

Minutes of the Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 18th January 2024, at the Allensmore Village Hall, from 7.45pm

In attendance: Cllrs T Cramp (in the Chair), J Lawrence, J Evans, 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 (2 current vacancies) and acceptance of office

No candidates were presented this time.

3. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

4. Declarations of Interest

There was one declaration of interest, from Cllr Williams, in relation to matters about the Hillside planning application – number 233299.

5. Open Session

There was a resident present who had some concerns about damage done by parking on the grass area next to the Cobhall Common bus shelter. There had been new 9 inch diameter pipe work installed, approximately 12 inches under the ground to help mitigate flooding, and there were concerns that cars parking on top of the grass area may lead to disturbance of the pipe beneath. There was also the churning up of the grass area as a result of the tyres crossing it. There were also potholes in the road in the vicinity of the grass area. The land was publicly owned. The resident had spoken with the owner of the car that was being parked on the grass, and the owner was not seemingly willing to move from the spot. The resident indicated that he would be willing to landscape the area with maybe a bench, rock and a new notice board? The access to the manhole had a "dipstick". There may be a cone(s) placed over it? The vulnerability of the pipe was recorded as a concern. The new pipe was lying over the existing pipe. A referral had been asked, through the Locality Steward, to the team responsible for the drainage situation. The protection of the pipe and safeguarding of the asset from crushing was important. Maybe the team could install verge markers? The matter would be reiterated to the Locality Steward.

Another resident was present and they spoke about the planning consultation for Hillside, number 233299. This was for the “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.” The parish council heard representation from the applicant and resolved that they would go and meet with the applicant, on site, to look at the situation.

6. Brief Verbal Reports:

6.1 West Mercia Police

Bulletins had been circulated when received.

Lengthsman Co-ordinator

The Lengthsman Co-ordinator advised about works that were planned around Goose Pool, plus Church Road and also there were some considerations of possible works around the area near the Cats Protection, in terms of re-opening a trench system. The co-ordinator would look at this with the Lengthsman.

6.2 Ward Councillor:

Ward Cllr Richard Thomas updated regarding Herefordshire Councils recent road safety initiative, following recent road issues, and this included to renew white lines on the A465, particularly outside the Pontrilas Timber business, as a priority. The Ward Cllr advised how the amount of grant funding available per kilometre for lengthsman activities appeared to have been halved suddenly, with rural parishes getting less per km than urban parishes. It was hoped that this decision would be reversed under review (but this had not been confirmed.)

6.4 Balfour Beatty (Locality Steward)

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

6.5 Footpath Officer

Cllr Williams updated regarding the footpath footbridge on AN8 at Willow Brook. The situation had been logged under Log number 13102697 and the Inspector would be coming out to take a look.

7. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th November 2023.

Resolved: - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 16th November 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 concerning the casual vacancy co-option

Resident

E mail received concerning drainage and ditching concerns around the area of the Cats Protection building

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)	£116.40
Dore Community Transport (Donation)	£125.00

(9.2) **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted at £12197.67. This amount included the ring-fenced amount of £379.00 being the pipe crowd funding project surplus. A VAT reclaim of £900.00 had been made.

(9.3) to consider request for a donation to the Dore Community Transport – 94 journeys had been made on behalf of residents in the parish during 2023. The parish council resolved to donate £125.00.

10. Planning

There were no new planning applications for consideration of comments.

The parish council had also received an update on recent applications from Cllr Watkinson. The planning consultation for Hillside was under review. Details of the consultation as below:

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

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

The council heard reported that pipes were working well.

12. Speeding and road safety – update if applicable

No further update.

13. Broadband – update

Cllr Cramp updated the meeting regarding the broadband position. The Church Road area was eligible for the "Gigabit" Scheme. There was tendering being undertaken for the first tranche. The local area was not included in this tender though.

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

The works had been covered in the Lengthsman update at the Agenda item covering reports.

15. Items for next Agenda

All the usual items would be on the Agenda in March 2024, also on the agenda - co-option of councillor

16. Confirmation of date of next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as 21st March 2024 from 7.45 pm at the Village Hall.

Due to the confidential nature of the business of these agenda items, 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 the following agenda item (17 only)

17. To discuss implementation of 1/04/23 pay award (back dated) and increment from 1/04/23 in line with HALC and NJC correspondence

The members of the public, and the Clerk, left the room for the discussion of item 17. The parish council resolved that the NJC Pay Award should be implemented together with an incremental uplift, with effect from 1/04/23, and the arrears backdated.

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

The Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

18th January 2024

Signedas a true record by Councillor (Chairman)

Dated: - 21 March 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