

Minutes of Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 24th March 2016 at 8.00pm at Allensmore Village Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs A Wright (Clerk), Ward Councillor Jon Johnson, The Footpath Officer Debbie Mumford and 11 members 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.

3. Declarations of Interest

There was one declarations of interest. This was from Cllr Cramp who mentioned that he was a Director of Data Orchard, providing Neighbourhood Planning advice.

4. Open Session

During the Open Session those present heard an update on the broad band situation on the area. Allpay were pulling the plug on the service they provided and Cllr Cramp explained about the speeds obtainable from the Belmont cabinet number 73. The speeds were okay close to the cabinet but then dropped off as you got further away from it until they were virtually no speed at all down by the Allensmore Church. The idea of user a line checker to ascertain speeds was noted. Some levels being reported via line checker are not actually being achieved at the premises making the enquiry.

The idea of grant or loan funding of a community venture to fund a community fibre idea with BT was being investigated. The possibilities of funding from Awards for All and other sources were being looked into as was any possible role of the Parish Council in facilitating such a venture. Likely costs of the project could range from £20 to £50 thousand pounds. There were ideas being looked into regarding the possibility of borrowing funds at a zero rate of interest and repaying this via an increased precept allocation but this would require careful thought as not all residents may benefit and all would be paying increased precept payments.

Satellite broad band was also a possibility but with costs of £35 to £40 per month for a fairly limited capacity only. More cost may give greater number of gigabits. Mobile data from 3G or 4G networks were a possibility but some areas were experiencing poor

signals. They may not be suitable for serious internet use. 3 or EE appear to have the best coverage at present. There will be a gap in service while possible community options are researched and sorted out. 95 households have, so far, signed up to be part of a community broad band venture.

The Ward Cllr had been trying to keep all lines of communication going. Some households were in the commercial area for Fastershire, some were not. Some cabinets were being enabled but there was no direct information about when they will be switched on. The Ward Cllr had also contacted the MP Jesse Norman and suggested that all residents contact him also. The Hungerstone – Wormbridge line all Allpay contracts will end at the end of May 2016. Answers are needed as to when BT will be coming on. Allpay had been asked to keep the service going for as long as they could but they had now come to a point when their admin team had all but gone. The Ward Cllr explained that Allpay have not finalised their communications plan yet and have not conveyed the final cut off date. The Ward Cllr would e mail Tony at Allpay directly to enquire.

Another company with a predilection for businesses was out there. This was Airband and for an upfront fee of £3000.00 and a group of at least eight in a syndicate they would consider deployment. A resident had made contact with Airband who had stated that they had no plans to bring the service to Allensmore as there was no coverage.

The 3G option was explained further and was said to be quite good as regards signal and was usable. Cllr Cramp would talk to Airband again.

It was noted that some of Kingstone Village are on Allpay contracts. Ward Cllr Johnson was fighting for an answer as to why BT was not “rolling out” a commercial contract in Allensmore. There was a further discussion regarding Herefordshire Council and BT involvement in the contract and the non delivery of broad band in terms of commercial viability. A further possible option being a box trial idea, Mifi unit, was mentioned where one could trial a product for seven days for a cost of £30.00 and then, if no good for you, talk to customer services regarding a refund. A code was required to obtain the refund.

Further discussion on the whole broad band issue would continue once BT had responded to the last line of questioning.

There was a thank you recorded to Cllr Cramp for all of his investigative work on the subject.

5. Brief Verbal Reports:

5.1 Local Policing Team. Bulletin Updates had been circulated.

5.2 Footpath Officer: The Footpath Officer updated the meeting regarding the works to install gates as planned. Gates were on order and planned works were financed

pending completion. This was in order that the delay in obtaining the relevant gates did not hold up payment of the grant funding.

5.3 Lengthsman Co-ordinator: Cllr Jeremy Lawrence reported that the ditches up by the "pool" had been cleared and also the ones at Bishops and Gethin Field. Description of works invoiced for March and carried out from Terry as follows:

<p>Description of work carried out:-</p> <p>Specific Task Work.</p> <p>Highway Drainage Maintenance.</p> <p><u>C1222.</u> <u>Hazelbrook area.</u> Carryout work to reduce flooding of the road and avoid standing water on the road hazard.</p> <p><u>Notes.</u></p> <p>The road culvert junction chamber is not in the gateway at it was thought to be so we need to research local knowledge to locate it in order to get best results from this drainage work.</p>

5.4 Locality Steward

Dave Atkinson was not present.

5.5 Ward Councillor

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

"Allensmore Parish Council April 2016.

Wormside Ward Report

Hereford Bypass: 6th of June is the date that has been set for the Southern Relief Road, the first leg of the Hereford Bypass.

