

Alwington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th February 2020 at the Alwington Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Gordon Lester (Chair), Sarah Bourke, Christine Moore.

In attendance: Mr Malcolm Harris, Parish Clerk, and 5 members of the public.

Min.37 :20/21

1) Apologies: Apologies for the meeting were received from Cllrs Brian Adams, Neil Rothney, Chris Payne, Phil Pennington TDC, and Tony Inch DCC

Min 38:20/21

2) Declarations of Interests

2a) No declarations were received in respect of personal interests

2b) No declarations were received in respect of prejudicial interests

Min.39:20/21

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 19th November, 2019.

It was **resolved**, to confirm and sign the minutes as a true record. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Sarah Bourke and Seconded by Cllr Christine Moore.

There were no matters arising.

Min.40:20/21 Correspondence and Communication

a) Correspondence was received in respect of the following matters:

- DCC (Devon County Council) – Details of drainage maintenance responsibilities – noted, and retained on file.
- DCC – Responses to highway maintenance issues – circulated to all Cllrs.
- DCC – Details of the Parish Paths Footpaths Partnership – noted. For discussion by the Parish Plan Working Group.
- Alwington Village Hall – copy of current accounts. Retained on file.

b) Website

Cllr Gordon Lester informed the meeting that a number of meetings had taken place with the website coordinator to improve the range of information available on the site. A data collection system(Matamo) has been established, but it will take several weeks to set the system up so that usage trends can be analysed.

c) District/County Council Reports

There are no reports from the County or District Councillors for this meeting.

Cllr Gordon Lester had attended the Area Advisory Group meeting held on the 26th November, and in attendance was Cllr John Hart, Leader, Devon County Council.

The following key issues are noted from the meeting:

- DCC have set target to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- TDC – are encouraging Parishes to consider climate change initiatives.
- Waste and recycling rates are up to 51%.
- TDC are considering going to every three-week black bin collection to encourage more recycling.
- Cllr Gordon Lester asked a question relating to the work of the work undertaken by the Lengths men, which included drain, gully and ditches clearance. DCC confirmed that the Lengths man service was no longer available, and that local landowners should take on responsibility for drain and gully clearance.

It was agreed to consider the Community Road Wardens Scheme as part of the Parish Plan Review, and continue to request regular meetings with Keiron Stanbury the DCC Area Highways Officer. Issues relating to continued speeding on the A39 were also discussed.

Action Point: Cllr Gordon Lester to email Cllr Tony Inch to request this issue is discussed at the HATOC (Highways & Traffic Order Committee)

d) Community Safety - No report of any incidents received for this meeting.

PUBLIC SESSION

The following issues were raised in the public session:

- A vote of thanks to Cllr Brain Adams for provided salt for the roads during a recent cold spell.
- Noted that Police Commissioner elections are due later this year.
- The road from Fairy Cross to Woodtown is in a poor condition. It was confirmed that this issue has been reported to DCC Highways.
- Repaired manhole cover has lifted on the corner from Ford.
- Problems with flooding in Ford continue. This item will be discussed under the maintenance agenda item.

Min41.:20/21

5) Financial Matters:

a) To receive an update on the current financial position:

The current balance in the Treasurers account less the commitments up to the 1st February, 2020 is £7,830.

b) To receive any accounts to pay

- Parish Clerk – salary January – March - £507.36
- Alwington Parish Hall – Annual grant - £500.
- CAB – Annual Grant - £100
- Abingerweb – web coordination/development 2019/20 - £400.
- Parish Clerk – Expenses - £21.00

Proposed: Cllr Gordon Lester, and seconded by Cllr Sarah Bourke that the above accounts be paid.

c) To note any income received.

None received.

d) Any other financial issues.

No other financial issues for this meeting,

Min.42:20/21

Planning Matters:

No planning matters for this meeting.

Min.43:20/21

Maintenance & Highways

1. Problems with flooding in Ford

An update from Keiran Stanbury confirmed he had met with affected customers: a jetting and CCTV order was carried out on Monday 6th January to clear the gulley's on the length of the road. Results of the CCTV are awaiting to determine future works.

2. Clearing of ditches with bucket fitted tractors/machinery.

The feedback from DCC confirms that the responsibility of clearing ditches lies with the adjacent landowners. DCC contractors undertake cyclic works to clear grips easements and gulley's. There are very limited budgets to perform ditch works and this will only be done where there is significant flooding to carriageways or property.

3. Other Highway Issues.

Condition of road surfaces are deteriorating and the Parish roads require a survey to determine the extent of the repairs. Woodtown to Yeo Vale is particularly bad. The Parish Council will consider providing the funds to assist with the survey.

Action Point: The Clerk to email Keiran Stanbury with a request for an update on the flooding in Ford, and a request for a survey of the road conditions, including potholes.

Min.44:20/21

Alwington Parish Plan & other issues for action in 2020/21

a) Parish Noticeboard - Woodtown

Cllr Gordon Lester explained that the Parish noticeboard at Woodtown requires repair work.

Action Point: The Clerk to contact the suppliers to investigate the options for repairing the noticeboard,

b) Parish Footpaths Partnership - DCC

It was agreed that the Parish Council should pursue the offer to develop the Partnership with DCC. Cllr Neil Rothley to lead on this project, and contact DCC to discuss the next stage of developing the project.

c) Website Policy

Councillor Gordon Lester circulated to all Councillors a proposed website policy. He explained that the primary purpose of the website is to publish information about the activity and conduct of the Parish Council itself. The secondary purpose is to provide information about services and activities for residents and visitors to the Parish.

The website policy sets out how the site will be managed.

Proposed by Cllr Sarah Bourke and seconded by Cllr Christine Moore that the website policy be adopted, subject to any further comments from Councillors absent from the meeting.

d) Parish Plan Working Group – Terms of Reference

Cllr Gordon Lester outlined the Parish Plan Working Group Terms of Reference.

It is proposed that the work streams with lead Councillors are as follows:

1. Measures needed to achieve and contribute to carbon neutrality by 2030(Cllr Sarah Bourke)
2. Maintenance of drains and ditches within the Parish as a means to flood prevention. (Cllr Gordon Lester).
3. Preserving footpaths and bridleways within the Parish(Cllr Neil Rothney)
4. Website: measures to improve communication within the Parish and also providing data about usage.(Cllr Gordon Lester/Dave Butterworth)

Other work streams may be added at the discretion of the Working Group.

A consultation event is likely to be held later in the year.

Proposed by Cllr Sarah Bourke and seconded by Cllr Christine Moore, that the Parish Plan Working Group Terms of Reference to be adopted by the Parish Council.

e) Annual Governance Statement.

The Clerk introduced the Annual Governance Statement, and confirmed that the only change to other policies was the adoption of the new Public Participation Guidelines, which have been added to the Parish Councils Standing Orders.

Proposed by Cllr Gordon Lester and seconded by Cllr Sarah Bourke, that the Annual Governance Statement be adopted by the Parish Council. The statement was duly signed by the Chairman.

Min. 45:20/21 – other items at the Chairman’s discretion

Cllr Chris Payne informed the Parish Clerk of his resignation. On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Gordon Lester thanked him for all his hard work, in particular, for trying to resolve issues with DCC relating to Highway and byways, during his tenure,

Future Meetings: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the Parish Council meeting, both to be held from 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th May, 2020.

Signature_____ (Chairman) Date_____