

Alwington Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall Committee Room on Tuesday 10 January 2023, commencing at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: Cathy Lester-Walker (minute secretary), Cllr Jeffery Wilton-Love, Devon County Council (DCC), Cllr Phil Pennington, Torridge District Council (TDC), and one member of the public.

1. **[Min 48: 22/23] Apologies:** Cllr Elaine Beresford, Cllr Christine Moore; Michael Olley (Parish Clerk)

2. **[Min 49:22/23] Declarations of Interests**

No declarations were received in respect of personal interests

No declarations were received in respect of prejudicial interests

3. **[Min 50: 22/23] Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2022 were approved as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr Alison Browning; seconded by Cllr Sarah Bourke.

Matters arising. There were no matters arising.

4. **[Min 51: 22/23] Correspondence and Communication**

4.1 **Correspondence**

The correspondence circulated in advance of the meeting was noted.

4.2 **Website**

Cathy Lester-Walker tabled a report on website activity. The home page and upcoming events continue to be the most viewed.

4.3 **County/District Council Reports**

Cllr Jeffrey Wilton-Love reported that there was to be a budget meeting next week and that the financial situation would be clearer after that. Of particular concern was the failure of Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) to deliver the rollout of broadband using fibre to the premises. He agreed there was a lack of visibility and agreed to report back on DCC's investigation into this. Roads were also discussed: the Chair said that wet weather was destroying road surfaces; Cllr Wilton-Love said it was difficult to respond before the budget meeting next week. Cllr Adams asked about the road warden scheme: it appeared only third party insurance cover was provided for volunteers and was this correct?

Cllr Phil Pennington wished to congratulate the recycling and refuse teams for continuing to deliver services during the recent very cold weather. Cutbacks to discretionary services

were looking likely and the running costs of the three swimming pools in the TDC area were of concern.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council noted the details provided by Mr Hawley about his planning application.

5. **[Min 52: 22/23] Asset Register**

The asset register circulated in advance of the meeting was noted and approved.

Proposed by Cllr Neil Rothney; seconded by Cllr Brian Adams.

6. **[Min 53: 22/23] Financial Matters:**

6.1 **To receive an update on the current financial position:**

Balance in bank on 27 October 2022 was £11,564.67.

The Clerk's salary recharge from TDC has been paid at £1,176.96.

The VAT refund of £402.25 has been paid.

Payments of £50 to The Royal British Legion and £92.16 for Soho Workspace subscription have been made.

6.2 **To receive any accounts to pay:**

The Clerk's expenses of £4.78 were approved. Council also agreed the cost of £127.20 for attendance by the Clerk on four courses run by DALC.

Proposed by Cllr Alison Browning; seconded by Cllr Sarah Bourke.

6.3 **To note any income received:**

None

6.4 **To consider the proposed budget for FY 2023/24 and agree the precept rate:**

The budget circulated in advance was agreed and the precept rate of £5,080 for 2023/24 was also agreed. The Chair wished to thank Cllr Elaine Beresford and the Clerk for their work on the budgetary statement, which provided clear financial information. It was agreed to add a further £1,000 to the maintenance line in the budget.

Proposed by Cllr Neil Rothney; seconded by Cllr Brian Adams.

7. **[Min 54: 22/23] Planning Matters:**

7.1 **To note and consider any applications received:**

Council filed objection 1/1054/2022/FUL on 15 December 2022 in respect of General purpose agricultural building to include machinery and fodder store and livestock housing at grid reference 239547 123390.

Council agreed to the 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.

7.2 To note any permissions granted:

Application has been granted permission in respect of 3no. dwellings with all matters reserved except access on land to the North East of Council Cottages, Fairy Cross.

7.3 To note any refusals advised:

None

7.4 Any other planning matters arising:

None

8. [Min 55: 22/23] Maintenance & Highways

8.1 Cllr Neil Rothney and Cllr Brian Adams had reported 31 potholes. They had reported not only potholes but also drains that were so badly blocked that they were overflowing onto the roads. The Chair thanked them for their work.

9 [Min 56: 22/23] Alwington Parish Plan and other projects for action in 2022/23

9.1 AirBand

Matt Barrow, Stakeholder Engagement Officer for Connecting Devon and Somerset, had been due to give an update on the rollout by AirBand of FTTP but had sent his apologies.

9.2 Bus stops

No formal quote had yet been received for work on the bus stops but the Chair believed it would be in the order of £1,000 plus materials, to be paid out of maintenance.

16. [Min 57: 22/23] Any Other Business

Cllr Alison Browning said that Woodtown had been well served by Paul Westaway for salt during the icy weather and residents were most grateful. She also reported on a fire incident that had taken place near the Village Hall. The police were aware and local residents had been made aware through WhatsApp groups.

17. [Min 58: 22/23] DONM

Tuesday 28 March 2023 at 7:30pm in the Alwington Village Hall Committee Room.

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting on 3 May 2023 has been changed to Wednesday 10 May 2023.

Signature _____ (Chairman) Date _____