

## CHAPEL ALLERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Chapel Allerton Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 in the Old School Room, Stone Allerton. BS26 2NL.

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

In attendance: S Millard-Jones – Clerk and members of the Old School Room Management Committee and Mr Crosby.

Cllr Blakemore chaired the meeting.

**01.01.24**      **To receive apologies for absence:**  
Cllrs Williams & Wallach.

**02.01.24**      **To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial/disclosable pecuniary interests**  
None.

**03.01.24**      **To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023.  
Mr Crosby made an amendment to item 06.12.23 and the minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to approve the minutes.

Item 9 was moved forward.

**09.01.24**      Old School Room Lease (R) Update and response.  
A letter has been received from Chris Jones, solicitor to Bath and Wells Board of finance regarding the Old Schoolroom (OSR) lease. The letter detailed the expenses associated with the renewal of the lease. The Parish Council are the responsible party for taking on the lease, however the OSR Management Committee were minded to contribute financially.  
It was **resolved** that the PC would make a contribution of £500 towards the lease and accept to take £1252 from the OSR Management Committee. If the legal costs exceed the estimated £1,752 then the OSR Management Committee accept liability. The PC **resolved** to not pursue legal advice unless required.

**04.01.24**      **Ashton Windmill (R)** Update and future plan for sustainability.  
The replacement for the Ashton Windmill Management Committee is in place and handover of responsibilities is complete. The new body will be called the Custodians' Committee, to reflect its role more accurately.  
The longer-term future of the windmill is at risk from the financial difficulties at Somerset Council. Cllrs Wathen and Torrens-Spence, with help and advice from David and Madeleine Roberts, are approaching the South West Heritage Trust to discuss whether it might consider taking the windmill on. This approach is supported by Cllr Bob Filmer, who is also in discussion with Mark Lidster, Somerset Council Conservation Officer.  
It was **resolved** to support Cllr Wathen to make contact with South West Heritage on behalf of the Parish Council and the custodians of the windmill on the understanding that the Parish Council wishes to secure the long-term future of Ashton Windmill as a Heritage Site which is open to the general public. They will report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

**05.01.24**      **Planning**

**15/23/00011** Conversion of stable to disabled access holiday let and associated works. Ashton Farm, Ashton, Wedmore, BS28 4QE

It was **resolved** to object on the basis that the materials are not suitable for conversion of the original stable into a residential property.

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

**Planning Decisions:**

**15/23/00008/CM** Erection of two storey side (SE) and single storey rear (NW) extensions. Moor View Farm, Ashton Drove, Ashton, Wedmore, Somerset, BS28 4QD. Permission Granted

**15/23/00012** Conversion of integral garage to study with the removal of garage door and installation of 2no. windows and internal works. High View, Back Lane, Chapel Allerton, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2PG. Permission Granted

**06.01.24 Enforcements**

Concerns were raised regarding poor parking by contractors and blocks being left in the road at the new build next door to Taverners Cottage.

Cllr Torrens-Spence to provide photographic evidence so that the Clerk can contact the local PCSO and Highways to alert them to the concerns raised.

**07.01.24 Footpaths Officer Report**

John Crosby was in attendance and reported: that twelve new footpath signs have been put up, two styles repaired, and overgrown vegetation cleared on several footpaths (many thanks to Peter Booker for his clearing work!). John informed the PC that he is due to have a video call to discuss footpath issues on 15 February with Mr Chris East, SCC District Rights of Way Officer covering, inter alia, Allerton Parish.

**08.01.24 Chair report**

The Chair asked residents to continue to support the Wheatsheaf and reported that work on the roof replacement is progressing well. The Clerk was asked to contact the Road Closure Team and request an update on why signage has been left on the Road through Ashton.

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

Cllr Torrens Spence reported that she had attended a TEAMS meeting on flooding that didn't prove useful for the parish. Cllr Torrens-Spence also reported that she had found someone in the parish who may be willing to carry out the maintenance to the Village Memorial and the stream by the church. Cllrs were in support of her arranging the maintenance.

**11.01.24 LCN update (R)**

Cllr Torrens-Spence had circulated a report to cllrs following attendance at the meeting. The main takeaway was that PC's have been recommended by Cllr Filmer to increase their precepts by 20%.

**12.01.24 Finance**

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

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total
S Millard-Jones	Salary/expenses/HMRC January	£298.33		£298.33
Old School Room	Room hire May23-Dec23	£70.00		£70.00
F Torrens Spence	Wine gifts for Ashton Windmill committee members	£14.00		£14.00

It was **resolved** to pay the above by cheque/internet banking

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

As of the 31<sup>st</sup> December: £12,068.66

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

It was **resolved** to request a precept of £7,800

**13.01.24 Admin/website:**  
Crime Statistics and road closures on the website.

**14.01.24 Correspondence:**  
None

**15.01.24 Road Closures.**  
All placed on website

**16.01.24 Items for next agenda:**

- Speaker for the Annual meeting of the Parish
- Holding funds for community event

**2024 Meetings:** Monday February 26<sup>th</sup>. Monday March 25<sup>th</sup> - Annual Meeting of the Parish with speaker. Monday April 29<sup>th</sup>. Tues May 28<sup>th</sup> (Monday 27<sup>th</sup> is a bank holiday) - Annual Parish Council Meeting. Monday June 24<sup>th</sup>. Monday July 22<sup>nd</sup>. AUGUST - no meeting. Monday September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Monday October 7<sup>th</sup>. Monday November 4<sup>th</sup>. Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the Old School Room, Stone Allerton. BS26 2NL.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

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Chair signature and date