

Alwington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Alwington Village Hall on 9 January 2024, commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs Brian Adams (Chair), Elaine Beresford, Alison Browning, Chris Moore and Neil Rothney.

In attendance: Michael Olley (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public.

1. Min. 41:23/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Lester and Cllr Pennington (Torrington District Council).

2. Min. 42:23/24 Declarations of Interests

Cllr Browning declared an interest in the Village Hall Grant Application (discussed at Min. 45:23/24). No other declarations were received in respect of personal or prejudicial interests.

3. Min. 43:23/24 Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting on 7 November 2023 were approved as a true record of the meeting; proposed by Cllr Beresford, and seconded by Cllr Browning.

4. Min. 44:23/24 Correspondence and Communication

a) Correspondence

Various bulletins and correspondence from Devon Association of Local Councils, Devon County Council, Torrington District Council, Devon Climate Emergency, Peninsula Transport, Devon Wildlife Trust and Devon Communities Together were noted.

Correspondence was also noted from Hydrotech Water Services giving notification of works on the shared water supply with a resulting road closure at Ashcroft, Woodtown between 12/3/2024 and 15/3/2024.

Correspondence in which Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) had notified the council of an increase in annual subscription rates was discussed. Continued membership of DALC at the increased membership rate was approved. Proposed by Cllr Beresford, seconded by Cllr Rothney.

b) County/District Council Reports

No reports were given.

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No comments were made.

5. Min. 45:23/24 Financial Matters

a) To receive an update on the current financial position

As at 4 December the total in the Alwington Parish Council bank account was £12,827.86. As previously agreed, payments had been made to Neil Beresford for £2303.87 (For an interim invoice for works undertaken on the bus stop repairs) and the monthly instalment of £16.20 as part of the ongoing contract with Ionos.

b) To receive any accounts to pay

No accounts to pay were received.

c) To note any income received

A VAT refund of £124.20 was received from HMRC.

d) To note any other financial matters arising and to consider any small grant applications received

A small grant application received from St. Andrew's Church Old School Room (OSR) was discussed. The grant sought £500 to help towards the costs of redecorating the main room in the OSR. The grant request was approved. Proposed by Cllr Beresford, seconded by Cllr Rothney.

A small grant application received from Alwington Village Hall was also discussed. Cllr Browning did not take part in the discussion or voting. This sought £300 towards the cost of running a first aid/defibrillator training session for members of the community. The grant request was approved. Proposed by Cllr Beresford, seconded by Cllr Rothney.

e) To review and approve the draft budget and precept amount for 2024/25

The draft budget was approved, with the precept set at £5106, an increase of 1%. Proposed by Cllr Rothney, seconded by Cllr Browning. This would result in an increased precept receipt by the council of £26. The increased funds would be added to the maintenance budget. The amended draft budget was approved. Proposed by Cllr Rothney, seconded by Cllr Browning.

6. Min. 46:23/24 Planning Matters:

a) To note and consider any applications received

No applications had been received for comment.

b) To note any permissions granted

It was noted that the application (1/1074/2023/FUL) for a rear extension at Corner Cottage had been approved.

c) To note any refusals advised.

No applications had been refused since the last meeting.

d) Any other planning matters arising:

The Council noted the outline application (1/0127/2023/OUT) for 5 dwellings with all matters reserved except access had been withdrawn.

7. Min. 47:23/24 Maintenance and highways

Cllr Rothney reported that, following a survey undertaken with Cllr Adams, they had identified 42 new potholes and 1 blocked drain that they would report to DCC.

The council discussed the poor general state of repair of the roads and the effect of poor water drainage. The Chair suggested work be undertaken, as a trial, to improve road drainage. A budget of £600 was approved. Proposed by Cllr Beresford, seconded by Cllr Moore.

A budget of £300 to enable work to maintain two wooden signposts was approved. Proposed by Cllr Rothney, seconded by Cllr Moore.

8. Min. 48:23/24. Alwington Parish Plan & other issues for action in 2023/24.

a) To review and approve amendments to the risk register

The risk register was reviewed with the suggested draft amendments (to the description of the management and control of risks regarding bank and banking) approved.

Proposed by Cllr Beresford seconded by Cllr Browning.

b) To review and approve amendments to the finance regulations

The amendments at 6.8 were approved. Proposed by Cllr Beresford seconded by Cllr Browning.

c) To review and approve amendments to the privacy notices

The draft amendments to the privacy notices were approved. Proposed by Cllr Rothney, seconded by Cllr Browning.

The council discussed ongoing use of the Alwington Parish Plan. It was agreed to seek views of priority actions for the council via the use of a Parish Council Suggestion Box at the Alwington Community Information Day being held at Alwington Village Hall on 23 March. Proposed by Cllr Rothney, seconded by Cllr Browning.

Signature_____ (Chairman) Date_____