

## CHAPEL ALLERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Chapel Allerton Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in the Old School Room, Stone Allerton. BS26 2NL.

Present: Cllrs Jasmine Blakemore, Margaret Wallach, Rachel Williams & Val Wathen.

In attendance: John Crosby and approximately 6 members of the public.

Cllr Blakemore chaired the meeting.

### **Public questions**

Several parishioners raised concerns about the management of surface water for the development between Taverners Cottage and Woodpeckers, including:

- Concrete washing into and blocking drains
- Lack of information about changes to plans
- Management of surface water both behind and in front of the property
- Impact on the village drains if these are used (field run off is already an issue)
- Consideration of the effect of an existing stream under the main street
- The emergence of a spring between house and garage
- Capacity of the soakaways and French drain and effect of resulting overflows
- Compaction of soil by heavy vehicles reducing the ability of the clay to absorb water
- Purpose and capacity of the installed tanks, which appear to need to be emptied fortnightly, even with the house unoccupied
- The effect on neighbouring properties, noting that Taverners Cottage does not have foundations
- The risk of the soakaway undermining the road.

Councillors agreed that confidence is needed that the plans, inspection regime and enforcement actions are compliant.

It was **resolved** that Cllr Torrens- Spence would draft a letter for the Clerk to send to Paul Score at Somerset Council Building Control.

**01.11.23 To receive apologies for absence:**

Apologies received from Sammie Millard-Jones

**02.11.23 To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial/disclosable pecuniary interests.**

Cllr Wathen declared an interest in item 4.

**03.11.23 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd October.**

The minutes were not approved and the following amendments were noted.

- Salt urn to Saltern throughout.
- The statement that it would be 'beneficial to hold a watching brief' to be corrected to highlight that there is a watching brief in place, and therefore a high level of supervision.
- Our response to 15/23 0008 was not to make no comment, but to approve the application.

- 'Delegated powers' is not needed for us (i.e. applications are not considered under delegated power)
- 'Comms' to 'communications'

**04.11.23 Planning Applications: None**

**Report on applications considered under delegated powers: None**

**Planning Decisions:**

15/23/00009 South View Farm, Mark Road, Chapel Allerton, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2PD. Application for Non-Material Amendment to Planning Permission 15/21/00014 (Proposed conversion of agricultural barns to 2no. residential dwellings.) to allow for changes to the fenestration arrangement and internal alterations. Granted permission.

**05.11.23 Defibrillator (R) To consider a suitable location**

The PC We support the Cricket Club's plans but do not have the funds to provide financial help. To ask the Clerk to investigate whether there are sources of funding available.

Cllr Torrens-Spence to ask Gail Pinnock whether they accessed any funding when installing the Wheatsheaf defibrillator.

**06.11.23 Old School Room Lease (R) Update and response.**

Members would like the Clerk to follow up further regarding the letter sent. All were reminded by Cllr Torrens-Spence that the matter continues to become more urgent due to the architect who has drawn up the plans is due to leave the village. The costs need to be built into the budget.

It was suggested that if no response is received then an email would be sent to say "The delay in getting the lease renewed is jeopardising the proposed project to install a disabled toilet as the architect who had offered to do the plans "pro bono" is moving out of the area and as costs are rising. The Committee cannot start on this project until they have a written assurance that the lease will be renewed."

**07.11.23 Footpaths Officer Report**

Some Inspections have been done but weather conditions make it difficult at present.

**08.11.23 Chair's report**

Cllr Blakemore asked for the next Council update in the Allerton News to include a request for people to help keep roads clear of water by, for example, not letting leaves block drains and cleaning their own ditches. An example is the flooding of a house in Copsewood Lane due to a blocked ditch. Discussion of the impact of the large mobile building and trailer opposite, possibly associated with the alpacas now in that field.

It is also the right time of year to cut hedges, so people aren't forced into the road.

The repairs to Washbrook bridge have been completed but there is a long drop on one side, which is not fenced. People, particularly with children, need to be aware of the danger.