A49 Petition – An online petition has gathered over the 2500 signatures calling for something to be done to the road layout and markings in Grafton following the accident on the 16th March. This petition will be handed to Full Council on the 20th May

Allpay – *Just to keep you up to date, Council Officers and Cllr Powell meet with the powers of openreach over the past two week and are working hard to get the fastershire roll out in operation before the ceasing of the service by Allpay.*

SHYPP – A call in was made to the General Overview and Scrutiny Committee this month to review the cabinet decision regarding funding SHYPP. The decision was debated following the noticeable lack of information referred to that had been provided by SHYPP. It was concluded that a recommendation for it to go back before cabinet was important, and there was a reassurance that although there is restructuring SHYPP as an organisation would clearly be remaining in the county for the good and award winning work they do to support vulnerable and homeless young people.

News from the council news room: The amount of young people that are not accessing education, training or employment in Herefordshire has dropped to an all-time low putting Herefordshire ranked 5th out of the 13 Councils in the West Midlands.”

6. To approve minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 28th January 2016.

Resolved: - The Minutes of the Meeting, held on 28th January 2016, were approved by the Council and then signed by the Chairman. There was the completion of the correspondence items, at item 8, as the list of items was not showing in the draft copy.

7. Clerk Update on Action Items

The Clerk updated the Meeting regarding planning items, VAT refund, lengthsman contract and auditor arrangements for the end of year finances.

8. To note correspondence

The Clerk advised re some of the correspondence received including correspondence over an overpayment of VAT refund, repayment by AON UK Limited of an overpaid insurance premium, bank account business transaction changes and police commissioner election candidate manifesto information.

9. Finance

9.1 **Resolved:** The following list of payments were approved, prop by Cllr Watkinson and sec Cllr Cooke:

Mrs A Wright (salary £332.60, mileage £11.48, home office £50.00)	£394.08
Tax due on salary payment (Payable to The Post Office)	£83.20
Mr T Cramp (Web hosting)	£38.39
Herefordshire Council (Elections)	£44.20
HALC Subscription 2016/2017	£450.64
HMRC (reimbursement of double VAT repayment)	£413.64
Terry Griffiths (Lengthsman)	£420.00

Longfield Services (P3 Footpaths)		£720.00
	Total	£2564.15

9.2 **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted. There had been a credit cheque received from the Insurer, AON UK Limited, for £14.78.

The internal auditor, Mr Trefor Edwards, would be asked to look at and verify the accounts again this year.

10. Planning

There had been one application received:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:	160582 - Courtlands, Allensmore, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 9AB
DESCRIPTION:	Proposed polytunnel and replacement building to provide two storey office and dry storage facilities. Alterations to access and carparking.
APPLICANT(S):	The Owner and/or Occupier
GRID REF:	OS 346501, 236462
APPLICATION TYPE:	Planning Permission

The Parish Council discussed the application and determined that an extension to the deadline for response should be obtained and further detail regarding the activities be sought. The response would then be determined depending on the outcome of the additional information enquiry.

11. To discuss further developments regarding broadband provision and up to date ideas regarding the supply of service

The meeting heard an update on the position regarding local broad band during the Open Session.

12. To discuss and determine the possible undertaking of Neighbourhood Development Plan for the parish

It had been noted that the areas around Winnal and Cobhall had been earmarked for potential housing stock growth. The Ross housing market area was looking at a minimum of 14% growth in housing by 2031. Grants can be obtained to help with the cost of undertaking a plan for the parish. There would be consultation and ultimately a referendum of the parish residents before the plan was formally adopted and became part of the planning regulations. If no Plan is undertaken then the Planning Authority will look at the area to designate areas for potential development under a new initiative.

The Plan provides an opportunity for the community to have a say on the type, style and, size of homes etc. Issues about parking, speeding, the protection of green spaces, employment and industrial activity will all come into the plan remit.

It was agreed that a speaker, on Neighbourhood Planning, would be invited to the May Parish Council Meeting. This would likely be Sam Banks from the Herefordshire Planning Department. The parish area would need to be designated. There was the consideration that half of Poplar Road had been included in the designated area for Clehonger's Neighbourhood Plan.

The May Meeting would be the Annual Parish Meeting also so the fact that a speaker would be in attendance would be publicised.

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

Ward Cllr Johnson stated that it had been confirmed that there was no contamination on the pipe at Cobhall Common. The whole pipe may still have to be replaced as there was silt in the pipe and an issue regarding flow down beside the bungalow. The new pipe had been put in above the old one but it was hoped that it would all be replaced "eventually".

14. Village Matters

The Church had still not had the weather vane refitted. Money had been applied for to pay for refitting this. The coffee mornings and rambles had recommenced.

15. Items for next Agenda

Update on drainage issues and broad band update plus Neighbourhood Plan and clarification regarding the policy on sandbag provision.

16. Confirmation of date of next Meeting

The next Meetings, Annual Parish and Statutory will be held on Thursday 26th May 2016, at the Allensmore Village Hall from 8.00pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

24th March 2016

Signedas a true record by Councillor (Chairman)

Dated: - 26th May 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