

WEST ALVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Date 4 th January 2024		Venue & Time: WA Village Hall, 7.00pm
Present: Cllr Steve Lees (in the Chair) Cllr Charlotte Oakey Cllr Chris Povey Cllr Helen Rhymes Cllr Derek Winser	In Attendance: Kathy Harrod (Parish Clerk) Dist. Cllr Sam Dennis Dist. Cllr Mark Long County Cllr Rufus Gilbert Parishioners/Guests: 7	Apologies: Cllr Liz Chin Cllr Kathryn Rawlinson

REF 2023/24 MINUTES

269 Welcome & Apologies

270 PARISHIONERS OPEN FORUM (Allocated time not longer than 15 minutes, a member of the public shall not speak for more than 2 minutes as per Standing Orders):

- A parishioner raised the issue regarding parking around the Townsend Road area. Parking is regularly very poor and includes vehicles parking on pavements which in turn leads to parishioners walking on the road – known to include those who are reliant on wheelchairs/prams/young children and dogwalkers. Livewest own the majority of parking in this area including the parking behind the flats at Townsend Close which is regularly not in use. Residents not using the car park behind the flats are exasperating the situation particularly through the prevention of emergency vehicle access.
- It was also noted that a local Air BnB is offering off road parking in the Livewest homes car parking area.

The Council will add this to the February agenda, in the meantime the Clerk will look into options to include writing to residents, speaking with Livewest and speaking with the local MP.

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

Cllr Rufus Gilbert, Email: Rufus.Gilbert@devon.gov.uk.

- The Devolution proposals for Devon (now excluding Plymouth) have in principal been agreed with government and should come in to force April 1st. There will no changes to the make-up of Districts, Parishes and DCC.
- The transfer of LEP's Local Enterprise Partnerships to upper tier authorities (DCC) will also be completed by April.
- The £2.00 bus fare will continue until the end of 2024.
- Devon will get £6.6M from Hs2 cancellation towards road repairs.
- DCC has bought six replacement gritters.
- Regarding DIY waste taken to recycling centres, contrary to media coverage, this will not include tyres/asbestos.
- The Modbury road closure will commence on 8th January for a period of 6 weeks.

West Alvington Traffic Notifications from one.network:

- 2nd January to 11th March: Phase 2. Road Closure A381 through village, continued gas mains replacement.
- 11th March to 10th April: Phase 3. West Alvington Cross to Ilbert Road, continued gas mains replacement. Access will be maintained for schools in that location.
- 15th January to 5th February: Town Park, traffic management in place.

Cllr Gilbert left the meeting.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

Email Cllr Samantha Dennis: Samantha.dennis@swdevon.gov.uk

Email Cllr Mark Long: cllr.mark.long@southhams.gov.uk

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- a. Waste & recycling collections over Christmas have run very well, all issues are being reviewed with the crews at the earliest opportunity. Cllr Povey had been contacted by residents in Woolston about collections, it was reiterated that black bins are collected fortnightly and recycling should be collected weekly, if this is not the case South Hams District Council should be notified via the 'Report It' section of the website.
 - b. Due to the current dental crisis, South Hams District Council is encouraging the Devon Health & Wellbeing Board, plus local MPs Anthony Mangnall and Gary Streeter, to work with local dental practitioners to set up a pilot scheme for accessible no frills dental care suitable for all age groups in the South Hams.
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THE MEETING CONVENED

271 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY/OTHER INTERESTS & Updates to Register of Interests:
Cllrs Rhymes declared an interest in respect of the finances and withdrew from these discussions.

272 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING:
It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 7th December 2023 without alteration. These were then signed by the Chairman.

