

Alwington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Alwington Village Hall on 13 May 2025, commencing at 7.30 pm.

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

In attendance: Michael Olley (Parish Clerk), Bill Slee and 4 members of the public.

1. Min. 13:25/26 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Christine Moore.

2. Min. 14:25/26 Declarations of Interests

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

3. Min.15:25/26 Election of New Member

Following the advertisement of a vacancy Bill Slee had been interviewed by Cllr Lester (Chair 24-25) and Cllr Adams (Vice Chair 24-25). A report had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting. Cllr Adams proposed that he be appointed as a member of the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Browning. It was resolved that Bill Slee be appointed as a member of Alwington Parish Council. Bill Slee joined the meeting as Councillor.

ACTION: Clerk to undertake necessary arrangements

4. Min. 16:25/26 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 25 March 2025 were approved as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Browning, and seconded by Cllr Rothney.

4. Min. 17:25/26 Correspondence and Communication:

a) Correspondence

Various bulletins and correspondence from Devon Association of Local Councils, Devon County Council, Royal Devon University Healthcare, Torridge District Council, Devon Climate Emergency and Citizens Advice Bureau were noted.

Correspondence from Xlinks had been circulated to Councillors. This gave notification of the appointment of the Examining Authority, and an invitation to the Preliminary Meeting and Notification of Hearing.

b) County/District Council Reports

No reports were given.

PUBLIC SESSION

It was noted that the newly elected Cllr Julian had previously assisted the Council with the installation of the Fairy Cross gates and with speed issues on the A39. This might assist the Council with current concerns regarding speeding.

5. Min. 18:25/26 Financial Matters:

a) To receive an update on the current financial position

As at 5 May 25 the total in the bank account was £9707.87. Payments were made to Ionos (email subscription) £16.80, Lloyds (account maintenance) £4.25, TDC (clerk's salary and service charge) £1844.75, Roger Pratt £400, Cllr Adams £204.25 (Signpost repairs), Cllr Rothney £499 (purchase of Wacker Plate), the Chair £85.90 (expenses), Devon Association of Local Councils £150.63 (Subscription), Cllr Browning £284.26 (expenses incurred on creating wildlife areas), Community Heartbeat £162 (Defibrillator service/support) and WH Smiths (Stationery items for Clerk) £10.98.

b) To receive any accounts to pay

Ongoing payments to Ionos (email subscription) and Lloyds (account maintenance). Payment of £110 to Julie Snooks (internal audit fee) and payments to Squarespace approx £130 (website subscription).

c) To note any income received

The first precept of £2808 was received from TDC.

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

No other matters were discussed. All financial matters approved, proposed Cllr Beresford, seconded Cllr Adams.

6. Min. 19:25/26 Planning Matters:

a) To note and consider any applications received

The council had been consulted on an application seeking demolition of an existing barn and erection of one dwelling and associated works in lieu of Class Q approval 1/1265/2022/AGMB (self build). The council had also been consulted on an application for erection of livestock building at grid reference 241844 123590, Fairy Cross. No comments were made on either application.

b) To note any permissions granted

The application (1/0203/2025/FUL) for conversion and extension of redundant barn into 1no. dwelling (Affecting a Public Right of Way) (Self-Build) has been granted.

c) To note any refusals advised

No applications had been refused.

d) Any other planning matters arising

No other matters arose.

7. Min. 20:25/26. Maintenance and highways

Cllr Rothney updated that he and Cllr Adams would be reporting 7 potholes to the Highways team at Devon County Council (DCC). Following Cllr Rothney's suggestion it was agreed that the Clerk invite the local highways officer at DCC to an internal meeting with Councillors and/or a tour of roads within the parish.

ACTION: Clerk to contact DCC

Following purchase of a Wacker Plate and supply by DCC of ready mixed cold tarmac, work could be undertaken on potholes not within scope of the DCC repair team. Work could also now be undertaken on footpath maintenance, with grants available to the Council for necessary expenses.

8. Min.21:25/26. To approve continued use of current Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and other previously approved paperwork.

Cllr Rothney proposed that the continued use of current standing orders, financial regulations and other previously approved procedures be approved. This was seconded Cllr Beresford.

9. Min. 22:25/26. Alwington Parish Plan & other issues for action in 2024/25:

Speed concerns on the A39

It was agreed that the Clerk contact the Highways Team to request that the red centre line be added to the recently painted lines on the A39. The Clerk was requested to send a summary of issues to Cllr Julian ahead of the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Devon CC and Cllr Julian as appropriate.

Parish Website

Thanks were recorded to Cathy Lester-Walker for her work administering the parish website. It was agreed that as Cathy would be leaving the parish later in the year that a request for assistance be placed in the Alwington News, with Cllrs Browning, Beresford and Slee offering to meet with Cathy to better understand the requirements and to act as administrators as required.

Review of comments by internal auditor.

The comments made by the internal auditor were noted. Work would now be undertaken by the Clerk to address these.

Parish Priorities

It was suggested that a questionnaire be circulated within the Parish to find out priority issues of residents. As the Alwington News was imminent, it was agreed this issue be further discussed at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting: 8 July 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Committee Room, Alwington Village Hall.

Signature _____ (Chair) Date _____