

**MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING OF CHAPEL ALLERTON PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11TH JANUARY 2021**

Meeting commenced: 7.37 p.m. **Meeting concluded:** 9.05 pm.

Present: Councillors Duggan-Rees (Chair), Williams, Torrens-Spence, Blakemore and Wallach.

Also in attendance: Miss Caroline Harris, Parish Clerk , District Councillor Goodwin-Pearson (from 8pm), and two member of the public.

74.20 Apologies for Absence:

County Councillor Filmer has given his apologies as he has another meeting to attend. (Provided a report to be read by the clerk)

RESOLVED: that apologies be received and approved.

75.20 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th December 2020

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th December 2020 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman as soon as it is safe to do so.

Updates and actions since last meeting – for reference only

None.

75.20 Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensations

None

76.20 Reports

ORGANISATIONS	REPORTS
Police	The clerk informed the meeting that there were no crimes logged in November/December 2020
County Councillor Filmer	Corona Virus Update: Figures to 31 st December 2020 were read by the clerk. The number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 9355, up from 5,110 on 1 st December 2020, and the number of Covid attributed deaths 335. The rate per 100,000 currently stands at 248.3 for Somerset by 2,738 and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 208. The rate per 100,000 currently stands at 65.5 for Somerset with Sedgemoor at 94.8 and SW&T at 70.6. The current number of total deaths across the County is currently 17% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 1.3 and 1.6.

Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline:

A single phone number is available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. **0300 790 6275**, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm, offering a range of support – from help accessing food or medicines, to emotional and financial support, and employment, housing and business advice.

Vaccination programme roll-out:

Somerset residents who have been identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) as the highest priority are being invited for Covid-19 vaccinations first, including people aged over 80 and health and care staff. Residents should not contact their local NHS services for vaccination, they will be contacted when it's their turn and given the information that they need for their appointment. For more information

visit: www.somersetccg.nhs.uk/health/local-services/health-services-during-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccinations-in-somerset

SCC Support: More than 700 County Council staff are being redeployed to support the NHS challenge of rolling out the county's biggest ever vaccination programme. The first community GP-led sites have begun vaccinations and follows the launch of the programme in hospital hubs. Further plans are being drawn up to ensure vaccination in other locations across the county. Operating seven days a week which will require a considerable staffing resource and whilst every effort is being made to avoid disruption to SCC services some impact will undoubtedly be felt in areas outside of vulnerable people services.

High Speed Broadband: Three companies have been selected to roll-out the next phase of full fibre network on behalf of the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) programme, backed by Government funding. Airband, Truespeed and Wessex Internet will

	<p>be installing full fibre broadband across Devon and Somerset to more than 56,000 rural homes and businesses over the next 4 years.</p> <p><i>It is vitally important to remember at all times the Hands-Face-Space message.</i></p>
Outside Bodies	<p>David Nevett appraised the meeting of the "Adapting to Change on the Somerset Levels" report.</p> <p>The purpose of this initiative is to empower those that live on the levels to adapt to deal with flooding and drought.</p> <p>Encouraging strategies such as: taking up tarmac; using water butts; reducing speed limits; encouraging dew ponds; stopping peat digging; tree planting; hedgerow management and sustainable development.</p> <p>A copy of the report will be available on the Chapel Allerton Parish Council website.</p>
District Councillor Godwin-Pearson	<p>There are very few staff currently working at Bridgewater House as they are primarily working from home.</p> <p>At the most recent January Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, the Climate Emergency Plan was discussed extensively and ratified.</p> <p>The decision on the 'One Somerset' v 'Two Somerset' question was awaited.</p> <p>Information had been circulated regarding applying for more Councillors. This would be re-sent to members by the clerk.</p>

77.20 Planning

- a) RLT3 money - A representative from Allerton Cricket club spoke to members about the plans to refurbish the practice wicket at the club. The necessary works would fall within the remit for RLT3 allocation and cost approximately £1,100.00 Up to 80% of this can be applied for and the cricket club sought permission to do this with the Parish Council's approval.

RESOLVED: To approve this application and the clerk will liaise with the cricket club to provide a letter of support.

- b) VDS group update
- Members received update from David Nevitt and Cllr Torrens Spence. Regular meetings are ongoing fortnightly via Zoom and a draft should be ready in the next month or two. This draft will help capture a list of questions for Nick Tait. These will also be shared with members.
- It is intended that Nick Tait will be invited to a future Parish Council meeting. It was discussed that the final updated VDS should be added to the Parish Council website.

