

## Alwington Parish Council

### **Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Alwington Village Hall on Tuesday, 15 November, 2022, commencing at 7.30pm.**

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

**In attendance :** Michael Olley (Parish Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

**1. Min.37:22/23 Apologies:** Cllr Sarah Bourke.

**2. Min.38:22/23 Declarations of Interests**

No declarations were received in respect of personal interests.

No declarations were received in respect of prejudicial interests.

**3. Min.39:22/23 Minutes of the last meeting.**

Following a request from the chair to remove the post meeting note at 16.3, the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2022 were approved as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Browning, seconded by Cllr Beresford.

**Matters arising from the minutes.**

No matters were arising.

**4. Min:40:22/23 Correspondence and Communication**

**a) Correspondence**

The correspondence circulated in advance of the meeting was noted.

**b) Website**

The Chair updated Councillors on website activity since the previous meeting and on the introduction of the alwingtonparish.org email addresses for councillors and the clerk via Zoho mail. Cllr Moore reported difficulties accessing the email facility. The chair offered to arrange for assistance to be given to Cllr Moore. **Action Chair.**

**c) County/District Council Reports**

No reports received.

**PUBLIC SESSION** - at the discretion of the Chair, members of the public were able to speak between agenda items 4 and 5.

**5. Min: 41:22/23 Financial Matters:**

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

The Clerk had met with Cllr Beresford to draft a quarterly accounts tracker to provide a clear overview of spend to budget. Currently this showed an underspend to budget of £3653.10 but as

remaining salaries and other payments still needed to be made it was expected that Council would perform at, or close to, budget.

The opening bank balance as at 1 April 2022 was £8824.40, receipts to 27 October £5493.08, expenditure to 27 October £2752.81, with a bank balance on 27 October of £11564.67.

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

The Clerk confirmed that the Zoho email subscription of £92.16 had been paid and a donation of £50 had been made to the Royal British Legion. Payment of £1176.96 was made to Torridge District Council for the previous clerk's accrued salary.

Councillors noted the above payments.

**c) To note any income received:**

The second precept amount of £2540 was received on 30 September, VAT recovery of £402.25 was received 27 October.

**d) Any other financial issues:**

Details of a national salary award had been circulated to Councillors. This made increases to pay points from 1 April 2022, which, if agreed, would increase the clerks pay by £1 per hour to £14.48.

The increase in pay for the clerk was proposed by Cllr Rothney, seconded by Cllr Moore. **Action: Chair**

Relevant back pay to the previous clerk was proposed by Cllr Beresford and seconded by Cllr Adams. **Action: Clerk**

**e) Small Grant Application:**

Cllrs Lester and Browning had met with the Alwington Residents Association to discuss the further information needed to support their grant application. The Clerk had emailed the Church Warden regarding clarification needed for the St. Andrews Church grant application in light of the Section 106 monies (see Min 26: 22/23). Following the request for funding from the Plough Arts Centre, they had been referred to make a formal application via the Council's small grant scheme should they wish.

Requests for funding had been received from the Citizens Advice Bureau and the North Devon Record Office, but as funding had already been provided by the council in this financial year, but as the Council's small grant scheme only allowed one application per year both had been encouraged to consider making an application in the next financial year should funding still be needed.

