

Alwington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Alwington Village Hall on 5 September 2023, commencing at 7.30 pm.

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

In attendance: Michael Olley (Parish Clerk) and three members of the public.

1. Min. 23:23/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Bourke, Cllr Moore and Cllr Pennington (TDC).

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

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

3. Min. 25:23/24 Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting on 18 July 2023 were approved as a true record of the meeting; proposed by Cllr Adams, and seconded by Cllr Browning.

The response from the Speed Compliance Action Review Forum (SCARF) was discussed.

Action – Clerk to contact Adrian Leisk, Head of Road Safety for Devon and Cornwall Police to seek suggestions on what actions could be taken to reduce speeding along the A39 in Fairy Cross.

4. Min. 26:23/24 Correspondence and Communication

a) Correspondence

Various bulletins and correspondence from Devon Association of Local Councils, Devon County Council (DCC), Torrington District Council (TDC), Peninsula Transport, The Tess Group, Devon Climate Emergency, Hedgehog Highway Project, Devon Community Learning Academy and Devon Communities Together were noted.

Correspondence from DTS Traffic Management on behalf of Airband giving notice of an application for a temporary road closure on 23 and 24 October in Abbotsham was noted. Also noted was a notice of a road closure within Woodtown between 6 and 10 November sent by Kier Group on behalf of South West Water.

Correspondence received from the Chair of Littleham and Landcross Parish Council proposing a wildlife corridor along the route of the XLinks cable route was discussed. Also discussed was an email from the Development Manager at XLinks. It was noted that XLinks had sought confirmation from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero that the project could be considered a

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. XLinks would then apply for a Development Consent Order. In light of this an update would be sought from the Chair of Littleham and Landcross Parish Council on the practicalities surrounding their proposal.

Action - Clerk to request update the Chair of Littleham and Landcross Parish Council

b) County/District Council Reports

No reports were given.

PUBLIC SESSION. No comments made.

5. Min. 27:23/24 Financial Matters

a) To receive an update on the current financial position

As at 29 August the total in the Alwington Parish Council bank account was £10,821.89. As previously agreed, (Min. 16:23/24) the clerk's expenses of £9.98 were re-imbursed. The Council's insurance policy was renewed on a 3-year long term agreement at a cost this year of £547.09.

b) To receive any accounts to pay

Re-imburement of £13.70 for postal costs was sought by the Chair. An invoice from Neil Beresford for maintenance of the bus stops was received. It was noted that Torridge District Council would submit a salary recharge and charge for payroll services in October. The payments discussed were approved, proposed by Cllr Browning, seconded by Cllr Rothney.

c) To note any income received

No income received.

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

No small grant applications had been received and no other matters were arising.

6. Min. 28:23/24 Planning Matters:

a) To note and consider any applications received

No comments were made on an application for change of use of an existing building to dwelling/occasional holiday let at the Old Post Office Annexe, Fairy Cross (1/0778/2023/FUL).

The Council had also been consulted on an application for conversion of an existing barn to a holiday let at the Barn adjacent to Homemead, Fairy Cross (1/0798/2023/FUL). The chair requested that comments be given to the Clerk by midday 6 September.

b) To note any permissions granted

It was noted that the retrospective application for the erection of a general-purpose agricultural building at grid reference 239662 1232113 had been granted (1/0333/2023/FUL).

Also granted were the applications for the installation of an air source heat pump at Old Tythesford Farmhouse, Fairy Cross (1/0514/2023/FUL and 1/0515/2023/LBC) and the application for a proposed garage and updated access at Three Acorns, Fairy Cross (1/0609/2023/FUL).

The decision to grant permission for a previous application (1/1054/2022), and the consistency shown in decisions, was also discussed. The concerns of the Council would be discussed with Cllr Pennington.

Action – Cllr Adams to contact Cllr Pennington with these concerns.

c) To note any refusals advised.

No applications had been refused since the last meeting.

d) Any other planning matters arising: No matters arising.

7. Min. 29:23/24 Maintenance and highways

Cllrs Adams and Rothney reported that repairs had been undertaken throughout the Parish and that they found no additional maintenance issues suitable for reporting to Devon County Council. They gave thanks to Kieran Stanbury, Neighbourhood Highways Officer, Devon County Council for his assistance. They proposed meeting with him on a more regular basis be put in place.

Action – Clerk to email Kieran Stanbury to request future meetings be arranged.

8. Min. 30:23/24. Alwington Parish Plan & other issues for action in 2022/23.

a) To approve the Equality and Diversity Policy.

The draft Equality and Diversity Policy was approved. Proposed by Cllr Rothney seconded by Cllr Beresford.

b) To agree the approach to future Parish Council email addresses.

Cllr Beresford gave a verbal report to the Council on her investigations into an alternative email provider to the Council. Cllr Beresford suggested using Ionos. This would allow sufficient cyber security and management of accounts. The annual cost was £300. This was proposed by Cllr Lester, seconded by Cllr Adams.

The Chair thanked Cllr Beresford for her work. Thanks were also given to Cathy Lester-Walker for the assistance given to the Clerk when undertaking a website accessibility audit.

PRIVATE SESSION

The following items were discussed in a private session under S1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. No members of the public were present.

Min. 31:23/24 Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Gardens

After reviewing recent correspondence, the Council decided to send a response restating its previous offer to try and settle matters without recourse to formal proceedings.

Signature _____ (Chairman) Date _____