

WEST ALVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Date 7 th December 2023		Venue & Time: WA Village Hall, 7.30pm
<u>Present:</u> Cllr Liz Chin Cllr Steve Lees (in the Chair) Cllr Chris Povey Cllr Kathryn Rawlinson (from 7.30pm) Cllr Helen Rhymes	<u>In Attendance:</u> Kathy Harrod (Parish Clerk) Dist. Cllr Sam Dennis Dist. Cllr Mark Long Parishioners/Guests: 0	<u>Apologies:</u> County Cllr Rufus Gilbert Cllr Charlotte Oakey Cllr Derek Winser

REF 2023/24 MINUTES

259 Welcome & Apologies

260 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):

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

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

West Alvington Traffic Notifications from one.network:

- 20th November to 22nd December: Phase 1. Road Closure A381 through village, replace old metallic gas mains.
 - 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
1. Modbury road closure for 6 weeks commences on 8th January, light traffic will be deviated internally, heavy traffic will be required to follow another, longer, diversion route.
 2. The mobile library service has ceased, unlike most other counties where one in six libraries are being closed, DCC are keeping all fifty libraries open. A home library service is available, see this link for details <http://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/health-homelibraryservice>
 3. Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) programme.
The Mobile Boost scheme ran from February 2021 to March 2023 and funded over 1,700 installations across the region, helping small businesses and homeworkers with poor indoor mobile coverage.

Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) are delighted to share that the scheme has recently been successful in securing additional funding from the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (HotSW LEP) and will be re-opening to applications on Monday 8th January 2024. Funding is limited and they have forecast that the scheme will run for six months from January to June 2024, subject to demand. See news release on additional funding [South West communities receive funding boost to improve mobile connectivity - Connecting Devon and Somerset](#)

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

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

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

- a. Devon aligned service for waste collections - all residents now have the same service which commenced on 20th November. There will be an impact on most people either in the way they present their waste or residents will find their collection date may change. If there are any issues with collections please report online at the earliest convenience.
- b. Notifications have been received from the police regarding burglaries at farms and rural locations – quad bikes and tools have been targeted.

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- c. A number of consultations are on the SHDC website, including the Corporate Strategy, Council Tax and dog control orders.
- d. A variety of different grants are currently available including one to support the resilience of local communities for items such as village halls – the grants are between £2k and £10k and need to be match funded.
- e. The new Planning Website system, including mapping, is now in place.
- f. Some weed clearing has taken place through the centre of the village while the road closure is in place. Councillors requested a schedule for future dates so that they can request people remove their vehicles.

THE MEETING CONVENED

261 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY/OTHER INTERESTS & Updates to Register of Interests:

Cllrs Lees and Rhymes declared an interest in respect of the finances and withdrew from these discussions.

262 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING:

It was resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 2nd November 2023 with one alteration to 254 13, these were then signed by the Chairman.

263 VACANCIES & Co-Option

One expression of interest was received, unfortunately the person concerned was not able to proceed at this time.

264 CLERKS REPORT:

- 1. With regards to an order of grit for the bins we can only order a minimum of 1 ton which equates to 40 x 25kilo bags. An order will be placed to be delivered to the corner of Town Park Car Park. Some of the grit will be stored with allocated parishioners to ensure that availability will be better spread across the parish.
- 2. Village Hall Update: Works to the hall are largely completed, the Committee have now agreed to place an order for the lighting to be upgraded.
- 3. Councillors have been invited to a presentation at Collapit House re their forthcoming plans for redevelopment.
- 4. We await installation of the new notice board.
- 5. The training session on planning will now take place in January.
- 6. The trees for planting were received. No volunteers came forward to plant them, we have therefore instructed a contractor to do the work.
- 7. Planter Project: Update to be provided at a future meeting.
- 8. VAS signs – updated speed information is being obtained and will be released once received.
- 9. A meeting took place with a representative from the Diocese regarding the old school play area. We will be contacted in due course with an update.
- 10. A second defibrillator has been ordered.

