

## **Minutes of the Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025, at the Allensmore Village Hall, from 7.45pm**

**In attendance:** Cllrs J Evans, Cllr T Cramp (in the Chair), J Lawrence, S Williams and C Watkinson plus Mrs A Wright (Clerk), and Ward Cllr Richard Thomas plus Jo Cox (co-opted as councillor) and four members of the public

### **1. Introduction and welcome by the Chair**

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

### **2. Co-option of councillor and acceptance of office**

A candidate was presented at the meeting. She was Jane Cox and, following a resume from Jane, she was co-opted onto the Allensmore Parish Council. Cllr Cox signed her acceptance of office form.

### **3. Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies for absence received from Cllr S Grenar.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

### **5. Open Session**

A resident present advised that he had observed "percolation tests" being carried out at field near "Saxon Gate".

### **6. Brief Verbal Reports:**

#### **6.1 Local Policing Team**

Bulletins had been circulated when received.

#### **6.2 Ward Councillor:**

Ward Cllr Richard Thomas advised that the bypass (previously known as the Southern Link Road – SLR) was progressing and that the Herefordshire Council were looking to appoint contractors.

The Scrutiny Committee were trying to sort out revised bus timetabling and financing. The Herefordshire Council were seeking successors for Balfour Beatty and had located three possible interested parties. The key date was said to be September to find a new

contractor or the Council may be “going it alone” if no successor could be found and appointed.

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

The Locality Steward had circulated reports, when available.

### **6.4 Footpath Officer**

Cllr Williams advised that the path AN28 footbridge at Gethingfield was soon to be installed. A complaint about path AN25, at Gardiners Oak, had been followed up. A loose step on a stile at path AN2 had been repaired. Two rotten gate posts at a path near Holly House would be replaced and these were on order. A defective handrail at the AN16 Walbrook Bridge had been logged as a defect. The Footpath Officer had been in touch the Public Rights of Way (PROW) Co-ordinator Stephen Organ and he had ordered, and collected, way-markers. A blocked gate by the old kennels on AN8 was under the exploration of a possible re-routing to path AN9. This was being worked through with Herefordshire Council to redirect. It was agreed that items to be applied for in terms of grant funding for PROW would be sought and listed.

## **7. To approve Minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025.**

**Resolved:** - The Minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Council Meetings, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025, 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

### **A465 and B4348 – Highway Safety Issues**

There had been a lot of discussion and correspondence concerning the safety perceptions around the A465 and B4348 junction. There had been recent traffic collisions and concerns were being voiced about various factors. A petition for urgent review and action had been circulated. The Ward Cllr said that had been movement on the situation and meetings were being held to come up with a plan to try to improve the situation. An immediate reduction on the speed limit, to 40 mph, was being looked at by Highways and Herefordshire Council plus possible other measures; markings, rumble strips etc. were mentioned. It was noted that the recent temporary traffic lights had caused tailbacks in the vicinity. Removing the deceleration lanes previously was described by the Ward Cllr as “madness”. A decision on the proposals was hoped to be

ready in a "couple of weeks". A comment was made about making sure that the drainage was right also.

## 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)       | £119.80  |
| T Griffiths (Lengthsman)                               | £4380.00 |
| MJ & LDG Meredith (footpath bridge and gate fitting)   | £814.22  |

(9.2) **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted at £9995.10. This amount included the ring-fenced amount of £379.00 being the pipe crowd funding project surplus.

## 10. Planning

There were two new planning applications for consideration of comments:

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 251888 – Cherry Tree, Allensmore, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 9AL

**DESCRIPTION:** Proposed demolition of existing building and construction of a new agricultural storage building

**GRID REF:** OS 345664, 234466

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Planning Permission

The parish council discussed the application 251888 and heard representation from the applicant. The parish council resolved to arrange a site visit, and would circulate comments afterwards.

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 251955 – Land at Tything Barns, Allensmore, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 9AD

**DESCRIPTION:** Proposed conversion and alterations of redundant agricultural barns to create seven dwellings including demolition of parts of the buildings, new garages and associated drainage and landscaping works

**GRID REF:** OS 346204, 236309

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Planning Permission

The parish council discussed the application 251955. The parish council resolved to arrange a site visit, and would circulate comments afterwards.

Cllr Watkinson had sent the regular update on planning for the parish.

### **11. To consider parish road signs – member item request**

The member had sent her apologies. The parish council resolved to move the item to the September agenda and to look at cleaning the signs plus any other issues (misspelling of “Winnal”)

### **12. To consider broadband provision and hear any update**

Cllr Cramp updated the meeting regarding that, following a recent meeting, there was support from the MP Jesse Norman for the furtherance of broad band for the area. The area was covered by a pending contract, but not until 2028. There were no promises regarding broad band delivery dates. The MP had said that he would keep pushing and prioritising. There would be an open market review of the situation and the aim to work with all the vendors in the BDUK contracts. The view was “optimistic but the depth of commitment required had not been obtained.” A “thank you” was recorded to Cllr Cramp for all of his work in trying to push for results with the broadband deliverables.

### **13. To review the Lengthsman, PROW and Drainage Contract works, grants and decisions**

The contract works for 2024 – 2025 were done and the grants applied for. The parish council were now looking at works for 2025 -2026. The lengthsman grant had a £1890.00 budget, plus the matched funding portion, to utilise on works and the commissioning of works would be looked at by the team dealing with this. There would be a requirement to look “further down stream” to be effective in routine drainage clearance. Water coming off the A465 would need to be addressed. There was potentially cutting debris etc. stuck at the location concerned and a councillor would speak with the landowner.

### **14. Items for next Agenda**

All the usual items would be on the Agenda in September 2025, also on the agenda - Road signs, and cleaning of same, plus replacements and potential sponsorship of the Hereford Histories Week (Cllr Cramp gave an overview of the success of the recent venture and the wish to keep the Hereford Histories Week rolling into further activities next year). It was suggested that the £20.00 donation, if agreed, could be made from the ring-fenced “windfall” pot.

### **15. Date of next Meeting**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 from 7.30 pm at the Village Hall. Please note the earlier start time of 7.30 pm.

Future Meetings for 2025: November 20th

The Meeting closed at 9.03 pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> July 2025

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

Dated: - 18 September 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)