

Alwington Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting held in The Old School Room, Alwington on 12 May 2026, commencing at 7.00pm.

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

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

1. APM.1:26/27 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Moore and Cllr Julian (Devon County Council - DCC).

2. APM.2:26/27 Declarations of Interests

No declarations were received in respect of personal or prejudicial interests

3. APM.3:26/27 Chairman's Report

The Chair gave a brief summary of the work of the Parish Council over the preceding twelve months. He thanked Cllrs Browning and Slee for their work with the Queen Elizabeth II Garden Committee, the Alwington Residents Association for their hard work maintaining signs, footpaths and green spaces throughout the Parish. He thanked Cllr Beresford and the Clerk for their work in setting up the new website and email addresses. He also thanked Cllr Rothney for reporting and monitoring road defects and leading a team of volunteers to fill potholes throughout the Parish. Cllr Browning was thanked for obtaining a free tree for the Parish and Rose Wright for organising the over 80's Christmas lunch.

4. APM:4:26/27 District and County Council Reports

There were no reports given.

5. APM: 5:26/27 Other Reports

Village Hall Committee

Cllr Browning gave a report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Browning reported that the hall had continued to be well used. The income received had covered costs and allowed reserves to be built for future maintenance. She thanked all those involved, in particular those who had assisted with clearing pathways and the emergency exit. She reminded the meeting that the annual Horticultural Show would be held on 15 August.

Rewilding Project

Hilary Pratt reported that the number of volunteers had increased, with future members always welcome. The group had undertaken work to maintain paths and greenspaces throughout the Parish. She thanked Gordon Lester and Cathy Lester-Walker for the donation of tools.

The Parish Church of St. Andrew in Alwington

Hilary Dodge reported on behalf of the Alwington Parochial Church Committee. She detailed ongoing maintenance undertaken within the last twelve months, gave an update on financial matters and an overview of events held both within the church and The Old School Room. She thanked those who had provided assistance, including those who helped maintain the churchyard.

The Alwington Residents Association (ARA)

Viv Harries was unable to attend the meeting, but gave a written update following the meeting which was circulated to Councillors.

6. APM 6:26/27 Matters raised by Parish Residents - No matters were raised.

7. APM:7:26/27 Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Cllr Beresford resigned as Vice Chair and nominated Cllr Slee as Vice Chair. This was seconded by Cllr Adams. No other nominations were received. Cllr Slee agreed to act as Vice Chair. Cllr Beresford nominated Cllr Adams as Chair. This was seconded by Cllr Browning. No other nominations were received. Cllr Adams agreed to act as Chair. It was resolved that Cllr Adams be appointed as Chair and Cllr Slee be appointed as Vice Chair for 2026/27.

8. APM: 8:26/27 To agree and approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13 May 2025.

It was resolved to approve and sign the minutes as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Browning, seconded by Cllr Slee.

9. APM: 9:26/27 To receive and approve the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2026.

It was resolved to approve the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2026. Proposed Cllr Beresford, seconded Cllr Browning.

10. APM: 10:26/27 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26

The clerk reported the comments made by the internal auditor. As a result of the comments the 'wacker plate' had been added to the Council's insurance and previous years Annual Governance and Accountability Returns had been added to the website. The comments made regarding the minuting of the agreed precept amount, the need for an end of year bank statement, the rounding amendments made and the need to continue work to check if there are licenses for siting the Fairy Cross bus shelters were noted. The clerk explained need to ensure all receipts showed the name of the Alwington Parish Council to allow for VAT to be reclaimed.

It was resolved to approve and sign the Certificate of Exemption, the Annual Governance Statement (agreeing with each statement) and the Accounting Statements.

11. APM: 11:26/27. Appoint the Internal Auditor for 2026/27

It was resolved to appoint Julie Snooks as Internal Auditor for the Parish Council for 2026/27. Proposed Cllr Rothney, seconded Cllr Adams.

12. APM:12:26/27 Agree meeting dates for 2026/27.

The Parish Council meeting dates for 2025/26 were agreed as: 7 July, 8 September, 10 November, 12 January, 16 March (all at 7.30 pm in Alwington Village Hall) and 18 May 2027 (7.30 pm in The Old School Room, Alwington). The next Annual Meeting was agreed as 18 May 2027 at 7.00 pm in The Old School Room, Alwington.

Signature_____ (Chair) Date_____