The following has been received from Liz Green, our Estuary Forum Representative:

- 11. Devon and Severn (D&S) Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) are currently holding a public consultation until 19 January 2024 concerning Netting Permit conditions within the Salcombe – Kingsbridge Estuary. Anyone (but especially commercial or recreational fishers) in the area is invited to formally offer feedback to the proposed alterations by visiting the D&S IFCA's website:- <https://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/>.
- 12. As part of the PATH-SAFE programme, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) is developing tools that provide an overview, at river catchment level, of the most important sources and pathways of pathogens implicated in foodborne disease, to aid identification of spatial and/or temporal variations in risk and highlight elements that may warrant a more thorough investigation. They are seeking the opinion of health

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and industry experts as well as recreational river users, for their perceptions of hazards across all catchments and for knowledge of specific catchments. To assist, they would appreciate 10 minutes of your time to respond to their survey, via the link: https://defragroup.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6VjceCwl44bn2fQ

13. On 23 November, by invitation of South West Water, Liz attended a “Beachwise Forum” gathering at Roadford Lake. Please see **Appendix 1** for copies of the slides displayed as part of the presenters’ presentations. They contain some interesting data, particularly the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) research work by the University of Exeter. The attached data intimates that the pollution in our seas and rivers caused by sewage is actually around 20%. Better education for all is essential concerning what gets poured down our surface water drains, the types of chemicals sprayed on land and what gets poured down sink outlets etc that ultimately filters into our waste water. It was noted that attending organisations are seriously looking into water quality monitoring the year round, not just May – September; an acknowledgement that, on our coast and rivers particularly, water sports and bathing activities are not purely seasonal.

14. In November, Defra published the annual bathing water quality statistics, which you can find here – <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/bathing-water-quality-statistics>

265 PLANNING & ENFORCEMENT

a) **LIST OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:** None received in the period.

b) **SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISIONS:**

1. 1444/23/ARC, Easton Farm, West Alvington. **Discharge of Condition Approved.**
2. 2814/23/HHO, Fairhaven Tacketwood Kingsbridge TQ7 3AY 26/10. **No Decision Yet.**
3. 3327/23/CLP, Collapit Creek House, **Certificate of Lawfulness (Proposed) Certified.**
4. 2522/23/HHO, Archway Barn, Collapit, 30/11. **Conditional Approval.**
5. 3418/23/TCA, WA Primary School, T006: Ash. **Tree Works, No Objection Made.**

c) **ENFORCEMENT & OTHER PLANNING ISSUES**

Please note that the 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

266 BUSINESS TO BE NOTED/DISCUSSED:

1. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve additional works to the village hall to complete the current refurbishment project.
 2. Town Park Car Park Lease agreement: We await sight of the documentation.
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267 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

a) **Receipts & Payments:** Month 9.

Accounts to pay – Mathias Property Solutions £95, WAVH £40, RBL, Avon Windows £29,770, Quickbooks £138.34, Curry & Co Solicitors £2,400, 123 Reg Domain Renewal £14.39, Tree Lights/Batteries £42.51
Standing Orders: Clerks Salary & HMRC, SHEPS £80, HugoFox £11.99

Payments for ratification: Remembrance Wreath £50, Avon Windows £10,000, Scribe £417.60, Cllr Rhymes plants £45

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Bank Balances as at 30.11.2023: Current Account £22,404.06, Deposit Account £21,227.27

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

b. Governance:

1. Prior to the meeting a draft budget, draft precept options and list of reserves had been provided to the Councillors for review. The final agreement will be reached at the January meeting.

268 NEXT MEETING DATES: 4th January – **WA Village Hall**, 7.00pm

Meeting Ends 20:15 hrs

The Council then went into closed session to discuss confidential staffing information at which time it was **RESOLVED** to approve the NALC pay increase to £17.64 per hour effective from 1st April 2023 for council staff. Proposed: Cllr Lees seconded by Cllr Rawlinson and approved unanimously.

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.