

ALLER PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 26th April 2021
Immediately following the Annual Parish Assembly which started at 7.30pm,
Virtual meeting on Zoom

Present:

Mr D Mayor	Mrs J Morrison
Mrs M Lockyer	Mrs E Major
Mr R Bates	Mr S Bishop
Mrs A Mitchell	

Cllr G Tucker
Miss E Meecham (Clerk)

0 Members of the public.

Mr Tucker informed the meeting that he is frustrated by the level of cleanliness and grass cutting around the village since the end of the lengthsman scheme, could the Parish Council pay someone to take on the necessary work? Mr Mayor accepted the comment, but replied that the recent pandemic and associated restrictions have been making things very difficult, it is also increasingly difficult to find volunteers who are willing to organise the issues, although it would seem that Chris would be willing to take more of the work itself on.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr Paul.
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. **Election of Officers and Representatives** – The meeting unanimously proposed, seconded and voted for Mr Mayor to remain as Chair and Mr Bishop to remain as Vice-Chair, both gentlemen agreed to continue. The other representatives were happy to continue and as such it was unanimously agreed that they do so.
5. **Crime and Disorder**
 - 5.1 **Aller Crime statistics** – No up to date statistics were available. Mrs Lockyer reported that there are still plenty of reports coming through on the Farm Watch scheme, mostly farm thefts.
 - 5.2 **Speedwatch** – The team have been able to restart their work.
6. **District and County Councillors reports** – Mr Tucker reported that due to the pre-election period there haven't been many meetings. The decision regarding the Unitary Council options has yet to be made, this will probably be mid-June at the earliest. Mr Tucker informed the meeting that Alex Parmley, Chief Executive Officer at SSDC, has resigned to take up a post in New Zealand, and that Netta Meadows, one of the directors has also already left. Mr Tucker informed the meeting that the Scrutiny panel is looking at the procurement and utility providers for SSDC.
7. **SSDC Playday** – An email has been received and circulated regarding another PlayDay on the recreation area, SSDC are proposing that this happens during the summer, Covid-19 restrictions permitting. The Recreation Area Committee are happy to host but request a £100 grant toward the cost. Mr Bishop proposed that the Council award them £100, Mrs Major seconded the proposal, and it was unanimously agreed.
8. **Zoom** – The clerk explained that the legal option to hold meeting virtually is due to expire, however, there is a case going to High Court regarding this. The meeting discussed the option to renew the Zoom licence and unanimously agreed not to do so, they agreed that

for planning committee meetings they would use the free version if required, and await the High Court decision before making any further decisions.

9. Finance

- 9.1 Finance statement [Clerk]** – The clerk presented the current financial statement, the meeting had no questions.
- 9.2 Annual Governance Statement** – The clerk read the required Annual Governance Statements and recorded the Council's responses accordingly.
- 9.3 Adoption of Accounts** – The clerk presented the accounts for the previous financial year, the meeting unanimously agreed to adopt them.
- 9.4 Audit – exemption?** – The meeting unanimously agreed to complete the exemption certificate for this year.
- 9.5 Cheques for authorisation - R Leitch - £257.50, Parrett Drainage Board - £70.07, Clerks Salary, HMRC, Donation to Playday?** – All agreed unanimously.

Cllr Paul joined the meeting at this time and gave her report. Cllr Paul reported that Recycle More is due to start within South Somerset at the end of June, more information will be sent to households, along with the new 'Blue Bag' for recycling more plastics. There is a Full Council meeting on 5th May, so if there any changes to the Recycle More scheme Cllr Paul will inform the Council. Cllr Paul reported that Somerset have been continuing to do well with the vaccine rollout, with over a million people already having received their two doses, she took the opportunity to remind people of the Hands, Face, Space, Ventilate guidance.

- 10. Aller Recreation Area** – The report given during the Annual Parish Assembly mentioned the need for a refurbishment of equipment, along with difficulties with the grass cutting, and as previously mentioned in this meeting there is hopefully to be another Play Day organised by SSDC this year. It was agreed to send the monies budgeted for to the Recreation Area toward the cost of the refurbishment.

11. Planning

Applications – None, noted.

Decisions – None, noted.

- 12. Highways** – Mrs Major reported that hopefully the issues in High Street have been resolved.
- 13. Lengthsman scheme** – The council were asked that if they had anything that needed addressing to let Mrs Morrison know so that she can approach Chris.
- 14. Aller Village Hall** – There have been no meetings held. It is assumed that the finances are sound.
- 15. Village/Community issues**
 - 15.1 Dog bin** – The council agreed to the purchase of two 50l dog waste bins for the identified areas.
- 16. Correspondence for information [to be tabled]** – The clerk reported that she had received a questionnaire from the Ratings Department regarding the cemetery, which had been passed to Mrs Lockyer for assistance.
- 17. Cemetery** – Mrs Lockyer reported that she has heard nothing further regarding the refund query discussed at the last meeting.
- 18. Any other urgent matters raised by permission of the Chairman** – None.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8:45pm

- 19. Date and time of next meeting – 12th July 2021, 7:30pm.**