

ALLER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2019 immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting

Present:

Mr D Mayor (Chair)

Ms A Mitchell

Mr R Bates

Mrs M Lockyer

Cllr G Tucker

Miss E Meecham (Clerk)

1 Member of the Public

The meeting commenced after an Open Session for Aller Parishioners only, there were no matters raised.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Mrs Major, Mr Bates and Cllr Paull.
2. **Declarations of interest** – None declared.
3. **Minutes of last Parish Council Meetings** – The minutes of the last parish council meeting were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
4. **Co-option of councillor** – Following the results of the election there is a vacancy on the council. This vacancy can be filled by co-option. Mrs Joanne Morrison expressed an interest in the position and was duly co-opted.
5. **Election of Officers and representatives** – Mrs Lockyer proposed that Mr Mayor continue as Chair, this was seconded by Mrs Morrison and agreed unanimously. Mrs Lockyer proposed that Mr Bishop be Vice Chair, this was seconded by Mrs Morrison and agreed unanimously. It was proposed that Mrs Lockyer continue as the cemetery representative, Mr Bishop continue as the village hall representative, Ms Mitchell continue as recreation area representative, Mrs Major continue as highways liaison, and that Mr Bates continues as flooding liaison, these proposals were unanimously agreed. Mrs Morrison was proposed as the allotment liaison and this was also agreed unanimously.
6. **Standing Orders** – The Parish Council agreed unanimously that no changes were required to the standing orders.
7. **Declarations of interest** – The clerk distributed the declarations of interest forms and these were duly completed and returned.
8. **Crime and Disorder**
 - 8.1 Aller Crime statistics – The clerk gave the statistics as provided by Avon and Somerset Constabulary.
9. **County Councillor report** – Cllr Paull had previously circulated her report via email.
10. **District Councillor report** – Cllr Tucker gave his report. It was noted that due to purdah before the elections there was little to report. Cllr Tucker informed the meeting that the various portfolio holders for SSDC were being put into place. He noted that as the new District Council members were predominantly Liberal Democrat candidates it is likely that decisions are likely to be made in line with the wishes of that party. The new Leader of the council will be determined at the Full Council meeting on 21st May, but it is likely to be Val Keitch. Cllr Tucker reported that the transformation programme at SSDC had not yet finished as staff and teams are trying to find the best ways of working. There are vacancies and capacity issues within the Planning validation and registration team and within Area +.
11. **Finance**
 - 11.1 Finance statement [Clerk] – The clerk gave the meeting the opportunity to ask questions regarding the finance statement. It was unanimously agreed that £10000 should be moved from the NatWest reserve account to the WestCountry Savings and Loan account as the dividend next year is likely to be higher than any interest payment.
 - 11.2 Receipts – None – Noted.
 - 11.3 Cheques for authorisation – HMRC, Clerks salary, Lengthsman, Internal audit £50, Clerks expenses, SALC affiliation £110.20. – All agreed unanimously.
 - 11.4 Adoption of accounts – The clerk discussed the accounts from 2018-19, it was unanimously agreed to adopt them.

- 11.5 Annual Governance statement – The clerk read the governance statements to the Council, they responded in turn to each.
 - 11.6 Accounting statements – The clerk explained the accounting statement that forms part of the audit documentation. The meeting unanimously agreed that they are correct.
 - 11.7 Audit exemption – The clerk explained the audit options to the meeting, the Council unanimously agreed that the exemption certificate should be signed.
- 12. Aller Recreation Area – Nothing to report.**
- 13. Planning**
Applications: None – Noted.
- 14. Highways –** Mr Mayor has been informed that SCC Highways intend, at some point this financial year, to deal with the pot holes on Aller Drove.
- 15. Lengthsman scheme –** Mr Mayor explained the proposed pay increase for the lengthsman and how it was included within the new contract. It was unanimously agreed that the new contract be signed and the pay increase actioned.
- 16. Aller Village Hall –** Nothing further to report than that reported at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- 17. Village/Community issues**
- 17.1 Aller Cemetery – Mrs Lockyer explained that there are concerns regarding two plots within the cemetery that have had various items placed on or around them. It is considered that these items are out of character and contrary to the rules of the cemetery. Several polite requests have already been made to family members for the items to be removed and the plots to be tidied, unfortunately this has yet to happen. The Parish Council discussed options for the way forward with the issues and some ideas were forthcoming. It was agreed that prior to the next Parish Council meeting the Councillors will attend a meeting at the cemetery to see exactly what the issues are.
 - 17.2 Speed Indicator Device (SID) – Mr Mayor explained that discussion with High Ham and Long Sutton Parish Councils regarding the purchase of a shared SID had concluded that in principle the three councils are in agreement. It was explained to the meeting that the person(s) responsible for installing the SID within each of the parishes requires certain training, 'Chapter 8', to enable them to do work on the highway, this training is available locally and volunteers are required to attend the training and install the device.
- 18. Martha Bond Charity –** Mrs Lockyer is collating the information.
- 19. Correspondence for information [to be tabled] –** None.
- 20. Any other urgent matters raised by permission of the Chairman -** Mrs Lockyer requested that the clerk write a letter of thanks to Mr Trevor Newton for the recent work he has done in the Parish free of charge.
- 21. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm**
Date and time of next meeting – Monday 8th July 2019 7.30pm

Clerk: Emma Meecham 15 Meadow Road, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 8PB