

## **Minutes of the Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 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), Lengthsman Terry Griffiths, Ward Cllr Richard Thomas, two PCSO's from West Mercia, Tally and Chris, plus one member of the public (co-opted).

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

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

### **2. Co-option of councillor(s) (2 vacancies) and acceptance of office**

One new candidate for the post of councillor was present. Tracy Morriss introduced herself and the parish council agreed unanimously that she should be co-opted. The parish council welcomed Tracy to Allensmore PC. One further vacancy remained on the parish council. The newly co-opted Cllr Morriss signed her acceptance of office form.

### **3. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **4. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **5. Open Session**

The meeting were advised of the Repair Café initiative which was being held at the St Michael's Church Hall, Ewyas Harold on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> August from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm. There would be repairers who could mend small electrical appliances such as toasters, kettles, radios, bicycles (loose chains, brakes etc.); clothing repairs, small wooden items, basketwork (handle repairs) and knife and small tool sharpening. There would also be tea, coffee, cold drinks, cakes and biscuits.

**To book a repair call Bill on 07967 910666 or e mail [gvrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:gvrepaircafe@gmail.com)**

There would be further repair cafés held on September 2<sup>nd</sup> at Dorstone Church and October 7<sup>th</sup> at Kingstone Church. The team were aiming to hold future cafés on the first Saturday of each month. People were welcome to call in and see what goes on, but to book up if requiring a repair to avoid disappointment.

The team needed to recruit a qualified electrical PAT Tester for electrical items.

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

### **6.1 West Mercia Police**

Bulletins had been circulated. Two members of the team were present at the meeting. They introduced themselves, PCSO's Tally and Chris. The PCSO's updated the meeting regarding issues with dangerous drivers. A drunk driver had recently been apprehended and with the vehicle also being untaxed. The vehicle was recovered. The meeting were asked to pass on the vehicle registrations numbers of any suspects to the police. A theft of petrol from Locks Garage was also reported. The PCSO's advised signing up to the Neighbourhood Matters bulletins on e mail. Details of this were on the West Mercia website. Subscribe or unsubscribe at any time. The police representatives left the meeting at 8.07 pm.

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

The Lengthsman was present at the meeting and the new contract and grant funding was discussed.

### **6.3 Ward Councillor:**

Ward Cllr Richard Thomas updated regarding councils working jointly on road safety. Kilpeck and Allensmore had been linked on the concerns and the report findings had been sent to the Ward Cllr. It was confirmed that Kilpeck parish would like to continue the co-operation on working to improve safety on the A465.

Work was still due for completion on the pipework behind the bus shelter across "Murrayfield". The completion was still in the budget but just awaiting delivery.

A recent meeting between Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty had given rise to the general feeling that the "council were not that happy with the way the contract was being performed at the moment". Inspections would "probably be coming back "in house".

The Ward Cllr advised that he was a member of the Planning Committee and would be looking at the planning applications but would not be able to "give a measured opinion unless viewed". The Ward Cllr would support the parish council's viewpoints as regards planning.

The Ward Cllr updated regarding Children's Services, £19 million of a £39 million budget had already been spent. Roads were "not getting an extensive budget".

The Ward Cllr highlighted some issues with developers and drainage problems. It was commented that "decisions were being taken at desk rather than at the actual location."

### **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 would sort out the footpath signage at Goose Pool. The bridge at Blackhall Lane would be trimmed around. It was reported that the bridge on AN12, that was awaiting installation, had already been replaced when the fitting team got there.

### 7. To approve Minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Council Meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**Resolved:** - The Minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Council Meetings, held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 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

### 10. Finance

(10.1) **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 £11083.10.

### 11. 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.

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

Action had been taken at the "Alma Corner" location to help alleviate the localised flooding. The Lengthsman Co-ordinator had a list of recurring tasks and "hot spots" noted and would be directing action time for these to be dealt with.

### 13. Speeding and road safety – update if applicable

The report that had been produced had been sent to the Ward Cllr. It would be checked as to who else had been sent the details.

### 14. Broadband – update

Cllr Cramp updated the meeting regarding the broadband position. The cost of deployment was being looked into and Airband still had "some potential." The BDUK consultation had not included the area. The zone was classified as "white" either covered, or it would be in the near future.

### **15. To review and sign the Lengthsman Contract for 2023 - 2024**

The Lengthsman was in attendance at the meeting. Terry Griffiths declared an interest in the matters relating to the Lengthsman Contract as his company were providing the service. The grant funding application details were discussed and it was agreed that the specific requirements for drainage and lengthsman works would be identified and itemised and there would be built in provision for maintenance days. There were two parts to the new grant and the parish could obtain up to £2170.00 as a direct grant and up to £2170.00 matched funding. It was agreed that Terry would advise of the specific amounts for the Goose Pool and Church Road projects and that the remainder would comprise maintenance days. The form would be completed and submitted to Balfour Beatty with the signed contract document.

### **16. Items for next Agenda**

All the usual items would be on the Agenda in September 2023. Plus Lengthsman update.

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

The next Meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 from 7.45 pm at the Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 9.08 pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

20<sup>st</sup> July 2023

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

Dated: - 21 September 2022

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)