

## ALLER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
Immediately following the Annual Parish Assembly which started at 7.30pm,  
Aller Village Hall

Present:

Mr G Tucker

Ms J Peppard

Ms E Dunton

1 Members of the public.

Miss E Meecham (Clerk)

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

### AGENDA

1. **Election of Chair of Council** – Ms Peppard proposed Mr Tucker for the position, this was seconded by Ms Dunton and accepted by Mr Tucker. Mr Tucker gave his thanks to Mr Mayor for his service on the Parish Council, particularly over the last 9 years as Chair of the Council. Mr Mayor thanked the new council.
2. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Wilkins and Cllr Mike Stanton.
3. **Declarations of interest** – None received.
4. **Minutes of last Parish Council Meeting** – The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed by Mr Mayor as the outgoing Chair of the previous Council.
5. **Co-option of Councillors** – Ms Jane Venoit expressed an interest in co-option to the Council, Mr Tucker proposed that she be duly co-opted, Ms Peppard seconded the proposal and the vote was unanimous.
6. **Election of Officers and Representatives** – Ms Peppard has agreed to become the contact for the Parish cemetery, Mr Tucker suggested that with a low level of Councillors at the moment the other distribution of the other responsibilities be deferred for the time being. Mr Tucker proposed that at 9am the Councillors meet at the Village Hall and proceed on a tour of the land owned or managed by the Council
7. **Crime and Disorder**
  - 7.1 **Aller Crime statistics** – No up to date figures available on Avon and Somerset's website. The Council requested that the clerk advise on the most up to date figures available, even if they are a couple of months old. It was suggested that the heading be changed to Community Safety.
  - 7.2 **Speedwatch** – No report received.
8. **District and County Councillors reports**

No County Council report received.

Cllr Tucker gave an SSDC report. During the last year of SSDC being a Council there are two areas of focus, the Planning Service and Revenues & Benefits. The new Unitary Council will determine when over the next year they will be handed over. Recent reports given by Cllr Tucker have focussed strongly on the Planning Service, for several reasons the service has been in dire straits, including the phosphates issue – which has led to a lack of 5-year land supply, Wessex Water should be dealing with the phosphates issue. The Contact Centre at SSDC has also been struggling and not hitting their 4 minute average pick-up target, with the average peaking at 12 minutes, thankfully they have made great progress, the average is now 4 minutes and 10 seconds.
9. **Finance**

- 9.1 **Finance statement [Clerk]** – The Clerk gave the financial report to the Council
- 9.2 **Annual Governance Statement** – The Clerk read the governance statements to the Council and recorded the responses.
- 9.3 **Adoption of Accounts** – The Clerk requested that the Council adopt the accounts for 2021/22 as presented. The accounts were adopted unanimously.
- 9.4 **Audit – exemption?** – The Clerk explained that the Council were eligible to claim exemption on an external audit. The Council agreed unanimously to exempt this year.
- 9.5 **Cheques for authorisation – R Leitch - £257.50, Parrett Drainage Board - £74.00, Village maintenance £141.60, Clerks Salary, HMRC, Software £59.99** – All payments were agreed unanimously.
- 9.6 **VAT reclaim – to note.** – Noted.
- 9.7 **Mandate** – The clerk distributed the necessary information regarding the update to the Mandate, the Council agreed unanimously to update the mandate. The Council asked that an Agenda item be included to cover online banking.
10. **Ongoing business from previous council – to note and discuss** – Noted. Mr Tucker explained his vision for the Council, wishing that the Council become a more visionary Council, rather than a reactionary one, Mr Tucker wished to stress that these thoughts were not intended to be disrespectful to previous councils. Mr Tucker gave examples of: the Village Hall – how could it be used better/more regularly; Footpaths – there is very little resource from SCC to maintain them; Recreation field – some of the equipment needs some attention, it was suggested that Rupert be asked for his input; Signage – fingerposts, sign by Shire’s garage points in the wrong direction.
11. **Aller Recreation Area** – No report.
12. **Planning** – None
13. **Highways** – The major issues within the village are the potholes on Aller Drove and the speed of traffic through the village.
14. **Village maintenance** – The Council agreed that James should continue.
15. **Aller Village Hall** – No report.
16. **Village/Community issues** – Nothing to report. Mr Tucker suggested that this standing agenda item be removed.
17. **Correspondence for information [to be tabled]** – Nothing to share.
18. **Any other urgent matters raised by permission of the Chairman** – None raised. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm
19. **Date and time of next meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 7:30pm. Ms Vernoit gave her apologies for the July meeting.**

*Clerk: Emma Meecham 15 Meadow Road, Yeovil, Somerset BA21 5PB*