

ALLER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th January 2020
7.30pm, Aller Village Hall

Present:

Mr D Mayor (Chair)

Ms A Mitchell

Mrs E Major

Mr S Bishop

Mr R Bates

Mrs M Lockyer

Mrs J Morrisson

Cllr G Tucker

Miss E Meecham (Clerk)

2 Members of the Public – Dawn James from Somerset Rivers Authority and John Rowlands from Environment Agency.

The meeting commenced after an Open Session for Aller Parishioners during which no items were raised.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr Paull
2. **Declarations of interest** – None declared.
3. **Minutes of last Parish Council Meetings** – The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
4. **Crime and Disorder**
 - 4.1 Aller Crime statistics – None received and those on the website are out of date.
5. **County Councillor report** – No further update from briefing previously circulated by email.
6. **District Councillor report** – Cllr Tucker gave his report to the meeting, the report included updates on the appointments of the new Section 151 Officer and the new Head of Legal for SSDC, and the Climate Change strategy. The Full Council meeting for the month will receive reports on Climate Change, the Somerset Rivers Authority and the SSDC Environmental Strategy. SSDC Members have received communication from the Police regarding the successes of Operation Remedy – which aims to improve performance, satisfaction and public confidence in relation to offences of dwelling burglary, illegal supply of drugs and knife crime.
7. **Somerset Rivers presentation** – Dawn James, Somerset Rivers Authority, and John Rowlands, Environment Agency attended the parish council meeting to inform and update the parish on matters pertaining to the Somerset Rivers Authority Community Engagement Team, the community engagement day on 29 February, the changes to flood zone parameters, the Beer Wall culverts, the current flood defences, insurance difficulties, River Parrett dredging, the 20 year flood plan and the current farm subsidy scheme.
8. **Finance**
 - 8.1 Budget – The council discussed the budget requirements for the upcoming financial year and agreed to keep the precept at the current level of £9250.

- 8.2 Receipts – Receipts had been received on the day of the meeting of £515 from Mr Peppard and £19.25 from Wayleaves. – Noted.
- 8.3 Cheques for authorisation – HMRC, Clerks salary, C Howe £20, Clerks expenses (stamps) £8.40, Laptop software £30 to Chilthorne Domer Parish Council to utilise multiple office and anti-virus licences at a reduced price for both councils.

9. Planning

Applications:

19/03398/S73A – Section 73 application to vary condition 2 of permission 17/04533/FUL following subsequent application 18/00800/S73A to change roof material specification of the new dwelling from natural slate to reclaimed double roman tiles, Beer Farm, Beer Road, Aller, Langport, Somerset TA10 0QX – neighbouring Parish notification. – The meeting discussed the application and had no comment to make on the application.

Decisions:

None

10.Highways – Somerset County Council highways have been contacted again regarding the potholes on Aller Drove, no substantial response has been received. Somerset County Council have also been contacted three times regarding the flooding outside Carpe Diem, a response was received on 23 December to say that the issue would be investigated shortly. There are loose manhole covers in various places throughout the parish, these have also been reported to Somerset County Council highways.

11.Lengthsman scheme

Resignation of Craig – A letter of resignation has been received from Craig, this is partly because the contract dictates that the work must be done by Craig personally. It has been suggested to Craig that this could be altered. Mr Mayor reported that he had previously been approached regarding grass cutting by an alternative contact, it was unanimously agreed that if the price is competitive then this offer should be accepted, even if only for the short term.

12.Aller Recreation Area – Cllr Tucker updated the meeting on the previously discussed tree programme at the Recreation Area, an application for tree donation from SSDC has been made on behalf of the Parish for trees to be planted within the recreation area.

13.Aller Village Hall – A CCTV cameras has been installed at the front door and quotes have been requested for improvements to the heating.

14.Village/Community issues

14.1 Aller Cemetery – A draft new agreement/amended agreement has been put together. The clerk distributed a letter received regarding an objection to having to complete remedial works within the cemetery.

15.Martha Bond Charity – Nothing received, NS&I to be chased.

16.Correspondence for information [to be tabled] – None.

17.Any other urgent matters raised by permission of the Chairman – None.

18.Date and time of next meeting – Monday 9th March 2020 7.30pm