

ALLER PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 13th January 2025 at 7.00pm, Aller Village Hall

Prior to the meeting beginning, a presentation and Q&A session was held with a representative from Wessex Water with regards to concerns of increasing discharge from the storm overflow.

A number of questions were raised and answered, and information shared on upcoming improvements to the network. Some questions were unable to be answered during the meeting and will be investigated further by the Wessex Water representative.

1. Attendance and Apologies

Present: Cllrs Tucker, Laird and Sharratt; Mrs Larsson (Clerk)

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

2. Parish Council Vacancy

There is currently 1 member vacancy on the council. Interested parties should contact the Clerk or a councillor for more information.

3. Declarations of interest: None.

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 11th November 2024 were an accurate record of the meeting, and duly signed by the Chair.

6. Planning Applications:

- 6.1 24/02813/S73: The Craven Aller Langport Somerset TA10 0RA - S73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) to allow change in design; in relation to planning approval 23/03044/FUL for Demolition of existing outbuilding and removal of static caravan to facilitate the erection of a new two-storey dwelling and single garage, retention of existing cottage as workshop, ancillary to dwelling
The council had no objections to the amendments and RESOLVED to submit a response of no comments.

7. Finance

- 7.1 Finance statement: RESOLVED to approve the financial reports.

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

- 7.3 2025/26 Budget

A draft budget was circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting and was discussed in detail. The council considered the need to plan for reduction of services provided by Somerset Council, with issues relating to highways and rights of way maintenance anticipated. The council is also aware of upcoming charges for publicly sited waste bin collections, bringing the South Somerset area service in line with other arrangements across the county. The council also noted the need to plan for ongoing maintenance and replacement of equipment at the recreation ground in future years. Considering these factors, along with the need to maintain adequate general reserves in line with recommendations and the resulting impact on the required precept, it was RESOLVED to set the 2025-26 operational budget at £21,103 with earmarked reserves of £25,250. The agreed budget is annexed at the end of the minutes.

- 7.4 2025/26 Precept

Considering the agreed budget, the council RESOLVED to set the precept for 2025-26 at £17,855.92. This equates to an increase of £29.83 per year / 57 pence per week on a band D property.

8. Aller Parishioner of the Year

The council RESOLVED to acknowledge Mr William Stamp with the Aller Parishioner of the Year Award, recognising his many contributions to the community. An invitation will be extended for Mr Stamp to attend the March meeting receive his award.

9. Speed Indicator Device (SID) purchase

Cllr Laird is working on the memorandum of understanding and will be liaising with neighbours of the proposed locations for their support.

10. Memorial Request

Councillors agreed to allow a memorial of slightly larger size than stipulated in the cemetery regulations, noting that there have been other memorials erected which exceed the proposed size. The cemetery regulations are to be reviewed later this year and size restrictions will be considered.

11. Updates and associated actions

- 11.1 Village improvement works: No items to update.
- 11.2 Footpaths: A grant has been applied for by Langport Town Council which would benefit the wider area.
- 11.3 Highways: No updates.
- 11.4 Aller Recreation Area: No updates.
- 11.5 Aller burial board: There is an opportunity for a local contractor to take over the grass cutting ensuring it will be completed regularly.
- 11.6 Aller Village Hall: It is planned to paint the exterior of the hall later in the year.
- 11.7 Training: No updates.
- 11.8 Levels and Moors Local Community Network: An application is being prepared for the SALC Health & Wellbeing Fund for a project to tackle loneliness.

12. Other actions from previous meeting:

- 12.1 The Clerk is progressing development of the new website and email addresses with Netwise.

13. Correspondence

General communications received have been circulated to Councillors.

14. Any other urgent matters: None raised.

15. Items for the next meeting:

- 15.1 Parishioner of the Year presentation
- 15.2 Cemetery grass cutting
- 15.3 Requirement for works to blocked drainage under The Drove

16. Date and time of next meeting: Monday 17th March 2025, 7.30pm.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.36pm.

SignedGerard Tucker, Chair.....

Dated ...17th March 2025.....

Annex 1. Payments Authorised

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT
K. LARSSON	ADMIN EXPENSES	£8.16	£0.00
WIX.COM LTD	WEBSITE MONTHLY SUPPORT PLAN	£14.67	£2.93
WIX.COM LTD	WEBSITE DOMAIN (.ORG)	£27.00	£5.40
NETWISE UK	WEBSITE ANNUAL PLAN + SETUP	£929.00	£185.80
NETWISE UK	WEBSITE DOMAIN (.GOV.UK)	£10.00	£2.00
LANGPORT PET STORE	WILDLIFE AREA BIRD FEED	£67.00	£0.00
SHIRES GARAGE	MOWER FUEL	£5.47	£1.09

Annex 2. 2025-26 Budget

BUDGET 25-26	
RECEIPTS	
BURIALS	500
WAYLEAVE	19
LAND RENTAL INCOME	3389
BANK INTEREST	250
TOTALS	4158
PAYMENTS	
STAFF COSTS	4880
GENERAL ADMIN	300
SUBSCRIPTIONS	200
TRAINING	500
INSURANCE	1100
LENGTHSMAN / RANGER (INCL. GRASS CUTTING)	1500
VILLAGE MAINTENANCE	500
HALL HIRE	200
GRANTS/DONATIONS	1000
BURIAL GROUND (RATES)	250
DRAINAGE BOARD	90
AUDIT	400
RECREATION GROUND	500
REC: WILDLIFE AREA	300
ALLOTMENT PAYMENT	515
VILLAGE HALL	1500
WEBSITE	420
ICT EQUIPMENT/SOFTWARE	600
DEFIBRILLATOR	100
FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENTS	250
PARISH AESTHETICS (PLANTERS ETC)	600
CONTINGENCY	1000
SOMERSET COUNCIL CONTINGENCY	
<i>BIN EMPTYING</i>	1820
<i>GRIT BIN FILLING</i>	100
VAT	1978
TOTALS	<u>21103</u>
RESERVES	
EARMARKED RESERVES	
RECREATION GROUND	10000.00
VILLAGE HALL	4000.00
SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES	6000.00
SC LOSS OF SERVICES	5000.00
CLERK IT EQUIPMENT	250.00
TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES	<u>25250.00</u>
GENERAL RESERVE	<u>14463.75</u>