

Minutes of the Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2025, at the Allensmore Village Hall, from 7.45pm

In attendance: Cllrs T Cramp (in the Chair), J Lawrence, S Grenar 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 (1 current vacancy) and acceptance of office

There were no new candidates present for co-option.

3. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence received from Cllrs J Evans and S Williams.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Open Session

There was a discussion about some ongoing drainage problems in relation to a new local housing development. There had been some incidence of flooding around some of the existing properties, twice in the preceding six week period. The culvert nearby had been blocked with hedge cuttings and debris. Cllr J Lawrence had cleared the passage of water. The drainage grant would be looked at to try to help improve drainage and pipe work in the area. Cllr Lawrence would ask the Lengthsman for an idea of the cost of trying to rectify the drainage issue.

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 would be bigger drainage grants available for 2025 – 2026. Parishes would know about the local drainage issues and dealing with these locally was thought to represent better value for money for the budget available.

The Devolution paper would likely recommend the amalgamation of Herefordshire with another county. The Ward Cllr advised that Herefordshire was taking a "sit on hands" approach on the subject for a while. There was a 500,000 head count criteria set on authority merger. The only possible partner was Shropshire and this county was already experiencing "serious financial problems." The view was to "see what happens". There were proposals for many more houses to be built and the Southern Link Road was aiming to be progressed to a go ahead in the Autumn of 2026. This was subject to criteria.

The Ward Cllr described the Herefordshire take back of the Public Rights of Way as having become a "complete failure". It was thought that the parishes should be given the funding because they would "do a better job".

6.3 Balfour Beatty (Locality Steward)

James Howells, the Locality Steward, had left his post. Details of his replacement would be advised. The new person would be starting in post at the end of January.

6.4 Footpath Officer

Cllr Williams had sent his apologies for absence. He had reported that he was obtaining additional quotations for bridge installation works.

7. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st November 2024.

Resolved: - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 21st November 2024, were approved by the Council and signed by the Chair

8. To receive any correspondence and decisions regarding broadband

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

Herefordshire Council

Talk Community bulletins

The broadband situation was still awaiting feedback from Open Reach. A local developer was having fibre broadband installed into the new properties. The box would potentially be able to service a considerable number of properties within a certain range. Numbers could be put forward as systems would be looking to expand on numbers. Cllr Grenar was making enquiries with a contact at Airband as regards any progress regarding a bulk application.

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)	£149.20
Dore Community Transport (Donation)	£130.00

A request for funding support from Dore Community Transport was considered and a donation of £130.00 towards the running of the transport service was agreed. Dore Community Transport had provided 214 journeys to residents of the parish in 2024.

(9.2) **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted at £12560.01. This amount included the ring-fenced amount of £379.00 being the pipe crowd funding project surplus.

(9.3) to consider possible support for the Herefordshire Histories Festival
The parish council reviewed a supporting statement from Yvonne Chapman about the aspirations for the Herefordshire Histories Festival. The event would be run by the Herefordshire Histories Trust during 10 – 18 May 2025. There would be exhibitions, information about medieval Allensmore, tours and events held both in the village hall and in the church. It was unanimously agreed that the delegation of the running of the event would be made to Yvonne and that the parish council would support the festival and make a donation of up to a value of £50.00. This donation could be used to fund hall hire for events or for photocopying expenses etc.

10. Planning

There were no new planning applications for consideration of comments at the meeting.

Cllr Watkinson had sent a regular update on planning for the parish. Comments had been submitted as appropriate.

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

The Lengthsman would be asked to complete the outstanding drainage inventory. The e mail trail about flooding issues would be sent to the Ward Cllr.

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

The Lengthsman Co-ordinator was following up on the carrying out of designated works.

A465 junction with the B4348

There was a discussion about the A465 and the junction with the B4348. There were improvements believed to be required to the area in terms of highway safety. There had been a further fatality reported, following a collision near the junction. It was

agreed that the Clerk would compose and send a letter to the Ward Cllr to ask for a review of the situation, lighting, white lines, speed etc. at the location.

13. Items for next Agenda

All the usual items would be on the Agenda in March 2025. There would be a Parish Summit in April – to send a representative. Also The Kingstone Surgery Charitable Trust would be sending a delegate to advise the parish council about the aim to provide an out of hours prescription service.

14. Date of next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as 20th March 2025 from 7.45 pm at the Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 8.52 pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

16th January 2025

Signedas a true record by Councillor (Chairman)

Dated: - 20 March 2025

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