

# **ALLER PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm, Aller Village Hall**

Prior to the meeting beginning, a presentation and Q&A session was held with a representative from Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). Damon Bridges informed of the study currently underway to create a wildlife area between Langport and Bridgwater. Known as the Landscape Recovery Programme, the opportunity for Aller PC to include their land could bring financial benefits to the parish. Following the presentation, Cllrs Sharratt and Tucker will represent the parish at any future meetings and will report back as required.

### **Presentation of Villager of the year 2024**

Mr Bill Stamp was present and was awarded a certificate and engraved cut glass in recognition of his being awarded the Villager of the Year award 2024. Mr Stamp was lost for words and was honoured to have been recognised for the voluntary work that he undertakes around the village

### **1. Attendance and Apologies**

Present: Cllrs Tucker, Perkins, Geary and Sharratt.

Apologies: RESOLVED to accept apologies and the reasons given from Cllrs Laird (work related engagement) and Dunton (family bereavement). The Clerk was unable to attend due to an accident and the Chair had agreed to cover both roles.

Five members of the public were in attendance. There was no representation from either Somerset Council or the Press

### **2. Parish Council Vacancy**

There continues to be 1 member vacancy on the council. The Chair encouraged every Councillor to give consideration to addressing this shortfall as it may prove difficult in the future to be quorate.

### **3. Declarations of interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4. Appointment of a Vice-Chair**

DEFERRED to the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

### **5. Minutes of last Parish Council Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were an accurate record of the meeting, and duly signed by the Chair.

### **6. Planning**

No applications have been received which require consideration

### **7. Finance**

#### **7.1 To receive the finance statement to 28/2/2025**

The finance statement having been previously circulated was presented to the meeting. There were no questions arising.

#### **7.2 To approve the list of payments for authorisation**

The list of payments having been previously circulated was presented to the meeting. There were no questions arising.

#### **8. To consider appointment of an internal auditor**

Councillors voted unanimously to retain the same Internal Auditor as used previously at an increased cost to £150.00. Mr Paul Russell is to be asked to undertake the audit for Aller PC for the current financial year.

#### **9. To consider adoption of updated Financial Regulations**

The Financial Regulations have been updated and had been previously circulated. In the absence of the parish clerk, there was uncertainty as to which parts of the Regulations had been amended to fit with the requirements of Aller Parish Council. It was RESOLVED that this item appears on the agenda for the next meeting when the clerk will be present to inform of the proposed amendments.

#### **10. To receive an update and consider next steps in implementation of speed indicator devices**

With neither Cllr Laird or Dunton being present, progress with the grant, location and installation of additional Speed Indicator Devices is unknown. The Chair described where the camera on the east of the parish is to be located. Prior to installing a post on which to hang the camera, it was RESOLVED that the Chair will obtain the cost for a 100mm galvanised post.

#### **11. To discuss and consider any actions in relation to drainage issues at The Drove**

Cllr Sharratt explained that there are eleven drainage pipes located under the road on Aller Drove and that all but one of them are silted up. In the absence of the Somerset Councillor, who has responsibilities for Highways, it is not possible to progress in finding a solution. Cllr Tucker had attended a LCN (Local Community Network) Highways meeting where a representative from Kier informed that part of his job was to arrange gully clearing. Cllr Tucker will make contact and try to arrange a site visit to explain the situation.

#### **12. To confirm arrangements for grass cutting in the cemetery**

Peter Froome has been cutting the churchyard grass for the past year. Having been approached, he is prepared to cut the cemetery grass at a cost of £35.00 per cut. It was proposed by Cllr Tucker, seconded by Cllr Perkins and unanimously RESOLVED that Mr Froome cuts the cemetery grass. *Having spoken to Mr Froome to confirm the arrangement, payment is to be made monthly by BACS, assuming a cut every two weeks between March and October.*

#### **13. To consider arrangements for post installation and annual playground equipment inspections**

As the next phase of works is soon to be implemented, it was AGREED that it would be wise to wait until June and undertake a full inspection, rather than have an interim inspection just prior to the additional work being undertaken.

#### **14. To receive updates and agree any actions on the following areas:**

##### **14.1 Village improvement works**

The completion of the improved footpath between Monks Clyse Sluice and the Viaduct will be completed once it dries up a little. Payment has now been received from Langport Commoners for the work in that vicinity.

##### **14.2 Footpaths.**

The Chair informed that the Levels and Moors LCN continues to press ahead in attempting to create a cycle/walking route to Langport.

#### 14.3 Highways

Enormous frustration was shared that Highways, having closed the A372 at Beer Wall, failed to erect and display adequate diversion signage. This resulted in both increased use and damage to Aller Drove. Cllr Sharratt had previously engaged with Highways and expressed anticipation that this would not happen again. Cllr Tucker was equally frustrated that whilst closed, the dangerous hedge which Highways are responsible for on Seven Bends had not been attended to. There was clearly complete absence of joined up cooperation between the various Highways departments.

#### 14.4 Aller Recreation Area

Councillors unanimously AGREED that the Recreation Field can be used for Somerset Day celebrations on Sunday 11th May.

#### 14.5 Aller burial board

Nothing to report

#### 14.6 Aller Village Hall

Nothing to report

#### 14.7 Training

The SALC training programme had been previously circulated. There was no uptake by Councillors to undertake any training.

#### 14.8 Levels and Moors Local Community Network

The Levels and Moors Local Community Network is seemingly making more progress than many of the others. The next full meeting is to be held at Stoke St Gregory VH on Monday 31st March. The Highways group had recently met (as reported in a previous agenda item)

Active Travel will meet on 27th March. Representatives from Curry Rivel, Drayton, Langport, Huish Episcopi and Aller recently met with a representative from The Strawberry Line route. It is possible that a Community Interest Organisation may be set up to enable grants to be obtained and the continuation of work should the LCN's cease to exist.

#### **15. Update of actions from the previous meeting(s) not covered by other agenda items**

There were no updates relating to previous agenda items

#### **16. Correspondence for information**

Correspondence previously circulated was noted

#### **17. Any other matters raised by permission of the Chair**

There were no additional items raised.

#### **18. Items for the next meeting.**

Financial Regulations are to be included on the next agenda

#### **19. Date and time of next meeting:**

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 12th May 2025

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.06pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....