**6. Min:42: 22/23 Planning Matters:**

**a) To receive any applications for consideration.** None.

**b) To note any permissions granted.** None.

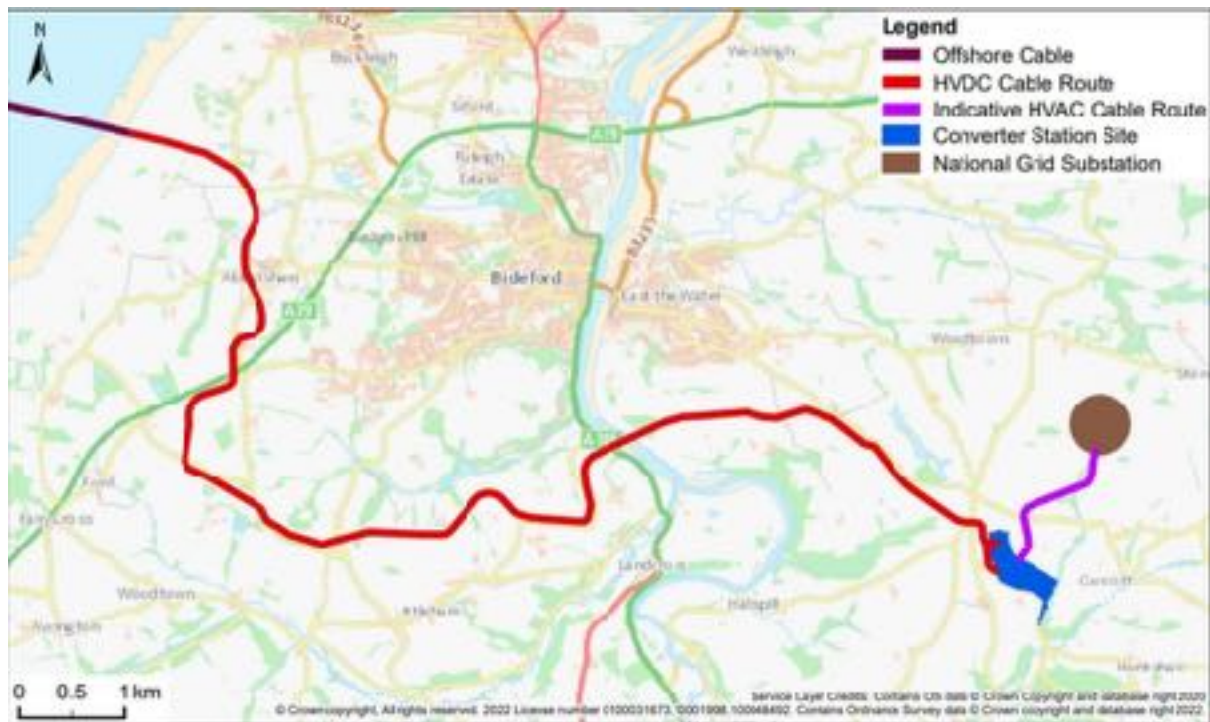
**c) To note any refusals advised.** None.

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

Xlinks Limited had given notice to the Council that they intended to submit a planning application to Torridge District Council for a renewable energy project in North Devon. The application would seek planning permission for c14.7km of underground high voltage direct current cabling from

Cornborough to the south west of the existing national grid substation located between Gammaton and Alverdiscott.

#### *Indicative Site Location Plan*



Public information days would be held on 23 November at Huntshaw Parish Hall and 24 November at Caddsdow Business Support Centre, Bideford (both 12.30 to 8 pm). A consultation period would be open from 23 November to 13 December. Further information was available at <https://xlinks.co/devon/> where feedback could also be given.

#### **7. Min 43: 22/23 Maintenance & Highways**

The potholes reported by Cllrs Rothney and Adams were still to be repaired and as such a further inspection had not been made.

#### **8. Min 44: 22/23 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**

The Chair had discussed the matters raised at the meeting on 11 October with the local neighbourhood watch representative, and had nothing further to report.

#### **9. Min 45: 22/23. Alwington Parish Plan & other issues for action in 2022/23.**

##### **a) AirBand.**

The chair had received no response following the feedback he had made on the underperformance by AirBand. Given the poor delivery by AirBand he proposed to make a formal complaint to Devon County Council on behalf of the Council. Proposed Cllr Lester, seconded Cllr Rothney. **Action: Chair**

#### **10. Min 46:22/23 Any Other Business**

Cllrs Adams and Rothney agreed to formally join the Devon County Council Road Warden Scheme. The issues of litter picking and the clearing of ditches and drains by lengthsman would be reviewed once the Cllrs had formally joined the scheme. **Action: Cllr Adams and Cllr Rothney**

Cllr Browning would link in with the Village Hall Association and Alwington Residents Association on plans to hold a community day in 2023 and link in with the Clerk as necessary. **Action: Cllr Browning**

**10. Min:47: 22/23**

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10 January – 7.30 pm Village Hall

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