

CHAPEL ALLERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Chapel Allerton Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 4 September 2023 in the Old School Room, Stone Allerton. BS26 2NL.

Present: Cllrs Jasmine Blakemore, Fiona Torrens-Spence, Rachel Williams and Val Wathen.

In attendance: Cllr Tessa Munt; David Banwell (Wedmore Village Farm) and 4 members of the public.

Cllr Blakemore chaired the meeting.

****Public Question Time****

The condition of Ham Lane beyond Crooked Cottage was discussed. This lane is not adopted by the Highways Agency and has become overgrown and uneven. The principal cause seems to be the use of large machinery by contractors. Councillor Munt suggested that residents discuss the problem with the landowner and ask them to specify that their contractors use machinery more suited to the access available.

01.09.23 To receive apologies for absence:

Cllr Margaret Wallach and Clerk Sammie Millard-Jones

02.09.23 To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial/disclosable pecuniary interests

None.

03.09.23 To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 July 2023

The minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council on the 3 July 2023 having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to approve the minutes.

04.09.23 Green Wedmore

Tessa Munt and David Banwell described the Green Wedmore Village Farm initiative and sought the Council's support (presentation previously circulated 3 July 2023).

It was **resolved** to support this venture and agreed that the Parish Council would complete the survey provided at the next meeting. TM will send details, including the survey, to FT-S for inclusion in the Allerton News. SM-J to be asked to let other parish councils know about the initiative. FT-S asked whether a small donation from the Council would be a useful demonstration of our support. TM to ask the committee whether this would be helpful and appropriate.

05.09.23 Defibrillator

Cllrs agreed that the Cricket Club is a sensible location for a second defibrillator.

RW to inform the Cricket Club that the Council supports this in principle and find out what they are asking for in terms of training plans, servicing, financial support etc. and report back at October meeting.

06.09.23 The Old School Room Lease

Cllr Wallach sent a proposal to Paul Wattam, Secretary of Crook Peak in May proposing that the lease be renewed as is, but increasing the rent from £10 to £100 p.a. He forwarded this to the diocese and they sent it to Chris Jones, the solicitor, to produce a draft contract. We have not received a response and there are now only 9 months left before expiry. We need to progress this so building work can begin.

Cllr Munt advised emailing Peter Evans (peter.evans@bathwells.anglican.org), the Secretary of the Board of Finance to ask the current status. JB to ask SM-J to do this. The email should stress that we are keen to renew but that we are a small parish with limited funds and therefore need to keep legal costs to a minimum. For this reason Cllr Munt advised that including Chris Jones in the email would itself incur costs. Legal fees would normally be paid by the lessor but Crook Peak has made it clear that they have no funds for this. The email should include a request for an indication of expected legal fees and be copied to Margaret Wallach, Johnny Torrens-Spence and Paul Wattam (paulwattam@hotmail.com).

07.09.23 Footpaths Officer's report

No report

08.09.23 Chair's report

No progress with any enforcement issues.

The caravan is still there on the site in Scotland Lane, but as work has not started there is no requirement to move it yet.

Still no progress with speed limits. JB to ask SM-J to chase Aileen Fletcher.

There are new guidelines on Somerset Council's website that suggest that we could request a 20mph limit but it was agreed that we would get the 30mph limit in place first.

09.09.23 Reports

Somerset Council (Cllr Munt)

After 2 years' gap we now have a chief planner, so will be able to start building the planning team properly.

There is a significant shortage of places for pupils with special education needs.

FT-S asked how the change in phosphate regulations is likely to affect us. TM's view is that it will unleash a large number of planning applications, with potentially chaotic results. The policy is likely to go to judicial review, which will cause a delay.

FT-S: asked about training in planning for councillors. The recent list of training circulated by SM-J did not include this.

JB to ask SM-J to investigate, TM will also look into this.

Thanks to Councillor Munt for attending the meeting and providing valuable insights and advice.

Windmill

The grass has been cut by a volunteer, but the obligation is still on the council to do this twice a year. VW to pass our thanks on to the volunteer.

Although Harry Munt is nominated as the Somerset Council representative on the Management Committee, the Council is not apparently aware that it owns the windmill. Cllr Munt will try and work through who is responsible and establish contacts.

10.09.23 Planning

No items needing discussion.

11.09.23 Enforcements

Covered by Chair's report.

12.09.23 Storage

Deferred to next meeting so clerk can be involved.

- 13.09.23** **LCN**
Attended by FT-S and MW.
It was **resolved** that FT-S be the official representative for the Parish, representing our views and reporting back.
The first LCN meeting agreed their priorities: highways (repairs, speeding and parking, particularly in Axbridge and Wedmore), then planning, including keeping parish councils informed.
- TM reported that 4 pilots have been held: one failed. West Somerset LCN also identified highways as a priority and has employed one or two lengthsman who can do minor road repairs, cut hedges, renew white lines. This requires a precept to make a contribution, which parishioners need to agree. To be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- 14.09.23** **Road markings**
The white lines at a number of junctions, notably Rectory Lane and both ends of Rawlings Lane, are faded, creating a risk of accidents. If we create a list TM will pass it to the relevant department.
- 15.09.23** **Finance**
Deferred to next meeting so clerk can be involved.
- 16.09.23** **Admin/website**
No update
- 17.09.23** **Policies & Procedure (R)** To review and adopt; Training & Development Policy, Privacy Notice & Data Protection and GDPR Policy.
It was **resolved** to adopt the policies and procedures as circulated. VW to load onto website.
- 18.09.23** **Correspondence**
To note that the Gambling Policy and Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation papers had been circulated.
- 19.09.23** **Items for next agenda:**
- Green Wedmore survey
 - Updates on School Room lease renewal and defibrillator
 - Storage of files
 - Appointment and precept for lengthsman
- 20.09.23** **2023 Meetings:** October 2nd. November 6th.

The meeting closed at 21:00

Signature and date