

Alwington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Alwington Village Hall on 14 May 2024, commencing at 7.30 pm.

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

In attendance: Michael Olley (Parish Clerk), no members of the public were present.

1. Min. 13:24/25 Apologies

There were no apologies from councillors. Apologies were received from Cathy Lester-Walker.

2. Min. 14:24/25 Declarations of Interests

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

3. Min. 15:24/25 Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting on 12 March 2024 were approved as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Browning, and seconded by Cllr Moore.

4. Min. 16:24/25 Correspondence and Communication

a) Correspondence

Various bulletins and correspondence from Devon Association of Local Councils, Devon County Council, Torrington District Council, Devon Climate Emergency, Royal Devon University Healthcare, North Devon Community Mediation, Seven Concerned Citizens and Devon Communities Together were noted.

The council discussed 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. Cllrs Lester and Browning volunteered to attend the consultation event on 20 May at Abbotsham to find out more information.

The Council also discussed correspondence received from Angela Findlay, Chair of Winkleigh Parish Council.

ACTION: The Chair and Cllr Browning to attend the consultation of the Xlinks project.

b) County/District Council Reports

No reports were given. Councillors expressed concern that Cllr Wilton-Love had not been present at the Parish Meetings since May 2023, or given written reports or apologies. The Chair agreed to make contact with Cllr Wilton-Love to discuss the Council's concerns.

ACTION: The Chair to make contact with Cllr Wilton-Love as directed.

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No comments made.

5. Min. 17:24/25 Financial Matters

a) To receive an update on the current financial position

As at 6 May the total in the bank account was £11627.81.

Payments have continued to Ionos of £16.20 each month. Payment of £149.60 was made to Devon Association of Local Councils for subscription fees. Payment of £1696.47 to Torridge District Council was made for payroll recharge. Payment of £666 was made to Cann's Contractors for Excavator hire. Payment was made to Alwington Residents Association for £300. Payment of £9.98, via debit card, was made by the clerk for a lever arch file and dividers.

b) To receive any accounts to pay

Payment of £110 to Julie Snooks for auditing services was approved. Proposed by Cllr Beresford, seconded by Cllr Adams.

c) To note any income received

The first precept payment by TDC of £2553 had been received.

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

It was noted that payments would be made before the next meeting for website services and maintenance of the defibrillator. There were no other matters arising or small grant applications.

6. Min. 18:24/25 Planning Matters:

a) To note and consider any applications received

Torridge District Council had consulted the Council on an application regarding the demolition of an outbuilding and construction of a single storey, two bedroom, holiday accommodation (following planning approval 1/0798/2023/FUL).at: Barn At Grid Reference 241240 123487, Fairy Cross (1/0282/2024/FUL). Circulated to Cllrs. No comments made.

Consultation (1/0359/2024/FULM) was also made on: Reserved matters application for details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale in respect of a proposal for 274 no. dwellings, associated infrastructure and open space pursuant outline planning permission 1/0039/2014/OUTM (Amended Plans) (Variation of condition 1 of planning permission 1/1133/2021/REMM). Circulated to Cllrs. No comments made.

Consultation was also made on: Reserved matters application for details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale in respect of a proposal for 276 no. dwellings, associated infrastructure and open space pursuant outline planning permission 1/0039/2014/OUTM

(Amended Plans) (Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission 1/1256/2021/REMM) (Plans Schedule). Comments were requested to be sent to the Clerk by 2 June.

b) To note any permissions granted

The application (1/0125/2024/FUL) to raise the existing main dwelling ridge height to accommodate proposed north elevation extension at Three Acorns, Fairy Cross was granted permission.

Approval was also given (application 1/0282/2024/FUL) for demolition of an outbuilding and construction of a single storey, two-bedroom, holiday accommodation (following planning approval 1/0798/2023/FUL) at barn At Grid Reference 241240 123487, Fairy Cross.

c) To note any refusals advised.

No applications had been refused since the last meeting.

d) Any other planning matters arising:

Councillors requested a member of the Torridge District Council planning team be invited to a future meeting to give an overview on planning matters and the Parish Council's place within the process.

ACTION: The Clerk to invite TDC planning to a future Council meeting.

7. Min. 19:24/25 Maintenance and highways

Cllr Rothney reported that, following a survey undertaken with Cllr Rothney, they had reported 12 potholes that met the requirements for Devon County Council (DCC) to make repairs.

Cllr Adams discussed the Highway Community Enhancement Fund available from DCC. This may allow the Council to access funds to make further repairs to roads beyond those undertaken by the DCC Highways team.

ACTION: The Clerk to provide details of the Highway Community Enhancement Fund to Cllrs Adams and Rothney and support them in making a grant application if appropriate.

8. Min. 20:24/25. Alwington Parish Plan & other issues for action in 2024/25.

a) To consider if the Parish Council should use the Gov.uk domain for its emails and website

The Clerk had circulated a paper to Cllrs ahead of the meeting. It was agreed to not change the current arrangements.

b) To consider the consultation received from the Community Information Day held on 23 March.

Cllr Browning had circulated a paper ahead of the meeting. It was agreed that the focus for the Council in 2024/25 should be on the issues of road repairs/potholes, speed issues on the A39, ensuring no reduction in green space or new houses throughout the Parish.

ACTION: The Clerk to add the above issues to future agendas.

The provision of fibre broadband throughout the Parish was discussed. Concerns on infrequent postal deliveries were also discussed.

ACTION: The Clerk to write to Geoffrey Cox MP to re-iterate the Council's concerns.

Cllr Beresford reported that the slate for the replacement Fairy Cross sign had been delivered to the monumental mason and was expected to be fitted in approximately six weeks.

Cllr Moore raised concerns raised with her over a potential planning contravention. It was agreed that these concerns were best raised by the individuals with Torridge District Council's planning team.

Date of next meeting: 9 July at 7.30 pm in The Committee Room, Alwington Village Hall.

Signature _____ **(Chairman) Date** _____