

Minutes of the Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 15th January 2026, at the Allensmore Village Hall, from 7.30 pm

In attendance: Cllr T Cramp (in the Chair), J Lawrence, S Williams, J Cox, J Evans and C Watkinson plus Mrs A Wright (Clerk), Ward Cllr Richard Thomas and PC Martin Gillett

1. Introduction and welcome by the Chair

Cllr T Cramp (in the Chair) welcomed everyone to the January 2026 meeting and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence received from Cllr S Grenar.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Open Session

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

5. Brief Verbal Reports:

5.1 Local Policing Team

Bulletins had been circulated when received. PC Martin Gillett was in attendance at the meeting. He advised that there had been five recorded "incidents" in the vicinity of the parish in the recent period. These had included a burglary at a local garage. There had been instances of speeding and a local resident had advised of an incident where a van had turned over at Thruxton in a collision. There were still local concerns over speeding on the B4348 through Thruxton and this was noted by PC Gillett. There were also reports of local garden thefts and people speeding while cutting through Winnal, between the A465 and the B4348.

5.2 Ward Councillor:

Ward Cllr Richard Thomas was in attendance at the meeting and he advised that Herefordshire Council were experiencing budget issues and shortfalls in funding which would be leading to some redundancies. There would also be a 4.99% increase on the council tax bill for residents. M Works were replacing Balfour Beatty as the Public Realm Service provider from June 2026. The Administrative staff members were coming back in house to Herefordshire Council and this would also include the Locality

Stewards. There will be cuts in services, mostly ones with a small take-up. The Council would be making the most of voluntary work opportunities.

The Southern Link Road – Cllr Thomas said that he did not know if it would go ahead. There were questions regarding loan interest and the ability to pay back the loan? Flooding issues at a local property were the subject of a meeting between Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council's Solicitor. The matter would be sorted out but the parties were working on an old agricultural hedge and ditch rule. The council could enforce the ditch to be cleared out, but there were questions.

5.3 Balfour Beatty (Locality Steward)

The Locality Steward had circulated reports, when available.

5.4 Footpath Officer

Cllr Williams advised that the application was in for gates and items for works. Training details for Footpath Officers had been circulated. A couple of outstanding footpath issues were being sorted out. The team were awaiting fitments and materials for the path CH15 at Poplar Road. The Chair and Cllr Williams would liaise on the funding and projects.

6. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th November 2025.

Resolved - that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 20th November 2025, were approved by the Council. There was just one thing to note in the broad band section of the minutes - in that the broadband upgrade, although commencing in January 2026, would take around six months to complete.

7. To receive any correspondence and Information Update

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

Herefordshire Council

Talk Community bulletins

The Herefordshire Council CEO – update on Children's Services Ofsted Inspection

8. Finance

(8.1) **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)	£126.00
--	---------

Cobbs Tree and Estate Services (Lengthsman)	£500.00
---	---------

N Chapman (web hosting)	£25.00
-------------------------	--------

Country Park Supporters (Belmont)	£50.00
-----------------------------------	--------

(8.2) **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted at £13795.03. The amount included the ring-fenced amount of £359.00 being the balance of the pipe crowd funding project surplus.

(8.3) to consider request for support from the Country Park Supporters (Belmont)
The parish council resolved to make a donation of £50.00 towards the upkeep of the park.

(8.4) to consider the Herefordshire Council "Charter for Parishes 2025"
This item was postponed to the March 2026 Parish Council Meeting.

9. Planning

There were no new planning applications for consideration of comments. Cllr Watkinson had sent the regular update on planning for the parish. Cllr Watkinson asked councillors to respond with any input to planning items, when circulated, so that their views could be included in comments.

10. To consider broadband provision and hear any updates

The start of the program to upgrade the broadband provision, scheduled for January 2026, was awaited.

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

Cllr Cramp gave an update on the position in regard to grant funding and proposed works. The previous lengthsman would not now be completing the Church Road pipe works. The new lengthsman would be looking at the cleaning of the pipe, with Balfour Beatty, in the first instance. Plans were moving forward to get things done. In regard to Balfour Beatty and outstanding works, the Ward Cllr would see if action could be taken. The new contractor for Public Realm would be paid on performance and would be taking instructions from the Herefordshire Council. There would be local council elections held in 2027 which may have an impact on process. The lengthsman would be carrying out works to keep water flowing and drainage working, including additional drainage works near "The Vicarage". The Ward Cllr said that matters relating to the ditch at Pool Farm were "in hand."

The parish council agreed that any interim payment requirements, between meetings, for the lengthsman works would be processed to avoid delays in grant reclams and payments.

12. Items for next Agenda

All the usual items would be on the Agenda in January 2026, also on the agenda -
The Herefordshire Charter for councils 2025

13. Date of next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as 19th March 2026 from 7.30 pm
at the Village Hall.

Future Meetings were confirmed as follows, 7.30 pm in the Allensmore Village Hall:-

Future Allensmore Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2026

May 21st

July 16th

September 17th

November 19th

The Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

15th January 2026

Signedas a true record by Councillor (Chairman) Dated: - 19 March 2026

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