

Chapel Allerton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 11th of May 2026 at 7.30pm at in the Old School Room, Stone Allerton. BS26 2NL.

Present: Cllrs Blakemore, Wallach & Williams.

In attendance: S Millard-Jones – Clerk and approximately 16 members of the public.

The meeting was opened at 7.30pm.

1. Welcome by the Chairman of Chapel Allerton Parish Council
Cllr Blakemore welcomed all in attendance.
2. To note the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 6th of May 2025.
Minutes from the 6th of May Annual Parish Meeting were noted.
3. Village updates:

Cllr Griffin – Speed in the village

A survey has been shared with residents to ascertain appetite for spending PC funds on extending the 30mph stretch of road. Cllr Griffin ran through the results.

Dog walkers, horse riders, cyclists and children in particular were most concerned

91% were in support of reducing the speed further. There were around 10 areas in the village where safety was a concern.

73% were in support of SIDS and 45% were in support of volunteering for a safe speed group.

Overall, the feedback from parishioner's is mixed.

There is an estimated cost of £6,000 for the extension of the 30mph.

Johnny Torrens Spence – Allerton Church & Old School Room

A presentation was given, showing how some funds have been spent in the OSR to renovate and update the building.

A suggestion was for the OSR to purchase a coffee machine.

Friends of Allerton Church 100 Club is being launched. Fundraising hasn't been done since 2021. Members will be invited to sign up for an annual fee of £36.

Paul Rolfe – Ad Astra and Orchard.

An update was given:

Currently have won 30 awards for their Cider. Quiz nights have been a real success and growing each time, lowest numbers 65 and biggest numbers of 160.

Firefighters charity and other charities have used the venue for free in order to fundraise for their organisations.

Last year was a quiet year as bookings were 20% down, however this year has been a good one with more bookings so far than in total of 2025.

Wassails, easter egg hunts have been popular. The band nights have been scaled back as the popularity was hit and miss.

Women's and men's cricketers have been sponsored for a few years.

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S Millard-Jones

John Crosby – Footpath Liaison Officer

The following report was given:

I will start my report with some facts. Chapel Allerton Parish has a great network of designated public footpaths & bridleways; a total of 25 footpaths and 5 bridleways covering many miles as they crisscross our parish in all directions, with a total of 33 stiles and 48 gates giving access along the public rights of way.

Of the public footpaths recognised by Somerset County Council, there is just one which is not currently in practical existence (Path AX 12/1), which should run north-south, parallel between Copsewood Lane and Allerton Moor Drove. For those not aware, the Parish Council decided some years ago to let it lapse largely due to the costs of putting stiles/gates through the many hedges. Plus, there are other parallel rights of way which can be easily used.

Of the remaining public footpaths & bridleways available, most are widely used, adequately signed, and access along them largely unencumbered. There are, however, some paths & bridleways where access is restricted to some extent. Some issues date back to 2006, others to last year. Many of the issues reported relate to overgrown hedges, blocked gates, deep ruts caused by tractors or off-roaders, and/or lack of signs. Some of those issues can be addressed, and I'm slowly working through them when I can. But others can't, certainly not in the near-term. Broadness Bow Bridge certainly falls in the latter category. Alas, it remains in disrepair, unsafe to cross according to SCC, and they have no funds to repair it.

But looking on the bright side – as I've said, most of our paths and bridleways are accessible and passable! Allow me to end with encouraging you to go out and use our paths and bridleways as often as possible. Better still, take some secateurs along with you to cut back vegetation from signs, stiles and gates. Many hands make light work of keeping our lovely paths in good order!

In that context, some may be aware that I was away from home for long periods last year. While not able to walk and tend to the footpaths myself, thanks to Starlink I maintained regular contact with Somerset County Council's Rights of Way Team and was also available for parishioners to send me an email with any concerns. Last year no such concerns were brought to my attention – hopefully that means matters were ok last year footpath-wise. I look forward to walking more of our footpaths soon.

Before closing my report, I would like to acknowledge the efforts and goodwill of the landowners over whose land the public rights of way cross. Without their support and co-operation, the Parish's public footpaths and bridleways wouldn't be the delightful tapestry they are! <https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/Map>

Dave Nevitt – Ashton windmill

Little appetite from Somerset Council and then Storm Darrah damaged one of the sails in 2025. Since May 25, Cllr Bob Filmer worked closely with getting things moving. Ms Ware came on board as the estates surveyor for SC who seemed very interested in the Windmill. SC were looking to get South West Heritage Trust to take over the windmill. Ms Ware got a Heads of Terms together, which was approved by both parties in October 2025. This then went to the solicitors and Ms Ware left SC. Ms Diamond is her replacement, but unfortunately it has been difficult to get in touch with her, although the most recent response is that it still sits with the solicitors.

The sail has since been repaired and replaced.

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Thanks was given to all of the volunteers and committee members, along with residents of the village who offer their support.

The meeting closed at 20.40.

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S Millard-Jones