

ALLER PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th November 2022
at 7.30pm, Aller Village Hall

Present:

Cllrs Tucker, Brown, Vernoit, Geary and Peppard

Cllr R Wilkins

3 Members of the public.

Mrs K Larsson (Clerk)

The meeting commenced after an Open Session for Aller residents. No items were raised.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Dunton and Stanton.
2. **Declarations of interest:** None declared.
3. **Minutes of last Parish Council Meeting** – The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chair.
4. **Parish Council Vacancy:** There is currently 1 vacancy on the Parish Council. The vacancy is advertised on the village noticeboard.
5. **District and County Councillors reports:** Cllr Wilkins advised that a solution the phosphate issue, which has been holding up planning decision, was progressing. The Local Community Network consultation closed in October and was in the process of being analysed. Cllr Wilkins reported there were 549 responses, of which, 207 were parish or town councils. No concrete decisions have been made as they wanted to listen to views from the consultation.
Cllr Wilkins mentioned the recent communication from Bill Revans regarding finances and precept setting for the coming financial year. It is expected that local councils will see services currently provided by district councils decrease and as such would be sensible for parish and town councils to ensure sufficient reserves are in place to keep services to communities at current levels.
6. **Parish Survey Results:** The Clerk gave a summary of the responses to the survey; a total of 84 were returned responses were returned which is a return rate of more 50%. A summary of the responses will be published for residents to review.
7. **Finance**
 - 7.1 **Finance statement [Clerk]:** The Clerk presented the up-to-date income and expenditure spreadsheet. To assist with understanding the financial position against the current budget, year to date spend and anticipated spend will be added to the spreadsheet.
 - 7.2 **The following cheques were raised:** Glastonbury TC (Bristol Gates) - £480.00; G Wagen James (Lengthsman) - £534.00; SALC (Training) - £50.00, Clerks Salary, HMRC. – All payments were all unanimously agreed by councillors.
 - 7.3 **2023/24 Budget:** Councillors reviewed the budget categories for 2023/24 and, considering the responses from the parish survey and future needs of the recreation ground and village hall, the following proposals were made:
 - 7.3.1 £2,500 for maintenance/improvement costs for the recreation ground.
 - 7.3.2 £1,500 for maintenance/improvement costs for the Village Hall.
 - 7.3.3 To ring-fence £10,000 of reserves for improvements to the recreation ground.
 - 7.3.4 To ring-fence £4,000 of reserves for improvements to the Village Hall.
 - 7.3.5 To ring-fence £1,500 of reserves for improvements to footpath accessibility.
 - 7.3.6 To ring-fence £2,000 of reserves to create a Queen Elizabeth II memorial.Councillors voted unanimously in favour of all proposals.

8. Speed Watch Update

The parish council were pleased to welcome Judith Bailey, co-ordinator for Aller Speed Watch, to the meeting. Ms Bailey explained that the scheme is fully funded by Avon and Somerset Police, who train all members of the scheme and supply them with all the required equipment.

The group hold four 1-hour sessions each month at pre-approved sites, which members sign up to a rota for. Ms Bailey reported that on average, 15-20 vehicles are recorded per hour session as speeding, although this is a reduction from previous average of 30 vehicles.

The group are looking for more volunteers to support the scheme. The Clerk can be contacted by anyone interested and their details will be passed on.

9. Community Engagement

9.1 Noticeboards – Cllr Tucker advised that the noticeboard would be removed from the recreation field over the winter for it to be renovated. As it is a large double-sided board, he suggested one half of the board be located in a different position in the village when it is re-instated.

10. Village Maintenance

10.1 Works completed - Hedge trimming has been carried out around the village. Prices are being obtained for some replacement fence post stakes. Wire is to be added to the footbridge to improve grip.

10.2 Finger Post Refurbishment – The finger pointing to High Ham has been removed by Highways. Refurbishment by Somerset Forge as agreed previously to be carried out with the reduced number of fingers.

11. Highways – In the parish survey, 20% of respondents were against using the precept for repairing potholes on Aller Drove. In the meantime, Cllr Tucker has been able to make arrangements with SSDC Highways for them to carry out the work. This is expected to commence in January 2023.

12. Aller recreation area – The recreation ground has a number of items of equipment with remedial works required to keep them in good working order. This requirement was considered in the proposals for budgeting for 2023/24.

13. Aller Village Hall – The village hall needs to generate an income and to do so needs to be more attractive to users. Maintenance is required in a number of areas, including the guttering and soffits. These requirements were taken into consideration in the proposals for 2023/24 budgeting.

14. Aller burial board – The cemetery is reasonably quiet. There has been a request to purchase a plot and a headstone is being updated.

There has been a request to have a handrail from the cemetery to the churchyard. Cllr Tucker will obtain prices for consideration.

15. Correspondence

a. Civility and Respect Project: A Model Councillor-Officer Protocol document has been issued, which has been circulated to all councillors. All councils are also being asked to consider signing up to the Civility and Respect Pledge.

b. Precept demand forms will be sent to all councils by 9th December. The deadline for returning the completed forms is Friday 20th January. Precept payments will be made by the new Somerset Council.

c. A new code of conduct is due to be extended to town and parish councils which will include the Police and Fire services as well as national parks.

16. Any other urgent matters – The usual date for the Annual Parish Meeting in May will be a bank holiday due to the Coronation. A new date will need to be set.

17. Summary of Actions

- a. Cllr Brown and the Clerk to produce a summary of the survey findings for publishing to residents. Consideration to be given to distribution of a paper copy.
- b. Year to date spend and anticipated spend figures will be added to the income and expenditure spreadsheet by the Clerk.
- c. Cllr Tucker to refurbish recreation field noticeboard
- d. Cllr Tucker to arrange collection of Bristol gates from Glastonbury Town Council.
- e. Community Produce Facility – Cllr Tucker to liaise with Glastonbury who have 3 phone boxes that may become available.
- f. Cllrs Tucker & Vernoit to work on ideas that could be funded by the SALC Health & Wellbeing programme.
- g. Speedwatch update to be included as an agenda item annually.
- h. Ownership of the defibrillator at the village hall to be established by the Clerk so maintenance can be arranged.

18. Date and time of next meeting – 9th January 2023, 7:30pm.

Clerk: Kim Larsson – 59 Spurwells, Ilton TA19 9HP