

## **Minutes of the Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025, at the Allensmore Village Hall, from 7.45pm**

**In attendance:** Cllrs T Cramp (in the Chair), S Williams, J Evans and C Watkinson plus Mrs A Wright (Clerk), Ward Cllr Richard Thomas and five members of the public. Also present, for the first part of the meeting, was Mr Rupert Chatwin from the Kingstone Surgery Charitable Trust.

### **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 Lawrence and S Grenar.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

### **5. Open Session**

There were members of the public present who had come to address the parish council about planning consultation 250191:

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 250191 - Land South of Winnal House, Winnal, Allensmore, Herefordshire HR2 9BS

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Planning Permission

**DESCRIPTION:** Proposed new self-build dwelling and attached garage, with associated parking and amenity space.

**GRID REFERENCE:** OS 345409, 234668

The residents each explained about their personal history of living in the parish. There were concerns highlighted about drainage and flooding issues, overlooking and loss of privacy for the current residents of the vicinity. The parish council listened to the comments and advised the residents that they had objected to the planning application. The following comments had been sent to the planning authority:

- *It is outside the NDP settlement boundary for Winnal. As the NDP established, local people value the green spaces within the settlement areas which contribute to the local landscape character. The settlement boundaries have been drawn to protect this aspect as defined in policies A1 and A3.*
- *It does not support policy A5 of the NDP which promotes an appropriate housing mix to reflect the needs of the people in the area i.e. 3 bed family homes, smaller starter homes and accommodation for older people.*
- *Drainage is a serious problem in this area which is identified as being medium risk (or even high risk if you look at the map rather than the summary) for surface water flooding in any given year and high risk for the period 2040 – 2060. As policy A7 of the NDP highlights, provision of adequate drainage especially in this area is very challenging. Development proposals cannot be supported unless they can demonstrate how these challenges can be overcome and without exacerbating the already problematic drainage of existing houses in the area.*

### **Guest Speaker**

To welcome **Rupert Chatwin** from the **Kingstone Surgery Charitable Trust** who had come to speak about the fundraising initiative for an out of hours and self service prescription dispensing facility

Mr Chatwin circulated some leaflets about the Kingstone Surgery Charitable Trust and the project that was being fund raised for. He gave an overview about the Trust and explained that the current aim was to install an out of hours and self service prescription collection machine to help free up workload in the surgery and minimise queuing etc. The Trust was close to a third of the way to the required £40,000.00 cost of the facility and was seeking support from local organisations and businesses. The question was asked as to how many prescriptions could the machine deal with? Mr Chatwin took the question away to find out the answer. The ongoing upkeep and servicing of the machine would be the surgery's responsibility. The parish council agreed to go away and consider any possible donation, or whatever assistance, they could provide and this would be decided at the May 2025 parish council meeting.

## **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 council tax would be increasing in Herefordshire by 4.99%. The rural grant had been cut by the government meaning an overall loss to the Herefordshire Council of just under £6 million on their available funding from the rural grant pot. All departments within the council had been told to cut costs. As

regards the devolution of councils, Herefordshire was already a unitary authority. Other councils were moving to unitary. The Council was currently watching, and waiting, to see how the devolution objective was to progress. Adult social care was going up in cost. The contract with Balfour Beatty was set to end on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2026. Models of how things would work beyond this were being considered but may include various companies undertaking tasks on behalf of the county council.

The Ward Cllr advised that similar amounts of funding would be available for the Lengthsman, Public Rights of Way and Drainage Grants in 2025 – 2026 as had been in 2024 – 2025.

### **6.3 Balfour Beatty (Locality Steward)**

Bulletins and updates had been received, as applicable.

### **6.4 Footpath Officer**

Cllr Williams advised that the footpath gates and fingerposts that had been requested had been delivered. These would all be fitted as soon as possible. The bridge that had been required was on order and the clerk would check on progress with this coming through.

## **7. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

**Resolved:** - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 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

### **Parish Summit**

Parish Summit at Plough Lane on April 8<sup>th</sup> 2025.

### **Broadband**

Cllr Grenar had sent some information about broadband, following her discussion on the topic with a contact. The Chair advised that there had been a community broadband initiative attempted in the parish, two years previously, and it did not obtain the investment levels required by possible providers. The Member of Parliament, Jesse Norman, was meeting with the Chair, and others, to discuss the broadband situation. The date and time of the meeting was pending confirmation but was looking likely to be

late April, early May 2025. The Chair would be revisiting aspects of the suggestions and looking at local connections being made for new developments nearby. Outreach had confirmed that Allensmore was in the National Gigabit Scheme for 2027 (described as “backstop position”).

## 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)	£134.80
Mr T Griffiths (Lengthsman and drainage)	£559.20
Mr N Chapman (web services)	£58.55
Pateshall Hall (hall hire)	£56.00

There was a “thank you” recorded for Nick Chapman for his work with the website service.

(9.2) **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted at £11550.56. This amount included the ring-fenced amount of £379.00 being the pipe crowd funding project surplus.

(9.3) to record the deposit of archive Allensmore PC and Charity papers with the Records Office (HARC) under an initial deposit reference number of DK58

The Chair confirmed that some historical papers from the parish, including council and charity papers, had been deposited with the Hereford Records Office under a group deposit reference number of DK58. The papers would be re-catalogued over time and new codes given for the holdings.

(9.4) to consider appointment of Internal Auditor for 2024 - 2025

It was agreed that C Bull be appointed as Internal Auditor, as in the previous year.

## 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

Plans for some drainage works were pending. There would be further tours of the parish to look at works and priorities. Some drainage days had been commissioned with

an additional drainage contractor for Cobhall Lane, to keep water off the highway and ditches flowing.

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

Works that had been commissioned were awaiting completion and anticipated completion dates had been scheduled. The Chair and Clerk would liaise regarding grant reclaim for the drainage works undertaken. There was more maintenance required routinely, not just reactive work, particularly for Church Road. The pipe-work outstanding was to be done by the end of June and the ditch reinstated.

### **13. Items for next Agenda**

All the usual items would be on the Agenda in May 2025. There would also be annual accounts and a parish council decision about a possible contribution regarding the Kingstone Surgery Charitable Trust and the aim to provide an out of hours prescription service. The Neighbourhood Development was also be an agenda item to look at a review of the content.

### **14. Date of next Meeting**

The next Meetings of the Parish Council, the Annual Parish and Annual Statutory, were confirmed as 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 from 7.45 pm at the Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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

Dated: - 22 May 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](http://www.allensmore.org.uk)