273 VACANCIES & Co-Option – No update

274 CLERKS REPORT:

1. Village Hall Update: The order for an upgrade to the lighting has been placed.
 2. A revised version of the full Register of Electors has been published and is available, by appointment, for inspection under supervision during office hours at Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5NE.
 3. The planters have now all been "Planted" with shrubs & many daffodils, and the project is now finished. Many thanks to ALL those who gave their time to contribute in many ways, including the Businesses and individuals whose overwhelming kindness helped to make it a success. Everything needed to complete the planters was sourced locally.
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275 PLANNING & ENFORCEMENT

a) LIST OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:

1. 3957/23/CLP, Davey Park Farm South Huish TQ7 3ES, Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed rear extensions, alterations to windows & doors, PV panels & rooflights in the existing roof & construction of outbuildings. **West Alvington Parish Council have no known evidence to confirm or refute the application.**
2. Collapit Creek House. Deferred until February. Councillors met with the property owner in December for a pre-application meeting to receive an overview of the proposals. South Hams District Council are now reviewing the submitted documents prior to commencement of the statutory consultation.

b) SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISIONS:

1. 2814/23/HHO, Fairhaven Tacketwood Kingsbridge TQ7 3AY 26/10. **No Decision Yet.**

c) ENFORCEMENT & OTHER PLANNING ISSUES

Enforcement Lists are confidential and issues concerning Enforcement cannot be discussed at a public meeting. South Hams District Council are responsible for the enforcement of all planning breaches, the Parish Council have no authority to deal with issues of this nature. ALL violations can be reported to Enforcement via www.southhams.gov.uk/article/3043/Report-a-Planning-Breach

276 BUSINESS TO BE NOTED/DISCUSSED:

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1. Town Park Car Park Lease agreement: Full payment has been made to all relevant parties, we await sight of the draft documentation.
2. West Alvington Roadworks discussion:
A request has been made to Devon County Council for a copy of the step-by-step guide to Parish led road improvement initiatives when it becomes available.
If any non-residents have an accident driving through West Alvington while the road is officially closed they may find their insurance is invalidated.

277 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

a. Receipts & Payments: Month 10.

Accounts to pay – Barton Sawmill £250, Palladium £20.40, Southern Timber £120.95.

Standing Orders: Clerks Salary & HMRC, SHEPS £80, HugoFox £11.99, Hall Hire £20

Bank Balances as at 31.12.2023: Current Account £615.79, Deposit Account £9,022.86

The councillors **RESOLVED** to accept the above payments.

b. Governance: Financial Review & Setting of the annual precept:

1. The monthly accounts show the Council's spend to date in the financial year. In November/January the Parish Council uses this information to estimate and assess the projected outturn spend for the year. This then gives the Council a likely carry forward figure for the next financial year and informs the precept discussions.
2. The meeting therefore reviewed the year-to-date financial position and worked through the modelling supplied by the Clerk to assure itself of the validity of the projected outturn.
3. The meeting then considered the commitments, inflationary pressures and the likely increase in services needing to be both provided and funded locally.
4. The base band D on which precept calculations are based has decreased from 266.80 to 264.67.
5. The meeting noted that the Government has decided to defer the setting of council tax referendum principles to town and parish councils for 2024/25. However it has again issued a challenge to those councils to demonstrate restraint when increasing precepts that are not a direct result of taking on additional responsibilities.
6. With proposed annual expenditure for 2024/2025 reaching £39,340 (including some one-off capital payments) the Council concluded that they needed to increase the precept to £27,865 so the average household will pay £105.28 per year (i.e.: £2.02p per week). This will mean our budget increases by £4,644 allowing us to fund the costs of more benefits to the community and any services devolved from County or District etc.
7. A proposal was made to request a precept level of £27,865 as per the above information. Proposed by Cllr Povey, seconded by Cllr Winsler, approved unanimously.

278 NEXT MEETING DATE: 1st February – WA Village Hall, 7.00pm

Meeting Ends 19.55 hrs

Signed as a true record: _____

Print Name & Date: _____

Agenda Items and Updates; where possible please submit to the Clerk by the last Wednesday in the month to ensure time for inclusion, circulation, and study. If a Council Member is unable to attend a meeting it would be appreciated if they could submit a brief précis of progress on their actions, if applicable, (to the Clerk for distribution) together with their apologies.

Distribution List: All WAPC Councillors. **For Information to:** County Cllr R Gilbert, South Hams District Council Ward Councillors, Parish Tree Warden, WAPC Notice Board.