public during discussion of this agenda item

16. To discuss the Clerk's Incremental Progression on anniversary of employment on 1/12/15

The Clerk and public left the room and the Clerk's review was discussed. The Clerk was recalled to the meeting and advised that the incremental rise on the salary scale had been resolved to be awarded from 1/12/15. Proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr S Lawrence. Carried.

The Meeting closed at 9.07pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

28th January 2016

Signedas a true record by Councillor (Chairman)

Dated: - 24th March 2016

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