

## Alwington Parish Council

### Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Alwington Village Hall on Tuesday, 28 March 2023, commencing at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Cllrs Gordon Lester (Chair), Brian Adams, Elaine Beresford, Alison Browning, and Christine Moore.

**In attendance :** Michael Olley (Parish Clerk), Cllr Phil Pennington, Torridge District Council (TDC), Cathy Lester Walker (to give a verbal update at item 4b) and one member of the public.

#### 1. Min.63:22/23 Apologies

Cllr Sarah Bourke and Cllr Neil Rothney, with late apologies received from Cllr Jeffrey Wilton Love (DCC).

#### 2. Min.64:22/23 Declarations of Interests

No declarations were received in respect of personal or prejudicial interests

#### 3. Min.65:22/23 Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2023 were approved as a true record. Proposed by: Cllr Browning, and seconded by Cllr Adams.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

#### 4. Min:66:22/23 Correspondence and Communication

##### a) Correspondence

Various bulletins and correspondence from Devon Association of Local Councils, Devon County Council, Torrington District Council, Hedgehog Highway Project and Devon Communities Together were noted.

Sinclair Dalby Ltd had written to seek comments on a proposed base station upgrade at CS12636422-Gifford Ford Farm, Ford & Fairy Cross, EX39 5BY - No comments had been given by the Council.

The Portledge Estate had written to offer to 'spruce up' weathervanes on bus shelters in Fairy Cross. The Council had gratefully accepted the offer.

##### b) Website

Cathy Lester-Walker updated Councillors on use of the Alwington Parish website. The website, which has been live since 14 June 2022, is showing a steady increase in traffic. Cathy reported 1,249 site visits from 921 unique visitors, mostly from the UK, but also from the US and China.

### **c) County/District Council Reports**

Cllr Phil Pennington updated Councillors on the preparations for the upcoming elections and the council tax rate increase. Torridge Council Tax for 2023/24 has increased by £5.34 per Band D Equivalent (2.99%).

**PUBLIC SESSION.** No comments made.

### **5. Min: 67:22/23 Risk Assessment**

The updated risk assessment that had been circulated to Councillors was approved with an amendment to add the defibrillators. Proposed Cllr Beresford, seconded Cllr Adams.

### **6. Min 68:22/23 Financial Matters:**

#### **a) To receive an update on the current financial position:**

The balance in the Lloyds Bank account as of the 28 March 2023 was £11,295.31.

#### **b) To receive any accounts to pay:**

Cheque payments of £50 to the Royal British Legion and £92.16 for Zoho Workplace Subscription were processed in November 2022. Payments were made to DALC of £91.20 on 2 February, and of £36 on 2 March, for courses undertaken by the Parish Clerk.

#### **c) To note any income received:** None

#### **d) Any other financial issues:**

Clerk's expenses. Expenses amounting to £41.99 of 2 ink cartridges (£34.99 + VAT £7.00) were approved. Proposed by Cllr Browning; seconded by Cllr Moore.

The chair proposed payment be made to Cllr Moore for the requisition of an overhead photo of land in Portledge Place taken in 1979, which would be used by the Council when responding to the Land Registry application for adverse possession. Seconded by Cllr Browning.

The precept rate was formally agreed; proposed by Cllr Beresford, seconded by Cllr Moore.

#### **e) Small Grant Application:** None received.

### **7. Min:69: 22/23 Planning Matters:**

#### **a) To receive any applications for consideration**

Rear extension, internal reconfiguration and general refurbishment works, including replacement windows – Ford Farm Cottage, Fairy Cross 1/1061/2/2022/FUL. No comment was made on the application by the Council.

Erection of single storey rear extension -Honeysuckle Cottage, Fairy Cross /0094/2023/FUL No comment was made on the application by the Council.

Outline application for 5 no. dwellings with all matters reserved except for access, to include provision of public open space and associated works - Grid ref 240443. 124106 1/0127/2023/OUT. An objection was filed on behalf of the Parish Council on 9 March. Cllr Pennington informed the Council that this application had been called in regarding the diversity of the housing provided and the lack of affordable housing contained within the application.

Erection of a storage building – Land at Knotty Corner, Fairy Cross. 1/0141/2023/FUL. An objection was filed on behalf of the Parish Council on 18 March. Cllr Pennington stated that this application had also been called in. This had been with regard to issues with the public highway, specifically the provision of a turning circle.

**b) To note any permissions granted.**

Applications had been granted for:

General purpose agricultural building to include machinery and fodder store and livestock housing – Grid ref 239547123390 -1/1054/2022/FUL

Change of use of agricultural building to 1 no. dwelling house and associated building operations under Class Q - Barn at Strawberry Hill, Fairy Cross -1/1265/2022/AGMB

Erection of single storey rear extension -Honeysuckle Cottage, Fairy Cross 1/0094/2023/FUL

**c) To note any refusals advised.**

None received.

**d) Any other planning matters arising:**

An application had been received by the Council for adverse possession of land adjoining 10 Portledge Place, Fairy Cross. HMLR title DN738545.

The chair set out the background to the application. An extraordinary meeting had been held by the Council on 22 March to consider and note views from members of the public in attendance in order to inform the Parish Council response to the application.

The chair had circulated prior to the meeting a draft response on behalf of the council. He requested that any detailed comments be sent to him by email before 12 Noon on 29 March to enable a final draft to be circulated ahead of submission to the Land Registry, which must be by 31 March.

The Chair had also circulated draft terms of reference for a sub committee to be formed. The sub committee would include Cllrs Moore and Browning and interested members of the public. The terms of reference were agreed, with a small amendment ( to include reference to the sub committee not having voting rights on Council matters). Proposed Cllr Beresford, seconded Cllr Adams. The clerk agreed to supply a form of words to cover the amendment. The Councillors present thanked the chair for his actions on this matter. ACTION: Clerk

**8. Min: 70: 22/23 Maintenance & Highways**

Cllr Brian Adams reported that half of the potholes previously reported by Cllr Adams and Cllr Rothney had been rejected by Devon County Council Highways Department. He informed the Council these would be re-submitted with supporting photos illustrating how they meet the necessary specification.

Cllr Adams expressed his disappointment with the work undertaken by the Councils' contractor which had been to an unsatisfactory standard. The Clerk agreed to report this back to Devon County Council Highways Department. The Chair thanked Cllr Adams and Cllr Rothney for their work. ACTION: Clerk.

**9. Min: 71: 22/23. Alwington Parish Plan & other issues for action in 2022/23.**

**Neighbourhood Watch.** The Chair deferred discussion of this item to the next meeting. ACTION: Clerk

**Bus Stops.** A quote was awaited from Neil Beresford for the maintenance work requested.

**Coronation Mugs.** It was agreed that the village hall was best placed to purchase and distribute Coronation mugs on behalf of the Parish, with a supporting grant request for appropriate funds. Proposed Cllr Lester, seconded Cllr Beresford.

**10. Min:72: 22/23 Date of next meeting:** Annual meeting – 10 May 2023, 7.30 pm at Alwington Village Hall, followed by a full Council meeting.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman) Date \_\_\_\_\_