

Minutes of the Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 16th November 2023, at the Allensmore Village Hall, from 7.45pm

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

1. Introduction and welcome by the Chair

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

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

No candidates were presented this time. The advertisement of the second casual vacancy, following the sad death of Cllr Tracy Morriss, was underway.

3. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr J Evans.

4. Declarations of Interest

There was one declaration of interest, from Cllr Lawrence, in relation to the planning application 233136 for 7, Woodland Park.

5. Open Session

There were two people present from the "Hereford Gospel Trust" to talk about planning application 233221. The Trust had purchased the Tram Inn Public House site and with the intention of erecting a new gospel hall and some light industrial units on the site. The planning site fell within a neighbouring parish's area. The Allensmore Parish Council did not resolve to make any comments on the application 233221.

6. Brief Verbal Reports:

6.1 West Mercia Police

Bulletins had been circulated.

6.2 Lengthsman Co-ordinator

The Lengthsman Co-ordinator advised that he would be in contact with the Lengthsman to progress the identified works as required.

6.3 Ward Councillor:

Ward Cllr Richard Thomas updated regarding Herefordshire Councils road safety movement within the new council set up. The Ward Cllr advised that Balfour Beatty were "not worthy of their position". The service being provided was described as "not acceptable". There would be no renewal of contract if improvements were not made during the remaining part of the contract during 2024 to 2025. There were talks being held around taking the whole service back "in house". The Ward Cllr advised that the inspection of the service would be coming back in house, regardless, as you cannot be both "poacher and gamekeeper". An extra £2.5 million pounds had been set aside for pothole repairs. Some changes will be seen in the Highways Department. Cllr Thomas advised that he was sitting on planning committee and also on scrutiny committees.

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 there were some loose boards on the footbridge of path AN8, where the boards were rotting away. Cllr Williams would see if the landowner could get in contact regarding their replacement. There was also a similar issue with the footbridge on path AN12.

7. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st September 2023.

Resolved: - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 21st September 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

Information circulated regarding new by-law information for tattoo parlours etc.

National Joint Council

Pay Award agreement from 1/4/2023

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)	£103.40
Herefordshire Council Elections expenses	£158.10

(9.2) **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted at £12826.02. This amount included the ring-fenced amount of £379.00 being the pipe crowd funding project surplus.

(9.3) to consider the budget and determine precept request for 2024 – 2025

Cllr Cramp circulated an analysis of the budget figures and the position on funding was discussed. After discussion, the parish council resolved that the precept request for 2024 – 2025 would be £6500.00.

10. Planning

Two further planning applications had been received for consideration of comments. The parish council had also received an update on recent applications from Cllr Watkinson.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 233136 - 7 Woodland Park, Allensmore, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 9BX

DESCRIPTION: Proposed erection of a single-bay garage.

GRID REF: OS 345650, 235377

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

Cllr Lawrence declared an interest in the application. The application was discussed and Cllr Watkinson would circulate comments ahead of submission.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 233299 - Hill Side, Gorsty Common Road, Allensmore, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 9BQ

DESCRIPTION: Proposed erection of storage barn for purposes related to the management of the agricultural land upon which it is situated and for storage purposes incidental to the enjoyment of Hillside.

GRID REF: OS 345140, 236574

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The Parish Council discussed the application 233299. The council would be objecting to the application on the scale and prominence of the structure in the landscape and on environmental grounds. Cllr Watkinson would circulate comments ahead of submission.

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

The council had received the go ahead for the grant for proposed drainage works to be carried out at Goose Pool and at Church Road. There was also funding for several maintenance days. An identified blocked gully may require a bigger grid to be installed, this would be checked. The pipe upgrade behind the bus shelter at Cobhall was supposed to be going ahead in December 2023.

12. Speeding and road safety – update if applicable

The Ward Cllr said that the parish could push further with Kilpeck Council but the report produced already was very “strong and clear” in the findings. The Balfour Beatty Public Realm Company was on a “warning” so there may be a change of attitude? The highway safety report could be resent and copied to Andy Byng. There had been a couple of recent significant incidents.

13. Broadband – update

Cllr Cramp updated the meeting regarding the broadband position. The area was back and included under the Gigabit Scheme. The scheme had been under review and had now been changed to include the area under lot 15 of UK Gigabit.

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

The Annual Maintenance Plan had been accepted. Repairs at Goose Pool and Church Road were scheduled to link up pipes. Five maintenance days were planned. The grant would need to be spent by the end of March 2024.

15. Items for next Agenda

All the usual items would be on the Agenda in September 2023, also on the agenda - Co-option of councillor and the NJC Pay Award from 1/4/23 plus road safety.

16. Confirmation of date of next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as 18th January 2024 from 7.45 pm at the Village Hall.

Future Meetings for 2024: March 21st, May 23rd, July 18th, September 19th and November 21st

The Meeting closed at 9.08 pm

Signedas a true record by Councillor (Chairman)

Dated: - 18 January 2024

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