

Minutes of the Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 18th September 2025, at the Allensmore Village Hall, from 7.30 pm

In attendance: Cllr T Cramp (in the Chair), J Lawrence, J Cox and C Watkinson plus Mrs A Wright (Clerk), and Ward Cllr Richard Thomas and seven 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. Apologies for Absence

There were written apologies for absence received from Cllr S Grenar who had a conflicting meeting appointment and Cllr S Williams who was stewarding. Cllr J Evans was delayed travelling from work and he had sent written apologies.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Open Session

A resident present advised that he was witnessing a lot of speeding on the B4348 through Thruxton. There were numbers of large vehicles and many seemed to appear to be exceeding the prescribed speed limit. Speed data that had been obtained recently indicated a mean average speed of 35 mph and that the 85 percentile were travelling at less than 41.4 mph. Speed checks and traffic calming were discussed and the Ward Cllr would speak with the police regarding cameras and to get the speed enforcement teams, with speed guns, out around the area to monitor the situation where possible. Local flooding around the area was being reported and issues at "Alma" corner on the B4348 had seen some repairs and measures carried out but they had not been effective in alleviating the flood issues. The Ward Cllr would be attending a meeting about the situation in the week following the parish council meeting.

Another resident took up the ongoing frustrating situation about the lack of broad band coverage for the village. The MP Jesse Norman had been involved in the discussion about the lack of connection and resultant problems. The required cables appeared to be already in place so "why so long to attach" was the question asked. There did not seem to be any real connection issue from the BT point of view? The resident would be going back to the MP and explaining the situation. The question was asked about where

was the “fibre box that feeds the new houses?” Will residents be attached to it as it had a provision capacity of 1200 properties?

The Chair, who had been working hard to try to achieve satisfactory outcomes for residents in obtaining broad band, said that he would keep chasing up with the MP Jesse Norman and would try to find out why things could not be completed more quickly when the cables “are hanging on the posts.” The Chair would look at how information can be obtained and who is moving ahead with connection. Checking progress with Open Reach to see firstly, who is on the edge of getting connected and who is not. An assurance was given that the issue would be continued to be chased with the MP.

The members of the public left the meeting at the end of the public session at 7.57 pm.

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 there had been a meeting about the traffic and highway issues on the A465, near the junction with the B4348, “three or four weeks ago.” A temporary speed limit reduction from 60 mph to 40 mph for the stretch past the garage and the B4348 was being proposed. A temporary change could be in place for up to eighteen months. There would be speed cameras (van) and a possible speed indicator device (SID). The parish council supported the motion, broadly, and would feed back any additional comments by the October date as given in the information. The Ward Cllr advised that the Herefordshire Council was looking at a budget deficit of circa £27 million in 2026 – 2027.

6.3 Balfour Beatty (Locality Steward)

The Locality Steward had circulated reports, when available.

6.4 Footpath Officer

Cllr Williams advised, via a pre-sent report, that three gates would be replacing stiles on path AN12 and another on path AN11. There was an agreement to replace two stiles on path AN8. The bridge at path AN16 was still described as “walk-able” but the handrail required attention.

7. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th July 2025.

Resolved: - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 17th July 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

Hereford Histories – plans for next year and support for the venture

Grant Funding

Delays in reimbursement for grant funding spend on lengthsman, drainage and public rights of way activities were highlighted to the Ward Cllr with a request for him to check on the set up, and process, of the department dealing.

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
MJ & LDG Meredith (bridge fitting)	£660.00

(9.2) **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted at £5997.91. The amount included the ring-fenced amount of £379.00 being the pipe crowd funding project surplus. It was agreed that £20.00 from the project surplus be used for the Hereford Histories contribution leaving the project surplus figure at £359.00. The sum was paid by Cllr Cramp to Hereford Histories and reimbursed to him.

10. Planning

There were no new planning applications for consideration of comments.

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

11. To consider parish road signs – member item request

The member who raised the item had sent her apologies. The parish council resolved to remove the item as no further information.

12. To consider broadband provision and hear any update

Cllr Cramp updated the meeting on this topic and it was discussed during the Open Session. Details were recorded under the Open Session Agenda item of the September Meeting.

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

The contract works for 2024 – 2025 had been carried out the grant payments settled. The parish council were now looking at works for 2025 -2026. The Lengthsman grant had a £1860.00 budget, plus the matched funding portion, to utilise on works and the commissioning of works would be looked at by the team. Second quotes for some works had been requested. A second contractor would be appointed to undertake some of the Lengthsman routine maintenance. This appointment would be confirmed to the contractor. Nine days maintenance would be undertaken by the new contractor between the current month and the end of March 2026. These days would be at the direction of the Lengthsman Co-ordinator, Cllr J Lawrence. The Public Rights of Way Grant Application for 2026 – 2027 had also been submitted.

14. Items for next Agenda

All the usual items would be on the Agenda in November 2025, also on the agenda - Precept request for 2026 – 2027

15. Date of next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as 20th November 2025 from 7.30 pm at the Village Hall. Start time of 7.30 pm.

Future Meetings for 2025: Nil and 2026 to be advised.

Due to the confidential nature of the business of this agenda item, 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 (item 16 only)

16. To discuss implementation of 1/04/25 pay award (back dated) and increment from 1/04/25 in line with NJC correspondence

The Clerk and Public left the meeting for the discussion of Agenda number 16. The parish council resolved that the NJC Pay Award should be implemented, together with an incremental uplift, with effect from 1/04/25, and the arrears backdated.

The Meeting closed at 8.44 pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

18th September 2025

Signedas a true record by Councillor (Chairman) Dated: - 19 November 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