

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

Present:

Mr D Mayor

Mr S Bishop

Mrs E Major

Mrs J Morrison

Mrs A Mitchell

Cllr G Tucker

Cllr C Paull

4 Members of the public.

Miss E Meecham (Clerk)

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

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Mr Bates and Mrs Lockyer
- 2. Declarations of interest** – None declared.
- 3. Minutes of last Parish Council Meeting** – 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 statistics received from Avon and Somerset Constabulary. Farm watch reports have been received however, these report thefts of vehicles and hare coursing taking place.
 - 4.2 Speed watch** – No report.
- 5. County Councillor report** – Cllr Paul reported that Somerset Waste Partnership now has their van for repairing/upcycling small items, PAT testing equipment etc. The van has been named 'Fixie'. Cllr Paul also reported that Somerset is taking a co-ordinated approach, Somerset Resettlement, to the Ukrainian sponsorship scheme, this way details can be shared, and a better co-ordination of offers can take place. If anyone would like to know more, please contact Clare. Cllr Paul informed the meeting that the Somerset Rivers Authority is still trying to become a body with precept ability. It was noted in Cllr Paul's report that Covid levels are rising as we move into the 'living with covid' stage. Cllr Paul thanked the Parish Council for their hard work, just in case she does not get re-elected.
- 6. District Councillor report** – Cllr Tucker gave his report to the Council. Items reported included: Three District Executive meetings of SSDC have been held within a four week cycle, this is mainly due to the preparatory work for the Unitary Authority that takes over next year; The last Action Plan before the upcoming local elections has been signed off, this focussed predominantly on the Planning Service and The Call Centre; The crematorium in Yeovil has overspent by approximately £900,000, this has been covered by SSDC; It has been agreed to support the refurbishment and extension of the Octagon Theatre by a further £6million taking the cost to £29million (– more than Mendip's annual budget); The Yeovil Refresh project is still going to require a significant spend; 'Planning re-imagined', a cross-

party programme of improvements to the Planning processes is ongoing and seems to be working; The recent vote of no confidence in Leader of the Council, Val Keitch, did not result in Ms Keitch vacating the post. Cllr Tucker also gave an update on the upcoming local elections, for each existing County Division there will be two elected members who will take over in 2023 with the existing District Councillors helping with the transition. Cllr Tucker also informed the meeting further on the Local Community Networks. Mr Mayor expressed his concerns regarding the 'empowerment' phrase for the Local Community Networks, empowering Parish Councils etc. to deal with more issues with volunteers and limited funding.

7. Finance

7.1 Finance statement [Clerk]

7.2 Cheques for authorisation - Clerks Salary, HMRC – Agreed.

7.3 Grant to jubilee event – A small, £100, grant was requested to assist with the Jubilee event to be held on 5th June. The event will be a small-ish scale village tea party in the playing field. Mrs Major proposed that £100 be granted, Mr Bishop seconded the proposal which was agreed unanimously.

8. Aller Recreation Area – An email has been received requesting some funding toward the next Playday. Mrs Mitchell proposed that £250 be granted toward the project, Mrs Major seconded the proposal which was agreed unanimously.

9. Planning

Applications – None.

Decisions – None.

10.Highways – The drain cover at Bere has been replaced. Aller Drove still has some serious issues with its condition.

11.Lengthsman scheme/ongoing Parish maintenance – James has been asked to tidy the cemetery before Easter, but not to mow as it has been too wet.

11.1 Schedule of works – Following a brief discussion it was agreed that this should be deferred to the new council.

12.Aller Village Hall – Nothing to report.

13.Village/Community issues – None.

14.Correspondence for information [to be tabled] – The clerk made available the necessary paperwork for the elections.

15.Any other urgent matters raised by permission of the Chairman – Mr Mayor thanked all the current council for their hard work to date, thanks were also given to Mr Mayor.

16.Date and time of next meeting – 9th May 2022, 7:30pm.