

ALLER PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Wednesday 16th July 2023 at 7.30pm, Aller Village Hall

Present:

Cllrs Dunton, Vernoit, Peppard and Geary

Somerset Council Cllr Wilkins

Mrs Larsson (Clerk), 1 member of the public

In the absence of Cllrs Tucker and Brown, as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, it was agreed that Cllr Dunton would chair the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Tucker, Brown, Perkins and Somerset Council Cllr Wilkins.
2. **Declarations of interest:** None declared.
3. **Minutes of last Parish Council Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.
4. **Somerset Councillor Report**
A full report was circulated to councillors and will be made available on the parish council website. In addition to items in the written report, Cllr Stanton highlighted the upcoming planned strike action by Suez workers, potentially affecting waste collections. An Executive Meeting was due to take place the day after the parish council meeting and it was hoped that an agreement could be reached which would prevent the strike action. The Somerset Council website should be consulted for the most up to date information on the possible strike action.
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1 The council approved the financial statement to 30/06/23.
 - 5.2 The schedule of payments was approved by councillors. A list of payments is annexed at the end of the minutes.
6. **Planning Applications:**
 - 6.1 23/01399/HOU – The Brambles, Church Path, Aller TA10 0QP
Proposal: Proposed single storey side extension to existing annex
Councillors discussed the application and voted unanimously in support of the application.
 - 6.2 23/01446/FUL – Hill Farm , Wood Drove, Huish Episcopi TA10 0DD
Proposal: Proposed demolition of barn and the erection of a replacement dwelling (following Class Q Prior Approval (21/00429/PAMB), and associated carport and workshop.
Councillors discussed the application and voted unanimously in support, also noting that the development had received comment of support from a close neighbour.
The full responses were submitted to can be found on the Somerset Council planning and can be found on the planning portal against the respective applications.
7. **Soldier Silhouettes:** Councillors has previously agreed to purchase 3. No silhouettes for use on Armistice Day/Remembrance Sunday. The council re-visited costs as these had increased since initial enquiries. Councillors agreed in majority to increase the agreed amount to a maximum of £90 per silhouette based on up-to-date costs.

Due to a personal emergency, Cllr Geary left the meeting at 19.55.

- 8. Cemetery Administration:** Cllr Peppard has been managing the cemetery, but unfortunately feels she can no longer dedicate the time needed to fulfil this role. After discussion of the requirements, it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk would take over responsibility for the cemetery management and administration. An increase of 4 hours per month to the Clerks contracted hours was agreed to allow for the additional workload. This will be reviewed in six months to ensure that the additional time allocated is sufficient.
- It was noted that a local contact may be needed to carry out some interim checks at the cemetery. This will be discussed when more council members are present at a future meeting.
- 9. Cemetery Management Software:** The Clerk had received a demonstration of cemetery management software from one provider. After an explanation of the product, Councillors agreed this seems to be a simple, effective and modern way to manage cemetery records with a secure electronic back-up of information. Unfortunately, the quote had not been received from the supplier at the time of the meeting. This will be followed up by the Clerk and presented at the next meeting.
- 10. Bin Purchases / Re-locations:** Following a review by Somerset Council, recommendations were received on locations for co-mingle bins (dog and general waste combined), and potential alternative locations for existing dog waste bins. Recommendations were based on a combination of the use of existing bins, pedestrian traffic and suitable locations for collection operatives to stop and empty bins.
- Co-mingle bins were recommended at the recreation field and Orchard Path green area to replace open basket bins. Both recommendations were agreed unanimously by councillors. The cost per bin is £758, with installation being undertaken by Somerset Council.
- Re-siting of dog bins from the village triangle and Church Path was recommended, with new locations on the High Street and Ridley Hill. Councillors did not feel either of these locations were suitable and would like to re-visit other possible locations.
- Councillors were keen to see if there was any possibility for recycling bins and if a co-mingle bin would be possible at the bus stop. Cllr Brown/Somerset Council will be consulted on these items and will be added to the next agenda.
- 11. Updates**
- 11.1 Moors and Levels Local Community Network: The first meeting was held on 19th July with Cllr Brown and the Clerk in attendance. Cllr Richard Wilkins was elected Chair, Cllr Anthony Betty of Othery PC as Vice-Chair. LCNs will be supported by a half-time link officer, recruitment for these roles is due to start soon. Discussion was held in groups to identify priorities for future meetings, the frequency of which is to be discussed at the next meeting in September (date TBC).
- 11.2 Active Travel: Cllr Dunton attended the meeting in May, and reported that there is a lot of commitment to improvements and a lot of work is already underway. Proposal of a Cyclepath to Bridgwater from Aller is almost approved, but there is a final gap from Aller to Langport on the cycle network.
- 11.3 Highways: Cllr Dunton reported she is compiling information for her report on traffic and calming measures for Aller, which she plans to present in September. It was noted that the Speedwatch coordinator for Aller feels that SIDs are beneficial in other areas where speeding is a problem and would like to see them implemented on a more permanent basis in the parish.
- 11.4 Recreation Area: Following a routine safety inspection, a number of areas identified have had remedial works carried out. Further works will be carried out over winter months when the area is less well used.
- There are plans for another bonfire this year to fundraise for the recreation ground, village hall and church.
- 11.5 Village Hall: Some new groups have started to meet at the hall. Running costs are being met by hire income, but winter is expected to be challenging as heating costs kick in. The outside of the hall is hoped to be painted around September/October.
- 11.6 Burial Board: No significant updates to report.

