

Minutes of the Allensmore Parish Council Meeting held on 19th March 2026, at the Allensmore Village Hall, from 7.30 pm

In attendance: Cllr T Cramp (in the Chair), S Grenar, J Cox, J Evans and C Watkinson plus Mrs A Wright (Clerk), Ward Cllr Richard Thomas and six members of the public

1. Introduction and welcome by the Chair

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

2. Apologies for Absence

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

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Open Session

There were members of the public present at the meeting. A resident thanked the Chair for all of his efforts to help secure broad band for the community. Thank you also recorded to MP Jesse Norman. Broad band, proper, was coming via fibre into Church Road and the environs.

The developer responsible for the outline planning for three proposed dwellings at Oak View was at the meeting, and he gave a resume of plans for the site. It was described as a "small scale and contained development. The parish council had sent in their comments on application 260079 and these would be detailed under the planning agenda item.

The applicant for the development of a sports rehabilitation business, at Orchard View in Winnal, was present at the meeting. The Ward Cllr asked the parish council if they wished for him to seek redirection to planning committee. The parish council had submitted their comments on the application 253632. The parish council would decide and advise the Ward Cllr about a redirection request by the end of the week. There was no actual guarantee that a redirection would be granted.

The Open Session closed at 8.10 pm.

5. Brief Verbal Reports:

5.1 Local Policing Team

Bulletins had been circulated when received.

5.2 Ward Councillor:

Ward Cllr Richard Thomas was in attendance at the meeting and he advised that Herefordshire Council would be losing about £17 million of government funding in the forthcoming year. There would likely be at least 50 redundancies from the council workforce.

Parishes would still receive grant funding opportunities for lengthsman, drainage and public rights of way in 2026 -2027.

The recent parish summit had experienced issues with sign on to the virtual meeting information.

A housing needs survey would be being sent out, in the near future, by Herefordshire Council.

"M Group" would be taking over the Public Realm Contract on 1 June 2026.

Future road issues decisions would be made in house. The Locality Stewards would be employed by Herefordshire Council with effect from 1 June 2026.

5.3 Balfour Beatty (Locality Steward)

The Locality Steward had circulated reports, when available.

5.4 Footpath Officer

Cllr Williams had sent his apologies.

6. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th January 2026.

Resolved - that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 15th January 2026, were approved by the Council.

7. To receive any correspondence and Information Update

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

Herefordshire Council

Talk Community bulletins

8. Finance

(8.1) **Resolved:** The following list of payments were approved:

Mrs A Wright (salary paid in accordance with contract)

Tax and Ers NI due on salary payment (Payable to HMRC only) £157.36

Cobbs Tree and Estate Services (Lengthsman) £2680.00

Pateshall Hall (hall hire)	£72.00
Dore Community Transport (Donation)	£150.00

(8.2) **Resolved:** The bank balance was noted at £12412.14. 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 Dore Community Transport
The parish council resolved to make a donation of £150.00 towards the work of Dore Community Transport. Dore CT had made 220 journeys on behalf of the Allensmore Community in 2025.

(8.4) to consider the Herefordshire Council "Charter for Parishes 2025"
The Charter for Parishes was adopted. The clerk would advise the relevant department of this decision.

(8.5) to adopt the IT Policy for Allensmore Parish Council and discuss AGAR assertion 10 Year End Accounts requirements
The IT Policy was considered and the decision was taken to adopt it to assist with compliance with the new regulations. The website was being looked at for compliance, with the new regulations, and Cllr Grenar kindly offered to look at the existing site to see where possible changes may be needed.

9. Planning

There were no new planning applications for consideration of comments.
Cllr Watkinson had sent the regular update on planning for the parish.
The parish council had submitted the following comments on current applications:

"Planning Consultation - 260079 - Land at Oak View, Cobhall, Allensmore, Hereford HR2 9BN

Allensmore Parish Council objects to the proposal for three new dwellings to replace the derelict house at the above location for the following reasons:

- We consider that three new dwellings on the site would constitute over development and not be in keeping with the surrounding area.
- Whilst we recognise the installation of 3 large cess tanks may be a solution from an engineering point of view we do not consider it to be an environmentally sustainable solution. We also question the financial viability of the solution, based on the

applicants figures we estimate that, for each fully occupied house the monthly cost of emptying will be in excess of £400 each. It needs to be recognised that if any of the residents are unable or unwilling to fund the regular emptying as required, this will likely lead to overflow and spillage and consequently nuisance odour and contamination of the ground.

- We note that the proposals make provision for the cess tank emptying tankers to pull onto the driveways, given the size of the driveway areas we believe that, in reality, they will park on or dislodge other vehicles on to the highway, this will cause road blocking/obstruction and nuisance for other road users for up to an hour at a time every two to three weeks. The frequent trips by large, heavy lorries would also have a detrimental impact on the minor lanes of the area.
- Finally, the lane on which the proposed development is situated frequently suffers from surface water flooding making access difficult in those conditions especially on foot.”

“Planning application 253632 Orchard Cottage – Rehab centre and replacement house

Allensmore Parish Council has mixed views on this application.

There is general support for the aims and principle of a rehab centre and recognition that it brings a benefit to the wider community, but strong reservations about the proposed location and the impact it will have on the immediate area.

There are serious concerns about the impact of the traffic on the immediate road system, Winnal Common Road and Blackhall Lane. The site is accessed from a narrow lane with soft verges and ditches either side, passing places largely limited to driveway entrances and the lane currently subject to little use. Indeed, the average speeds reported in the transport report of 16.5 and 18.5 mph north and southbound resp. indicate the precarious nature of the lane. The worst case figures of 20 car trips per hour or 200 per day is believed to be a very substantial increase of current traffic flows (based on local experience, para 6.7 of the transport report which asserts this is not a significant increase is not credible if this is being applied to the immediate access lane). This will be very detrimental to the users of the lane and the lane itself.

There are also concerns that the new building and car park for the rehab centre represents inappropriate semi-industrialisation of the rural, literally greenfield, site and the necessary external lighting for a business operating summer and winter from 6am – 9pm seven days per week (less at weekends) would have a significant impact on the neighbourhood.

When asking for views from local residents, we have found that while several have no objection to the proposal, more are significantly concerned, particularly about the impact of the traffic on the narrow Winnal common Road and Blackhall Lane. Some residents in the area feel the early and late in the day opening hours, the new building and particularly the car park together with the light pollution, contribute to a degree of industrialisation inappropriate for the area. Concern was also expressed by some that the footprint of the buildings and consequence of visitors using the facilities would exacerbate already fraught drainage issues for residents. A suggestion was made that accessing the site from the A465 instead would reduce the proposal's impact on residents."

10. To consider broadband provision and hear any updates

There had been some success with fibre broad band coming on line for the community and thanks were recorded during the Open Session. There were still a few remaining properties who would have to wait for a future new broad band contract roll out.

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. Grants for works undertaken had been reimbursed and the bulk of the funding had been utilised. Further works may be in scope. Footpath gates were on order to complete identified and approved works for PROW and the parish council agreed that the materials order should be paid for and the grant for materials be reclaimed. The new pipe requirement for Church Road was still outstanding.

12. Items for next Agenda

All the usual items would be on the Agenda in May 2026, also on the agenda - End of Year Accounts and Audit for 2025 – 2026 and matters for the IT Policy

13. Date of next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as 21st May 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

July 16th

September 17th

November 19th

The Meeting closed at 8.39 pm

Allensmore Parish Council Meeting

19th March 2026

Signedas a true record by Councillor (Chairman) Dated: - 21 May 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