

Alwington Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Alwington Village Hall on Thursday 8th , July, 2021, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors Gordon Lester (Chair), Neil Rothney, Alison Browning, and Brian Adams.

In attendance: Mr Malcolm Harris – Parish Clerk, Cllr Jeffery Wilton-Love, Devon County Council, and Cllr Phil Pennington, Torridge District Council.

One Parishioner was present at the meeting.

1. Min.10 :21/22

Apologies: Received from Cllrs Christine Moore and Sarah Bourke,

2. Min 11 :21/22

Declarations of Interests

2a) No declarations were received in respect of personal interests

2b) No declarations were received in respect of prejudicial interests

3.Min.12:21/22

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 29th April,2021

It was **resolved**, to confirm and sign the minutes of the 29th April, 2021 as a true record, and were duly signed by the Chairman. (all in favour)

There were no matters arising.

4.Min 13:21/22 - a) Correspondence was received in respect of the following matters:

- DCC –(Devon County Council) Parish & Highways Newsletter, A39/B3236 Buckleigh junction remodelling.
- TDC – (Torridge District Council) – Planning Manager update on developments and planning issues across the District. Council support for the development of Issacs Yard in Bideford.
- Councillor Christine Moore – Land issue at Portledge Place. Raised by a parishioner. A discussion took place on the potential treat of annexation of community land, and a number of Cllrs expressed concerns that the Parish Council should be alert to any such action.
Cllr Gordon Lester confirmed that he had contacted the Planning Manager at TDC to seek advise and clarification, but as yet has had no response.
Action Point: Cllr Gordon Lester to chase the Planning Manager for a response on this matter.
- Rosemary Haworth – Booth – Closure of Minor Injury Unit – Parish Council agreed to support campaign to keep the MIU open.

b) Website

Cllr Gordon Lester circulated a detailed breakdown of the statistical usage of the site. It was agreed to attach the information to the minutes, and provide a copy on the website.

The website is undergoing further development to improve operational capabilities.

c) County/District Council Reports

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Jeffrey Wilton – Love of DCC to his first meeting of the Alwington Parish Council.

Cllr Jeffrey Wilton Brown reported that he had just come into post and was currently undergoing an extensive training programme. He reminded the meeting that bids were now open for funds from his locality budget.

He can be contacted on his mobile number, which is 07513 124089.

Councillor Phil Pennington – TDC reported that the bid to the levelling up Fund had been submitted for the development of Issacs Yard in Bideford. The bid is fully supported by the Council. Decision on the bid expected soon.

Noted that staff have now returned to Council Offices following the relaxation of Covid restrictions.

He confirmed that TDC have adopted a Carbon Neutral Plan by 2030. Details of the plan are available on the Councils website. In addition, the Biosphere Development Plan is currently out for consultation.

d) Community Safety:

There were no matters to report.

PUBLIC SESSION -at the discretion of the Chairman, any members of the public may speak between agenda items 4 and 5.

Items raised:

Cllr Gordon Lester read out a statement from Mr & Mrs Beer in support of planning application 1/0436/2021/FUL – site adjacent to Granacleave, Fairy Cross. The application is for discussion under agenda item 6 b).

The statement is as follows: “We both hope the meeting will support our modified application which we believe addresses the issues raised.”

A parishioner raised the issue of Airband and the roll out. It was agreed that this issue would be discussed at item 8 on the agenda. Thanks, were also expressed for all the work undertaken by volunteers on improvements to the Woodtown Phone Box.

5. Min 14:21/22 Financial Matters:

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

The Parish Clerk reported a balance of £13,343 as of the 28th June, 2021

b) To receive any accounts to pay:

- Installation of CHT cabinet for the defibrillator – agreed, and £200 paid by BACS
- Annual support costs for the defibrillator (min 4 years) 3162 – agreed, and £162 paid by BACS.
- Parish Clerk – Quarterly salary – April to end of June – paid by TDC, invoice to follow.
- Community First Insurance – Annual Parish Premium - £209.30.

It was **resolved** approve payment of the Annual Insurance premium. (all in favour)

c) To note any income received:

None received.

d) Any other financial issues:

Application for a Small Grant – Alwington Village Hall – an application had been received for a grant of £200 towards prizes for the Scarecrow competition, which will be part of a community event.

