

# ALLER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
7.30pm, Aller Village Hall

Present:

Mr S Bishop (Chair)

Ms A Mitchell

Mrs E Major

Mr R Bates

Mrs M Lockyer

Mrs J Morrisson

Cllr G Tucker

Cllr C Paul

Miss E Meecham (Clerk)

1 Member of the Public

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 Mr Mayor
2. **Declarations of interest** – None received.
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 – No reported crimes for the area available on the Avon and Somerset Constabulary website.
5. **County Councillor report** – Cllr Paul gave her report to the council. This included notice that there are some cases of Coronavirus within Somerset and that the country is still within the containment phase and better personal hygiene is encouraged as per the government guidelines. Cllr Paul updated the meeting on the Unitary Council proposal and on the Climate agenda, for which £1 million has been set aside for community bids, the application processes for this scheme are being drafted. Cllr Paul also informed the meeting that the Improving Lives grant is to be available again, although for Councils that have already benefitted from the scheme the application would need to be robust. Somerset Rivers Authority have confirmed that despite all the wet weather no homes have been flooded, the Chair of the authority will continue to push to ensure that Somerset is looked after. Cllr Paul informed the meeting that she is now the portfolio holder for Public Health and the Climate Agenda.

Mr Bates asked Cllr Paul if she was aware whether the River Sowey was still due to be scraped back/reprofiled this year. Cllr Paul checked and confirmed that the work is due to go ahead.
6. **District Councillor report** – Cllr Tucker gave his report to the council. At the Area North meeting last week the report on local affordable housing was received, of the five community land trusts in SSDC four of them are in Area North, with the closest to Aller being in High Ham parish. Cllr Tucker also updated the council on the Unitary Council debate, it appears that the SCC business case will be submitted in

June with a challenge to follow from the District Councils. At the recent District Executive meeting the Yeovil Public Realm and transformation projects were debated. The meeting heard that improvements had been achieved through the transformation project, however, three days earlier at the Scrutiny Committee meeting a report explaining the negative impact the project had had on the Planning Service in particular. Cllr Tucker also informed the meeting that Aller had received 50 trees from the tree giveaway that he hoped to have planted at the following weekend, any help from 10am on Saturday would be gratefully received.

## **7. Finance**

It was suggested that the council delay in transferring any further funds to the West Country Savings and Loans account as this year they had passed on paying a dividend.

No further progress had been made on the Internet Banking enabled account, the clerk is to email Mr Tucker at Glastonbury Town Council again asking to have sight of the wording in their financial regulations that allow for internet banking.

7.1 Receipts – Noted.

7.2 Cheques for authorisation – HMRC, Clerks salary, Clerks expenses, SID £1260, Cllr training £25, Table Tennis table £204.98. All agreed unanimously.

## **8. Planning**

### **Applications:**

20/00047/HOU – The erection of a two-storey extension, raising of roof level and installation of dormer windows to front and rear of dwelling house, Walnut Cottage, Aller Hill, Aller, Langport TA10 0RE. – the council discussed the application, Mr Bates proposed that the Council support the application, Mrs Lockyer seconded the proposal and all agreed unanimously.

### **Decisions:**

None – noted.

**9. Highways** – The loose manhole covers have been reported and SCC Highways have been out to mark them up for works to be done. The Clerk informed the meeting of the Fix My Street app. The surface drainage issues outside Carpe Diem still have not been attended to and the drains on Turn Hill have not been jetted resulting in surface water also collecting there. There was a recent incident with a Bakers Dolphin coach getting stuck at Beer Corner.

**10. Lengthsman scheme** – The grass cutting at the churchyard as reported at the last meeting has been granted a 3 month trial at £25 per cut, however, Craig has revised his offer to £15 per hour based on two days a month. It was agreed to wait until the agreed trial was up to make any further decisions.

**11. Aller Recreation Area** – Nothing to report.

**12. Aller Village Hall** – The information on the venues for hire website is out of date and it is not proving easy to update it as nobody knows who has the password. The table tennis table to be purchased has been reduced in price, so it was agreed to go ahead and order one, and if it proves popular to purchase a second one. The Village Hall committee are considering holding a table top sale to help with fund raising.

## **13. Village/Community issues**

It was requested that a standing item be added to future agendas for 'Allotments'

13.1 Aller Cemetery – Mrs Lockyer has spoken to SALC who have requested a letter setting out the advice required. This was signed at the meeting. The installation of the bench has been postponed due to the inclement weather.

- 14. Martha Bond Charity** – Mrs Lockyer has made progress collating the information, the clerk is to chase up the NS&I account.
- 15. Correspondence for information [to be tabled]** – The clerk read out an email received from Mr Dentten regarding some issues around his property – the issues were noted.
- 16. Any other urgent matters raised by permission of the Chairman** – None.
- 17. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.26pm**
- 18. Date and time of next meeting – Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020 7.30pm**

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