RESOLVED: That the clerk will add this to the website when ready

It was explained that in the main this will be an electronic resource but that there will be a limited print run of the final VDS, and that there will be some associated printing costs.

RESOLVED: To cover VDS print costs up to £300

- c) Future planning applications – none
- d) Planning List

Members received the list up 8/1/2021 showing recent applications and decisions. No comments were made on these.

Members discussed application 50/20/00105 which is in Ashon Drove but does not fall inside the Chapel Allerton Parish boundary. Members were content not to have a planning meeting to discuss this as had no objections.

The clerk was asked to request that Chapel Allerton is informed of applications that are close to the boundary in order that members might have an opportunity to comment.

- e) Conservation area update – the Chair briefed members on the history and aims of the conservation area policy. It was now understood that only a small section of Chapel Allerton would be eligible to be given conservation area status and that this would mostly be relevant to changes to existing buildings more than new developments. The Chair will discuss further with Mark Lidster to check this and also consult with villagers impacted by this change.

D.Cllr Godwin-Pearson and the two parishioners left the meeting at this point.

78.20 Administration & Finance

Clerk's wages at the standard hours of 16 per month, to be approved for payment by Sedgemoor District Council Payroll

Clerk's expenses – Zoom payment, stamps etc £55.70

Village maintenance – Dale Plowman £9.75

Payments to be ratified:

Chair's expenses £30.00

Old School Rm hire for meeting £10.00

DD ICO certificate 1 yr £35.00

RESOLVED: To pay these as soon as practical and safe to do so

79.20 Footpaths & highways

a) Footpaths – No updates other than they are very wet currently

b) Highways – Speed limit changes are progressing and Aileen Fletcher has now taken over from Katherine Tyson as the case officer. She is based in Birmingham but will be moving to Somerset in 2021 and has been very helpful so far. Speed limit proposals were discussed, and it was noted that there had been a number of positive email responses to the Allerton News item about this. Members also reported some resident's verbal expressions of opinion which were not in favour. The proposals as per the plan put forward by Somerset County Council were going ahead with a couple of changes agreed. The Ashton request for a 30 mph restriction has been refused as the area does not meet the criteria for a 30 mph zone. They have offered a 50mph limit option. This was discussed along with the suggestion to install village gateways to help slow traffic in the Allertons.

RESOLVED: Not to agree to the village gateways or the 50mph zone in Ashton.

The Chair undertook to continue to work on this to obtain extra "Slow Down" signage including for Ashton. Suggestion of "Please drive carefully through our village" signs was thought to be a good one.

c) Ice and gritting update - The recent serious accident on new year's eve 2020 (car over-turned and written off, driver slightly injured) was discussed and the reply from Liam Gill at Sedgemoor highways was read out to the meeting. Sedgemoor highways have inspected the area where the accident happened outside the Wheatsheaf Inn and found no clear evidence of ice. There was general advice to exercise caution when driving in freezing conditions but no further resources offered. It was discussed that several people could be asked for witness statements to send to Liam Gill.

RESOLVED: To ask local people to email the clerk with confirmation of the black ice on that section of road where the accident happened.

80.20 Memorial Cross – Stone Allerton Tree

Alternatives were discussed to having a tree as a replacement for the dying Cherry tree. It was suggested that the area might be expanded a little by lifting some slabs and then planted with bulbs. It was also agreed that ideally this could be adopted by a local person to tend the planting.

Cllr Wallach undertook to ask Mr Duckett for written confirmation of the dying state of this tree to be included with the planning request to fell it and grind out the stump. Mr Duckett's advice would also be sought about how much paving should be removed. Cllr Wallach also undertook to make the planning application.

RESOLVED: To ask in Allerton News if anyone would adopt the area if planted with bulbs and flowers.

81.20 Chair's report

No additional items

82.20 Clerk's report

No additional items

83.20 Matters of Report

No additional items

84.20 Future agenda items

Conservation area

Extra Councillor (s)

Memorial Cross – Cherry tree replacement

Chairman

Date

The next Parish Meeting will be by Zoom on: 22nd February 2021
Caroline Harris, Clerk to Chapel Allerton Parish Council