12. Previous actions not covered by other agenda items:

- 12.1 Christmas Tree: Mrs P's has kindly agreed to donate a tree for the triangle this year.
- 12.2 Oath Defibrillator: Oath residents are very supportive of the proposal. Cllr Peppard will start to gather ideas for fundraising. The location is still to be approved (Cllr Tucker to update).

13. Correspondence

- a. Confirmation was received from Somerset Council Rights of Way that Footpath L 1/6 has been diverted as per previous proposal.
- b. Enquiry was received regarding an additional bus stop outside Bere Cider on the A372. As the parish council have limited ability to assist, it was agreed that the resident should be directed to the Somerset Bus Partnership who are more knowledgeable on these matters.
- c. Enquiry was received regarding a missing bridge at Wick Moor Rhyne. Since the enquiry further correspondence has been received that this is already being addressed. No further action needed.

14. Any other urgent matters: None raised.

15. Summary of Actions

- a. Arrange order of soldier silhouettes – Clerk
- b. Alternative bin locations – Clerk/JB
- c. Oath defibrillator location – GT/JP

16. Items for the next meeting

- 16.1 Speeding / traffic calming
- 16.2 Additional waste/dog bin locations
- 16.3 Cemetery software

17. Date and time of next Parish Council meeting – Monday 11th September, 7:30pm

The Chair closed the meeting.

Annex 1. Payments Authorised

Payments authorised - July 2023			
Invoice date	Payee	Description	Amount
01/04/2023	Parrett Internal Drainage	Drainage Rates	£ 80.46
17/05/2023	G Wagen James	Grass Cutting (May)	£ 183.60
25/05/2023	J Brown	Trough plants	£ 58.85
05/06/2023	SALC	Cemetery Training Course	£ 30.00
14/06/2023	The Play Inspection Co	Playground Safety Inspection	£ 162.00
04/07/2023	K Larsson	Salary (M3)	£ 288.42
04/07/2023	K Larsson	Admin expenses (incl. SLCC annual membership)	£ 71.99
04/08/2023	K Larsson	Salary (M4)	£ 288.42
Payments made since last meeting			
Invoice date	Payee	Description	Amount
26/05/2023	G Wagen James	Grass Cutting	£ 183.60
26/05/2023	BHIB Insurance	Annual Insurance Premium	£ 950.80