

## Alwington Parish Council

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Alwington Village Hall on 10 September 2024, commencing at 7.30 pm.**

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

**In attendance:** Michael Olley (Parish Clerk), Cllr Phil Pennington (Torrige District Council) and 1 member of the public.

#### **1. Min. 30:24/25 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Adams, Cllr Moore and Cllr Jeffrey Wilton-Love (Devon County Council).

#### **2. Min. 31:24/25 Declarations of Interests**

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

#### **3. Min. 32:24/25 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 9 July 2024 were approved as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Browning, and seconded by Cllr Rothney.

#### **4. Min. 33:24/25 Correspondence and Communication:**

##### **a) Correspondence**

Various bulletins and correspondence from Devon Association of Local Councils, Devon County Council, Devon Climate Emergency, Royal Devon University Healthcare, Peninsula Transport and Devon Communities Together were noted. Correspondence from Ron Bailey, researcher for Lord (don) Foster, Kayleigh Seward, Streetworks and The Hon Sir Geoffrey Cox KC MP were also noted. A report, highlighted by Cllr Rothney, was circulated to all Councillors. The Chair circulated a report on his attendance at a public meeting on issues around climate change.

##### **b) County/District Council Reports**

Cllr Wilton-Love reported to the Chair prior to the meeting that Connecting Devon and Somerset were actively looking at how best to support Airband to complete the rollout of fibre broadband. He also noted that Tom Cox, the Neighbourhood Highways Officer for Devon County Council was leaving his post. A new Highways Officer would be appointed.

Cllr Phil Pennington updated the meeting on actions being undertaken by Torrige District Council, in conjunction with North Devon District Council, to prepare for plans highlighted by the new Government, in particular around housing, but highlighted that no firm instruction had yet been received. He also urged any resident struggling financially to seek advice, with information available from Torrige District Council to assist.

## PUBLIC SESSION

Thanks were given to Cllr Rothney for support with the Alwington Residents Association work party and for a grant application for tools to assist.

### **5. Min. 34:24/25 Financial Matters:**

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

As at 2 September 24 the total in the bank account was £10,052.62.

Monthly subscription of £16.20 continued to Ionos. Payment of £7.50 was made to Cllr Lester for reimbursement of stationery, £547.09 to Community First for renewal of the Council's insurance policy, the clerk spent £8.50 at Asda for printer paper and pens and £47.70 at Amazon for printer ink. Payment of £498 was made to CTA 2022 Ltd for training and certification of Cllr Rothney.

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

It was agreed that, as in previous years, the Council would make a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion following Remembrance Sunday. Proposed Cllr Beresford, seconded Cllr Rothney.

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

No income had been received.

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

The grant application to help towards the cost of repair and repainting of the two main windows at the Old School Room was discussed. The Council wished to thank Barry Collacott, on his retirement from the role of Church Warden, for his support and assistance. The ingress of water within the recently redecorated school room was noted. It was agreed that the grant application for £450 be approved. Proposed Cllr Beresford, seconded Cllr Rothney.

**ACTION:** The Clerk to thank Barry Collacott for his support and assistance.

The Chair to discuss with the Churchwardens how the need to maintain the existing fabric of the building may affect future grant applications regarding the Old School Room.

### **6. Min. 35:24/25 Planning Matters:**

#### **a) To note and consider any applications received**

A consultation (1/0758/2024/FUL) on a retrospective application for the erection of an equestrian building with storage (affecting a public right of way) at Winscott Barton had been received. Comments needed to be sent to the Clerk by 19 September.

**ACTION:** To enquire with Cllr Adams if he knew how this application affected public right of way.

**b) To note any permissions granted**

It was noted that applications for a proposed roof over an existing dung midden (1/0533/2024/FUL) and erection of a roof over an existing cattle yard (1/0534/2024/FUL) at Yeo Vale Farm had been approved.

**c) To note any refusals advised**

No applications had been refused.

**d) Any other planning matters arising**

It was noted that the application (1/0473/2024/FUL) for the conversion of a redundant rural building to form 1no. dwelling at Woodtown Stud, Fairy Cross, Bideford, Devon had been withdrawn.

**7. Min. 36:24/25. Maintenance and highways**

Cllr Rothney reported that, following course attendance and assessment, he had obtained SWQR Unit 2 signing, lighting and guarding certification to undertake and supervise streetworks. He also reported back on an issue with a culvert at risk of collapse which Devon County Council had maintained was the responsibility of the landowner to repair and maintain.

Cllr Beresford updated the Council that the replacement slate within the Fairy Cross bus stops would be in place at the end of September/early October. The Chair thanked Cllr Beresford for her persistence with the matter.

**8. Min. 37:24/25. Alwington Parish Plan & other issues for action in 2024/25:**

**a) To consider actions to reduce speed concerns on the A39**

The Council discussed the possibility of a speed camera being installed on the A39 at Fairy Cross following installation of a new camera in Bideford.

ACTION: The chair to discuss this possibility with Cllr Wilton-Love.

**b) To consider actions taken to ensure there is no reduction in green space, or new houses throughout the Parish**

A watching brief was maintained on this item. It was noted that Cllr Browning had made a grant application to Devon County Council for £500 to assist with developing the natural environment in the two public spaces in the parish (Alwington Village Hall and The Old Schoolroom). It was hoped this would improve the biodiversity in the area and inspire similar actions throughout the Parish.

**c) To consider actions to improve the rollout of fibre broadband throughout the Parish**

This item had been discussed earlier under County/District Council Reports (33:24/25).

Cllr Browning raised the issue of a caravan parked in the layby on the A39 at Fairy Cross. It had been parked there for over 3 weeks and appeared that someone was living within it.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate options to report this matter.

The lack of a dog waste bin in Alwington hamlet was deferred to the next meeting.

Cllr Rothney raised the 80th anniversary of VE day and suggested that the Council may wish to consider how this should be marked within the Parish. Possible actions the Council could take were discussed with the issue to be further considered and discussed at the next meeting.

The Chair commended Cllr Browning on the Annual Parish Horticultural Show. He proposed that the Council commit in future budgets to offer funds towards running future shows. He suggested a sum of £300 be allocated in future budgets for this, with a review after three years. This was agreed, proposed by Cllr Rothney, seconded Cllr Beresford.

**Date of next meeting:** 12 November at 7.30 pm in The Committee Room, Alwington Village Hall.

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