It was **resolved** to award grant of £200 to the Alwington Village Hall.(all in favour)

7. Min 15:21/22 Planning Matters:

a) To receive any applications for consideration

Planning consultation request – Ref: 1/0436/2021/FUL – Application for reserved matters(access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to permission 1/1175/2016/out – (variation of Condition 1 of planning Approval 1/1010/2019/REM Plans Schedule)- Site Adjacent to Grenacleave, Fairy Cross, Bideford.

The Parish Council discussed the application further with TDC, and submitted a response requesting that the application should be withdrawn as it is a very significant change from the building already approved. In addition, the Parish Council requests that local Councillors call in the application, so that those parishioners with objections have the opportunity to set them out at the meeting of the Planning Committee.

An amended application in respect of the above was received by the Parish Council at the end of June. The Parish Council having considered the amendments has no comments to make, and awaits determination by the Planning Committee. The Parish Council were satisfied that the previous concerns raised, had been addressed by the amended application.

Cllr Phil Pennington commented that himself and Cllr Bob Hicks were reluctant to call in the original application on the basis that it referred to reserve matters. He also confirmed that he knows the applicant on a personal basis.

The meeting was informed that Cllr Bob Hicks is currently ill, and it was agreed to send him best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Planning consultation request – Ref: 1/0407/2021/FUL – Application for conversion and extension to existing garage/store to provide accommodation for ancillary use to the main property. Site at Merry Meeting, Fairy Cross.

Cllr Gordon Lester confirmed that he had met with a Parishioner to discuss the application. After careful consideration the Parish Council agreed to make no comments on the application.

b) To note any permissions granted.

None received for this meeting.

c) To note any refusals advised.

None received for this meeting.

d) Any other planning matters arising

Noted that the Land at Portledge Place be added as an agenda item for update at the next meeting of the Parish Council

8. Min.15:21/22

Maintenance & Highways

Cllr Brian Adams confirmed that he had undertaken a tour of the parish roads, and in general they are all in good condition. However, he produced a map highlighting potholes that are of concern, and meet the criteria for repair by the Highway Authority. The map was circulated at the meeting.

Action Point: The Parish Clerk to forward the map to DCC Highways Section.

9. Min.16:21/22

Alwington Parish Plan & other issues for action in 2021/22

a) Airband

Cllr Gordon Lester provided an update on the current situation with the roll out. He had made contact with representatives of Airband, who acknowledged the roll out planned for the end of February, had not taken place due to infrastructure and internal complications.

It was agreed that Cllr Gordon Lester would arrange for a representative to attend a meeting to explain the current situation, and set out a timetable for the work.

b) WoodTown Phone Box/defibrillator

Cllr Alison Browning circulated an update on the above. The work on the phone box has been completed and the defibrillator has been installed. The next step is to arrange awareness training.

A vote of thanks was agreed for all the volunteers who helped with the work.

c) Planters

Following an invitation for parishioners to comment on the proposals to locate two planters at Portledge Place. The responses received had all been positive. It was agreed to go ahead with the purchase of the two planters

Action Point: The Parish Clerk to order the planters, and liaise with Councillors and volunteers to install.

d) Bus Stops

It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the Portledge Estate to establish a joint agreement for the future maintenance Bus Stops. A report setting out the draft agreement and likely on-going costs will be completed and circulated prior to the next meeting of the Parish Council in September.

Early discussions with the Portledge Estate need to take place establish ownership of the Bus Stops, and be clear if the Bus Stops should be added to the Parish Council assets. Prior to agreeing to add to the assets register, the Clerk will consult with Councillors.

Action Point: The Parish Clerk to contact the Portledge Estate to discuss the drafting of an agreement for the future management/maintenance of the Bus Stops.

e) Proposed Parish Road Safety Partnership

Cllr Gordon Lester explained the CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England), promote a Quiet Lanes Initiative that seeks to change the culture of all users of rural roads. He proposed that the Parish Council open discussions with the Police, Highway Authority, and the District Council with a view to pilot the initiative in the Parish of Alwington.

It was agreed he would report back on progress.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.04pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council, will take place on Thursday 30th September , 2021 at 7.30pm. Venue – Alwington Village Hall.

Signature _____ (Chairman) Date _____