

Alwington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Alwington Village Hall on 12 March 2024, commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs Brian Adams (Chair), Alison Browning and Chris Moore.

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

1. Min. 49:23/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lester, Beresford and Rothney.

2. Min. 50:23/24 Declarations of Interests

No declarations were received in respect of personal or prejudicial interests.

3. Min. 51:23/24 Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting on 9 January 2024 were approved as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Browning, and seconded by Cllr Moore.

4. Min. 52:23/24 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, Royal Devon University Healthcare, London Hearts Org and Devon Communities Together were noted.

The council had no comments on the correspondence received from the Planning Inspectorate regarding consultation on the scoping report in respect of Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project (a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)) and the Environmental Impact Assessment which will support the upcoming NSIP planning application.

Correspondence in which notification by Kier Group on behalf of South West Water had been given of a road closure from Acre Road to Normans Cottage, Horns Cross between 22 and 24 May was noted.

The Council also discussed correspondence received from a member of the Parish regarding the amount of water running off farm ground during periods of rain. The gateway opposite Moor Park Cattery and from the side of the gateway between Moor Park Cattery and Fairy Cross were stated as particular areas of concern. Cllr Adams had made contact with the Portledge Estate regarding mud/run off from land at Fairy Cross and they had kindly undertaken work to clear this. Portledge

estate had also undertaken work on a stretch of road from the A39 to Babbacombe farm to help with road drainage.

ACTION: The Clerk to write to Portledge Estate to thank them on behalf of the Council for their swift actions.

ACTION: Cllr Browning to make contact with the member of the public with a summary of the Council's discussion.

b) County/District Council Reports

No reports were given.

PUBLIC SESSION

No comments made.

5. Min. 53:23/24 Financial Matters

a) To receive an update on the current financial position

As at 4 March the total in the bank account was £11,929.26.

Payments have continued to Ionos (email subscription) of £16.20 each month, the donation to The Royal British Legion of £50 was successfully made in January and the grant payments of £500 to St. Andrews Church Old School Room and £300 to Alwington Village Hall have been made.

b) To receive any accounts to pay

No accounts to pay were received.

c) To note any income received

There have been no receipts since the last meeting.

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

There were no other matters arising or small grant applications.

6. Min. 54:23/24 Planning Matters:

a) To note and consider any applications received

Torrige District Council had consulted the Council on an application to raise the existing main dwelling ridge height to accommodate proposed north elevation extension at Three Acorns, Fairy Cross. The Council had no comments to make.

b) To note any permissions granted

No permissions had been granted since the last meeting.

c) To note any refusals advised.

No applications had been refused since the last meeting.

d) Any other planning matters arising:

There were no other matters arising.

7. Min. 55:23/24 Maintenance and highways

Cllr Adams reported that, following a survey undertaken with Cllr Rothney, they had identified 40 potholes and 2 blocked drains that they would report to Devon County Council.

Following the agreement at the last meeting (Min. 47:23/24) one day's work had been undertaken to improve road drainage, with another day to follow. Cllr Browning expressed thanks to Cllr Adams and Cllr Rothney for the work they had undertaken.

Scoping work had been undertaken in preparation for the signpost repairs agreed at the last meeting. Cllr Browning raised the issue of unclear/dirty road signs. Cllr Adams suggested a cleaning team could undertake the work when weather conditions were suitable.

The council discussed concerns received regarding worn road markings and missing cat's eyes on the A39/A361 from Bideford to Tiverton. This had made the road dangerous especially at night or during wet conditions. The ongoing road works on the A361 link road from Barnstaple were also discussed with concerns raised that the contractor's work was over budget, had overrun and had not achieved the original expectations. A suggestion was made that the contractor responsible should be prevented from being given any further Government contracts.

Concerns regarding the amount of rubbish beside the A39 to Barnstaple on both sides of the road were discussed. It was noted that work needed to be undertaken to clear this along the roadside, not just within laybys. Cllrs expressed concern on the negative impact the littering would have during the upcoming holiday season.

It was proposed that the clerk pass these concerns to Devon County Council and Torrington District Council as appropriate. Proposed Cllr Adams, seconded Cllr Browning.

Action: Clerk to notify relevant authorities of the concerns raised.

8. Min. 56:23/24. Alwington Parish Plan & other issues for action in 2023/24.

a) To review and approve the wording/manner of the Parish consultation at the Community Information Day

It was agreed that those attending the Community Information Day at the Village Hall on 23 March would be asked to complete a small pre-printed slip of paper. This would ask what they valued most about Alwington and what they thought the main priority should be for Alwington over the next two years. Those answering would also be asked if they were a resident of Alwington. Proposed by Cllr Browning seconded by Cllr Moore.

b) To consider the proposal to work towards achieving Devon Wildlife Trust Wilder Communities Award.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would support work to achieve a Devon Wildlife Trust Wilder Communities Award. Cllr Browning agreed to manage the project on behalf of the Parish Council, feeding back and seeking approvals as appropriate.
Proposed by Cllr Browning seconded by Cllr Moore.

Date of next meeting: Annual Meeting, 14 May at 7.00 pm in The Old School Room, Alwington, followed by an ordinary Parish Council meeting.

Signature_____ (Chairman) Date_____