Cllr Torrens Spence to draft content for the Allerton News.

Rose cottage is becoming overgrown, affecting Front Street. The Clerk to write to the occupier at Rose Cottage to ask them to cut back.

**09.11.23 Reports: To include Police, County Councillor, outside bodies, reports from Councillors representatives on external groups.**

Windmill committee meeting was held on the 25th October. It has been confirmed that Harry Munt has been appointed as the representative of Somerset Council. Somerset Council has been asked to attend to several maintenance issues. The current committee members wish to stand down. Sian and David Nevitt expressed an interest in getting involved and also agreed to approach other people who might be interested. The next committee meeting and the custodians' event will be on 14 March.

**10.11.23 Storage (R) To consider storage of Parish Council files.**

Cllr Torrens-Spence to ask the Clerk SMJ to archive the files in Taunton. To be included on the agenda for next meeting.

**11.11.23 Ongoing village maintenance (R) To consider the cost quotes for maintenance.**

The memorial cross needs urgent work; cutting back along the stream is also needed. Cllr Torrens-Spence has tried to contact Dale, but he is not able to commit to the work. Tim Fisher may be able to do something but is busy until the spring when his costs are going to rise. Cllr Torrens-Spence to ask for volunteers in the next Allerton news.

The Highways Agency has told the PC the drains were cleared last year and should only be done every two years.

Cllr Torrens-Spence has raised a case for the four blocked drains that need attention and a further case for the grille under Copsewood lane. Highways visited on Friday following the Clerk's request, took photos and removed some leaves. Cllr Torrens-Spence to follow up.

**12.11.23 LCN update (R)**

The first meeting determined the most pressing issue for the region to be public transport, and a public meeting has been arranged. The LCN is keen for people to attend, particularly those with school-age children.

Cllr Wathen to put a request on the village Facebook page.

Cllr Torrens-Spence to ask Johnny Torrens-Spence to attend given his knowledge of community transport schemes transport.

**13.11.23 Finance**

**a) Approval of Payments & Receipts (R)**

Carried forward to next meeting.

**b) Approval of the bank reconciliation (R)**

Carried forward to next meeting.

**c) To consider the Budget for 2024/25 (R)**

The draft budget should include a line for the costs associated with the renewal of the lease of the Old School Room, though without a figure as yet.

Cllr Williams has agreed to provide a Christmas tree for the village and will contact Gary Gowan about putting it up and providing lighting.

Councillors expressed thanks to the Clerk for the completeness and clarity of the budget information.

Carried forward to next meeting.

**d) To consider a request for a donation from Citizens Advice Bureau (R)**

Agreed that we do not have the budget available for this and that it would not be an appropriate use of funds for us as it is not local. Cllr Blakemore to ask the Clerk to send a polite refusal.

**14.11.23 Admin/website:**

Carried forward to the next meeting.

**15.11.23 Correspondence:**

Carried forward to the next meeting.

**16.11.23 Road closures:**

The PC has not received notice of all the recent road closures. This is due to Somerset Council not getting sufficient advance notice of emergency work. The Clerk has requested to also be informed of road closures in Weare and Mark.

**17.11.23 Items for next agenda:**

- To approve corrected minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd October.
- Storage of Parish Council files.
- To consider a speaker for the annual parish meeting, possibly Harry Munt on the Council's plans for the Windmill

**18.11.23 Dates for 2024 meetings**

The following dates were agreed for 2024.

Mon Jan 22nd

Mon Feb 26th

Mon March 25th - Annual Meeting of the Parish with speaker

Mon April 29th

Tues May 28th (Monday 27th is a bank holiday) - Annual Parish Council Meeting

Mon June 24th

Mon July 22nd

AUGUST - no meeting

Mon Sep 2nd

Mon Oct 7th

Mon Nov 4th

Mon Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>

**19.11.23 2023 Meetings:**

December 18th in the Old School Room, Stone Allerton. BS26 2NL.