

ALLER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

held on Monday 11th Novembr9th September 2024 at 7.30pm, Aller Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies

Present: Cllrs Tucker, Geary, Laird and Sharratt; Mrs Larsson (Clerk); Somerset Council Cllr Wilkins.

Apologies: RESOLVED to accept apologies and the reasons given from Cllrs Perkins and Dunton.

2. Parish Council Vacancy

Following resignation of Cllr Brown, 1 vacancy exists on the council. The council may co-opt a new member should a call for election not be made by the 25th September.

3. Declarations of interest: None.

4. Minutes of last Parish Council Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 23rd July 2024 were an accurate record of the meeting, and duly signed by the Chair.

5. Planning Applications: There were no applications to consider.

6. Finance

6.1 Finance statement: RESOLVED to approve the financial reports.

6.2 Payments: RESOLVED to approve the schedule of payments. A list of payments is annexed at the end of the minutes.

Following resignation of Cllr Brown, the bank mandate requires updating to remove her as a signatory. This will be actioned by the clerk.

7. Playground inspection report and remedial works

Having reviewed the recent inspection report and consulted with a number of suppliers, the following issues were identified as being priorities: Replacement or alterations to wooden posts on multiplay units to address rot; repairs to aerial runway; replacement of swing set. A number of smaller remedial repairs which could easily be addressed in house were identified. Due to commercially sensitive information to be discussed, quotations from suppliers will be reviewed in a closed session at the end of the meeting.

8. SID purchase

Cllr Dunton was not present at the meeting, but a report outlining next steps has been circulated to the council. RESOLVED for Cllr Dunton to complete the required documents for the "memorandum of understanding" which requires approval by Somerset Council. Once approved the grant application can be submitted as previously agreed. Cllr Laird offered to support Cllr Dunton with the process.

9. Application for a Community Resilience Grant

Councillors discussed the possible equipment which may be useful during times of flooding but agreed that any provision of equipment should not be to remove any duty from other organisations to provide assistance and ensure prevention of flooding. The council agreed to consult with residents before proceeding further, commenting that for any scheme to be effective it will need a network of wardens. RESOLVED to organise public sessions in Aller and Oath to allow residents to attend and offer their views.

10. Implementation of a flood warden scheme

As per minute 9 above.

11. Training requests/requirements

The clerk advised it was recommended for all councillors to attend the core councillors training provided by SALC. The training calendar is updated regularly and councillors were asked to contact the clerk when suitable dates arose so they could be booked.

The clerk advised that she was beginning the previously agreed training for the Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification this week.

12. Co-option policy

A draft policy was circulated in advance of the meeting, with its purpose to ensure a fair and consistent approach to consideration of applications to member vacancies. RESOLVED to adopt the policy.

13. Updates and associated actions

- 13.1 Aller information Sign: Before progressing with a stand, councillors wanted to understand if any further changes could be made to the map or if it was in its final format. Cllr Laird to liaise with the artist.
- 13.2 Dedicated email addresses & website: Deferred to next meeting.
- 13.3 Footpath improvement works: Footpath works at the recreation ground are complete. The path from Aller to Langport has been completed on the Aller side but not Langport and is on hold while a donation from an organisation in Langport is awaited to help with the costs.
- 13.4 Village improvement works: The bus shelter will be painted soon, though the recreation ground is the current focus of works.
- 13.5 Highways: Drains on the Drove are still blocked. Cllr Sharratt is monitoring.
- 13.6 Aller Recreation Area: As per minutes 7 and 13.3.
- 13.7 Aller Village Hall: The hall is in need of more support as volunteers and/or committee members.
- 13.8 Aller burial board: One exclusive right of burial purchased, and one memorial inscription request received. The cemetery grass is in need of cutting.
- 13.9 Levels and Moors Local Community Network: The next meeting is on the 18th September with a focus on flooding. Cllrs Laird and Sharratt will be attending.

14. Other actions from previous meeting: None.

15. Correspondence

General communications received have been circulated to Councillors.

16. Any other urgent matters: None raised.

17. Items for the next meeting: Play equipment remedials/replacement.

18. Date and time of next meeting: Monday 11th November 2024, 7.30pm.

Confidential Items

RESOLVED: Under Standing Orders 3d and 10xi the Parish Council resolves that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted (legal, personal or commercial), the press and public be excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

To consider quotations for remedial/replacement works to play equipment at the recreation ground.

19. Recreation ground play equipment

As per minute 7, areas of priority were identified. Councillors reviewed quotations from suppliers, noting the different options for addressing the issues.

Having reviewed reserves ear marked for the recreation ground, the level of general reserves and funds available from the independent recreation ground committee, the council RESOLVED to proceed with works to a value of £18,100 as follows:

Remove bases of wooden posts on multiplay units, replacing with steel feet to address rot.

Replace 4 swing set with new.

Replace rot affected post on aerial runway and carry out repairs to the mechanism.

Various small repairs identified as able to carry out in-house.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

Signed ...G. Tucker.....

Dated11th November 2024.....

Initial

Annex 1. Payments Authorised

PAYMENTS TO AUTHORISE

| Description | Supplier | Net | VAT | Total |
|----------------------------|--|--------|------|--------|
| SCRIBE SOFTWARE - CEMETERY | STARBOARD SYSTEMS T/A SCRIBE ACCOUNTS | 276 | 55.2 | 331.2 |
| SCRIBE SOFTWARE - ACCOUNTS | STARBOARD SYSTEMS T/A SCRIBE ACCOUNTS | 276 | 55.2 | 331.2 |
| SALC AFFILIATION FEE | SOMERSET ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS | 95.08 | 0 | 95.08 |
| ADMIN EXPENSES | AMAZON MEDIA EU SARL | 34.99 | 7 | 41.99 |
| PLAYGROUND INSPECTION | THE PLAY INSPECTION COMPANY | 142.5 | 28.5 | 171 |
| VILLAGE INFORMATION MAP | EMILY SWEENEY (EKS ART) | 177.73 | 0 | 177.73 |
| VILLAGE INFORMATION MAP | EMILY SWEENEY (EKS ART) | 22.27 | 0 | 22.27 |
| DRAINAGE RATES | PARRETT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD | 86.44 | 0 | 86.44 |

PAYMENTS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING

| Description | Supplier | Net | VAT | Total |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| RECREATION GROUND AND PATH WORKS | SCREWFIX | 6.81 | 1.37 | 8.18 |
| RECREATION GROUND AND PATH WORKS | MRA ROUSELL AND SONS | 243.84 | 48.77 | 292.61 |
| WILDLIFE AREA | LANGPORT PET STORE | 25 | 0 | 25 |
| GRASS CUTTING | SHIRES GARAGE | 6.29 | 1.26 | 7.55 |
| RECREATION GROUND AND PATH WORKS | B REYNOLDS | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| RECREATION GROUND AND PATH WORKS | CRS Building Supplies | 90.22 | 18.04 | 108.26 |