

Minutes of the Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 19th September 2024, at the Allensmore Village Hall, from 7.45pm

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

1. Introduction and welcome by the Chair

Cllr Tony Cramp (in the Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

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 received.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Open Session

There was a discussion between members of the public, who were representing other local residents also, and some representatives from the company, Perfection Homes, who were building a selection of new houses on a site in Church Road, Allensmore. There were some questions about deliveries, and access to the site, plus the timing of start of site activity and the building company gave some reassurance about an entry and exit plan to help minimise any inconvenience to residents, and consideration about the timings of deliveries etc. The contractors said that they were very willing to keep a dialogue going with residents, and to try to liaise with the neighbouring households regarding any concerns about the development going forward.

6. Brief Verbal Reports:

6.1 West Mercia Police

Bulletins had been circulated when received.

6.2 Ward Councillor:

Ward Cllr Richard Thomas advised that there was to be new white lining painted onto the A465. He commented on the suggestions around devolution and said that Herefordshire did not appear to have a “natural partner” for any prospective amalgamation. He commented that a neighbouring county, Shropshire, was experiencing “financial difficulties.” The Ward Cllr advised that the Southern Link Road was anticipated to still be going ahead, with a start of construction aiming for the end of 2026. The bypass was still in question, it was commented by the Ward Cllr that it “might be shelved.”

The end of the Balfour Beatty Contract in 2026 was prompting the looking into a new model for the delivery of public realm services. Major jobs would be divided up into five monetary categories and bids for work would be invited from contractors. The Ward Cllr advised that he was hoping for more work to be carried out on the B4348.

6.3 Balfour Beatty (Locality Steward)

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

6.4 Footpath Officer

Cllr Williams advised that the request for grant funding for the Public Rights of Way tasks had gone back again with some revision to the bid. There was a request for materials and there would also be use made of some volunteer labour. Bids were in for a replacement bridge on path AN28 which was in need of attention. A query about this had been raised by the Open Spaces Society Representative and had been added to the revised request for the grant. The outcome of the application for the grant would be chased up. The Footpath Officer would look into who was dealing with the matters at Herefordshire Council.

7. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th July 2024.

Resolved: - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 18th July 2024, were approved by the Council and signed by the Chair

8. To receive any correspondence and Information Update

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

Herefordshire Council

Talk Community bulletins

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) £112.80

(9.2) **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted at £10512.59. This amount included the ring-fenced amount of £379.00 being the pipe crowd funding project surplus.

(9.3) to consider matters relating to the website, as raised by Cllr Cramp
Cllr Cramp explained that there had been a proposed change to the hosting of the web service provider upon which the parish website sat. There was a small annual contribution of £25.00 for the new provision, of the service, by a local provider. The parish council confirmed acceptance of the transfer, under the advised arrangements.

10. Planning

There were no new planning applications for consideration of comments.

Cllr Watkinson had sent the regular update on planning for the parish. The Ward Cllr advised that the Planning Department was back up to "full strength" in terms of numbers of officers dealing with planning matters. This should result in a speeding up of processing of applications.

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

The council heard that Cllr Lawrence would be leading with the direction of jobs for the Lengthsman. These were advised as being on schedule. Target jobs and maintenance days were being carried out. Any bid for drainage works required would need to be submitted as the deadline for applications was coming closer, 27th September. No flooding issues were reported of concern at the meeting. There would be more drainage grants next year, but they may not be "as generous". The drainage issue by the Three Horseshoes Public House was still pending a resolution.

12. To consider possible adaptations to the Cobhall Common bus shelter.

Some ideas for future use of the shelter were being considered. A reading room was one such idea. The item would be put on the agenda for the November parish council meeting but the parish council were minded to endorse improvements to the shelter, such as the clearance of vegetation from around it and the installation of a UPVC window, in the rear of the shelter, to improve lighting and help with the transformation.

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

Updated at item 11

14. Items for next Agenda

All the usual items would be on the Agenda in November 2024, also on the agenda - co-option of councillor(s), finance and precept for 2025 – 2026 and more on the Cobhall Common bus shelter adaption

15. Date of next Meeting

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

The Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

19th September 2024

Signedas a true record by Councillor (Chairman)

Dated: - 21 November 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