

# **Minutes of the Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023, at the Allensmore Village Hall, from 7.45pm**

**In attendance:** Cllrs T Cramp (in the Chair), J Lawrence, S Lawrence, C Watkinson and J Evans plus Mrs A Wright (Clerk), Ward Cllr Christy Bolderson and two members of the public.

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

Cllr Tony Cramp (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies received from Cllrs Y Chapman and S Williams

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **4. Open Session**

No topics were raised.

## **5. Brief Verbal Reports:**

### **5.1 West Mercia Police**

Bulletins had been circulated.

### **5.2 Lengthsman Co-ordinator**

Cllr Jeremy Lawrence had spoken with the Lengthsman a couple of weeks before the meeting. Outstanding items would be actioned. The Locality Steward would be asked to look at "things" across the patch. The new pipe was said to be "working well" and no problems had been advised. The (water) levels were being managed.

### **5.3 Ward Councillor:**

Ward Cllr Christy Bolderson was in attendance at the meeting. She joined the meeting at 7.55 pm and updated regarding: The council tax would be increasing by 4.99%. The council would have to produce a balanced budget, if necessary by using reserves. The 151 Finance Officer at Herefordshire Council had indicated that the reserves were at a "reasonable" level. The formerly known as "purdah" period would be starting on 7 March 2023. This was now called the "pre-election period". Ward Cllr Bolderson advised that she would not be standing for office as Ward Councillor in the forthcoming

elections. There were consultations out for the Master Plan for the city and there was an exhibition at the Maylords Centre in Hereford open until 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023. There was an agricultural plan containing “phosphate loading” predictions also. Drainage improvements made now were saving problems in the future. Herefordshire Council were going through a “great transformation” in a number of aspects. The road infrastructure was acknowledged to be an issue. The roads were getting worse and the budget for their upkeep was getting smaller. Grant funding had been undercut. The pipe near the bus shelter on Cobhall Common was supposed to be being “done” by the end of the current financial year. The Ward Cllr was in liaison with Cllr John Harrington to try to obtain resolution on this. The Chair advised that he would “nudge” the process and copy in the Ward Cllr to the correspondence.

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

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

#### **5.5 Footpath Officer**

Cllr Williams had sent his apologies with a note for the meeting. The gates were not yet fitted but would be as soon as possible. He had walked the footpaths and no issues were advised for the meeting.

#### **6. To approve Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022, were approved by the Council.

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

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

##### **Herefordshire Council**

Talk Community bulletins

Section 106 Portfolio of works delivery update

##### **Dore Community Transport**

Donation request for continued upkeep of the service, with 94 journeys being made by Allensmore residents in 2022

#### **8. Neighbourhood Development Plan and Local Area Plan Consultation comments (as applicable)**

Cllr Chapman had sent her apologies for the meeting. She had advised of an update on e mail as follows including an update on local developments:

**“ST. ANDREW’S CHURCH [*responsible body is the PCC*] – see also under 8bv) on local history**

- Work on conservation and restoration of the church porch was due to be completed before Christmas 2022. Whilst the contractors started promptly and attended regularly, concerns arose that the specifications were not being adhered to. Various meetings have taken place with the architect and contractor and advice has been sought from the Diocesan Advisory Committee who are instrumental in the faculty process. Work on the porch was suspended before Christmas. The re-ordering group has requested that a suitably qualified DAC representative visit to give a second opinion and advise on a potential way forward.
- As reported previously, the conservator’s report on the windows and stained glass indicates that work is required, particularly in terms of the East window [which contains medieval glass] and the vestry window.

**8biii) PATESHALL HALL [*responsible body is the village hall trust*]**

- Nothing new to report.

**8biv) LITTER**

- No organised events have taken place over the winter months.

**8bv) LOCAL HISTORY**

- 5/6 of the church bells were 300 years old in 2022 [the 6<sup>th</sup> bell being recast in 1890 and again in 2003]. Celebratory events took place to coincide with St. Andrew’s Day and the end of November; these included:
  - Ringing the first full peal [5040 changes] since 1986; the conductor of the band also rang in the 1986 peal.
  - A display about the history of the bells and ringing in past times. It was particularly exciting that the research uncovered a wealth of information about the vicar in 1722 whose name – Barnaby Alderson – appears on one of the bells.
  - A St. Andrew’s Day Service that commemorated the bells and which also saw the dedication of the Platinum Jubilee cross made out of remnants of the porch gate by Tony Cramp and David Lloyd to honour the 70 years reign of Elizabeth II in June 2022.

**Local Area Consultations**

Herefordshire Council is running a consultation from 2 December 2022 until 3 February 2023 on its developing masterplan for Hereford City. This plan will explore how best to facilitate movement and connectivity with villages like Allensmore. The current survey appears to focus primarily on eliciting views on the development of the city although there is an aspiration that bus services should reach rural areas ‘to connect people to where they want to go’.

**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)	£136.60
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(9.2) **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted at £11064.23.

(9.3) **Resolved:** to consider request for support from Dore Community Transport  
Consideration was given to a request for support from Dore Community Transport and it was resolved that a donation of £120.00 would be made.

## 10. Planning

There was one new application for consideration of comments:

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 224133 - Hollyville, Allensmore, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 9BP

**DESCRIPTION:** Proposal to extend the existing dwelling under construction (permission 131247) for a two storey extension and conservatory.

**GRID REF:** OS 345313, 235497

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Planning Permission

It was agreed that the parish council had no objections to the proposals in application 224133. Cllr Watkinson would advise the Clerk who would then submit the comments.

Interim comments had been submitted as applicable. Outcomes on some previous planning consultations were advised.

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

The meeting were advised that there had not been any recent flooding issues.

## 12. Speeding and road safety – update

From Cllr Chapman's update: "As requested by Balfour Beatty, the Allensmore Road Safety Plan for the A465 was submitted on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022; however, Balfour Beatty did inform Parish Councils that, due to staff shortages, they would not be able to act on these plans at present."

## 13. Broadband – update

Cllr Cramp updated the meeting regarding the broadband position.

There had been no tender received for the provision of community broadband.

The individual application process for funding had been changed again with plans for a commercial deployment again up for implementation. The open market review had been changed, following an error being identified, but the previous version had been used regardless. It was hoped that this would be reverted in order to enable people to obtain grant assistance to upgrade their broadband provision. A resident at the meeting advised of obtaining improved levels of reception, for less outlay than previously, via a "hybrid router". It was commented that the 4G reception had also improved recently.

**14. Items for next Agenda**

All the usual items would be on the Agenda in March 2023.

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

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

Future Meetings for 2023:

May 18th

July 20th

September 21st

November 16th

The Meeting closed at 8.17 pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

19<sup>h</sup> January 2023

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

Dated: - 16 March 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)