

CHAPEL ALLERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Chapel Allerton Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 18th December 2023 in the Old School Room, Stone Allerton. BS26 2NL.

Present: Cllrs Blakemore, Wallach, Williams, Torrens-Spence & Wathen.

In attendance: S Millard-Jones – Clerk, John Crosby and approximately 8 members of the public.

Cllr Blakemore chaired the meeting.

Public questions

No residents requested to speak

- 01.12.23** **To receive apologies for absence:**
Apologies received from Cllrs Filmer & Grimes
- 02.12.23** **To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial/disclosable pecuniary interests.**
Cllr Wathen declared an interest in item 4.
- 03.12.23** **To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd October & 6th November.**
The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on the 2nd of October & 6th November 2023 having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes.
- 04.12.23** **Ashton Windmill (R)** To discuss the future with the management committee standing down.
To note that Cllrs Harry Munt & Ben Ferguson had been invited to attend as portfolio holders but had not responded to the Clerk.
The current management company is unable to manage a budget to maintain the grade 2 listed building. Cllr Torrens-Spence suggested persuading Somerset Council (SC) to hand over ownership to English Heritage to become the guardians of the building. SC is looking to devolve various assets so even if ownership is retained it is likely to be neglected.
The grass is maintained currently by SC.
The Clerk was asked to arrange an extraordinary meeting with Cllr Filmer in January ahead of the PC meeting.
- 05.12.23** **Planning Applications:**
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. It was **resolved** to make no comment.
15/23/00011/POA Conversion of stable to disabled access holiday let. The conversion would include wide door openings and will be all on one level. The building will have air-source heat pumps and solar power. An electric car charger is also included all helping to make the property a full passive build. The property is required due to the demand for holiday lets such as this in our area and will add to our already busy holiday let business on the farm. Ashton Farm, Ashton, Wedmore, BS28 4QE

It was **resolved** to object on the basis that the materials are unsuitable for the building.

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

It was **resolved** to support.

Report on applications considered under delegated powers: None

Planning Decisions: None

06.12.23 Footpaths Officer Report

John Crosby was in attendance and continues to clear footpaths as and when required. The Bristol Gate was provided by landowners is now in position.

07.12.23 Chair report.

The chair clarified that the rubbish has now been collected from the windmill and suggested approaching the Prince's trust regarding the windmill.

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

Cllr Filmer had sent across the SC report in his absence, which is available on the PC website.

09.12.23 Defib (R) To update funding options

The Clerk had found various organisations that part fund village defibs. Cllrs asked the Clerk to share this information with the cricket club.

10.12.23 Old School Room Lease (R) Update and response.

The Clerk had followed up with an email on the 14th of November and a response was not received until Mr Torrens-Spence sent a further follow up on the 8th of December. Peter Evans responded to explain that he will ask Chris Jones for an update and will update in one week. No response yet received.

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

It was decided to review the storage once the old school room lease has been finalised as there will be a provision then.

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

Cllr Torrens-Spence reported to be unsuccessful in finding someone to complete some maintenance work for the PC. Cllr Williams suggested putting something on social media.

The flooding from the week commencing 13th December had been reported and members were minded that the sheer amount of rain was the culprit and there is little that can be done to resolve the matter.

The Clerk had been asked to request Jetting of drains at the bottom end of the village, as a resident had put the grill up against the mouth of the drain due to fear of another flood incident. It is propped up and could be swept away if there is a deluge.

The response from Highways was that they had been out to look at the grill and it appears to be well held in place at the mouth of the culvert. It was never previously welded in place. with the volume of water currently flowing through the stream now is not a good time to try to reposition the grill and that they will endeavour to visit and remove the debris as and when.

13.12.23 LCN update (R)

The next meeting scheduled for the 9th January.

14.12.23 Road markings (R) Update.

The 30mph signage implementation date has fallen to the next financial year and is not high priority due to funding and that the Traffic Management contractor does not have the resources to complete the job.

There is no budget for the refreshment of the white lines as requested by the PC. Aileen Fletcher had asked if there are any signs in the village that can be removed such as out of date tourist signs. Cllrs agreed that there were none.

15.12.23 Royal Mail deliveries (R) To consider how to get more frequent postal deliveries Cllr Torrens-Spence offered to write to the Axbridge sorting office to ask whether Chapel Allerton, Stone Allerton and Ashton are receiving daily postal deliveries.

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

| To whom | Description | Net | VAT | Total |
|------------------|--|----------|---------|----------|
| S Millard-Jones | Salary/expenses/HMRC Dec | £ 318.13 | | £ 318.13 |
| Somerset Council | J Augustus salary and payroll services | £ 640.86 | £ 32.24 | £ 673.10 |
| ICO | Annual charge | £40.00 | | £40.00 |

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

b) Approval of the bank reconciliation (R)

As of 30th November 2023: £13,414.29

c) To approve Clerk salary increase and back pay from April 2023 (R)

It was **resolved** to approve the Clerk Salary increase and back pay from April 2023.

d) To consider the Budget for 2024/25 (R)

To defer to the January meeting.

17.12.23 Admin/website:

Crime Statistics , Allerton News, Hinkley Point Consultation, Somerset Rivers Authority draft Strategy and Flood Action Plan survey on the website.
Clerk written polite decline to Citizens Advice Bureau.
Police funding survey – closes January 22nd (on website).

18.12.23 Correspondence:
Invitation to clerks and councillors from SRA about Somerset flooding Monday 8 January 2024 at 7pm . Tuesday 9 January 2024 at 4pm

19.12.23 Road closures:
None

20.12.23 Items for next agenda:
Budget

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