



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

e-mail: clerk@dalwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Dalwood Parish (27/2) held on Monday 1 June 2026 at 19:00 hrs in Dalwood Village Hall

Present: Cllr Kathy Laing (Chair), Ian Walker (Clerk to the Parish Council)

In attendance: Others - per attendance sheet (26.32)

1. **Welcome**
Cllr Laing welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**
The Clerk briefly ran through the minutes of the previous Annual Village meeting held on 9 June 2025 and it was agreed that the minutes should be signed by the Chair as a true record.
3. **Dalwood Parish Council**
The Chair gave a brief outline of the workings of the parish council during the year to 31 March 2026 and of the key events that had taken place.
4. The Clerk gave a brief review of the financial statements that had been prepared for the year ended 31 March 2026 and noted that a satisfactory internal audit report had been received on 27 April 2026. He outlined total income for the year of £8,863 and total expenditure of £7,863, resulting in an overall surplus for the year of £999.
5. It was noted that, as at 31 March 2026, the balance on the Lloyds Bank current account was £373 and £14,874 in the Redwood Bank deposit account,
6. Total reserves at the year end stood at £15,248, including a general reserve of £13,098 and £1,311 in the Parish Paths fund.
7. The accounts had been formally approved at the Parish Council meeting on 6 May 2026 and all of the relevant financial information has now been posted on the Parish Council website.
8. The Clerk informed the meeting that, following recommendations, a new parish council website has been launched and can now be found at:

dalwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

9. The old website will hopefully continue in operation for the next 12 months although visitors should be redirected to the new website. The clerk to the parish council can now be contacted at clerk@dalwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk.

10. Devon and Cornwall Police

Hayley Widger (the Community Support Officer from the Neighbourhood Policing Team in Axminster) gave a very illuminating talk on the current priorities of the local police team. Currently, they are concentrating on crime in the town centre in Axminster, anti-social behaviour (including that associated with driving) and cross-border crime. Much of their attention is being focused on the results from their “hot spot” policing which is identifying times and places where crimes are more prevalent but they are also now pushing a greater visibility in the surrounding countryside, with walkabouts in all of the local villages on a regular basis. Hayley also commented on their use of Devon Alert, notifying people of crimes, and there was discussion about how such alerts could be possibly be included on Dalwood Daily. She also said that a team would be attending Dalwood Country Fair and would have information and advice available for members of the public.

11. The Corry Valley Community Land Trust (“TCVCLT”)

Sarah Hobson, the current chair of TCVCLT, gave a brief outline of the history of the organisation and its part in the development of Newberys. She pointed out that the development will pass into the ownership of the village at some point in the future – but only if TCVCLT is still in existence (otherwise the development will become owned by EDDC!). This was followed by a plea for more participation from residents, either by becoming a shareholder for £2 or by becoming a trustee. She outlined the way the organisation had used a loaned, thermal imaging camera last winter (hopefully, to be repeated next winter) and also detailed a forthcoming blister pack recycling initiative, hopefully to be sited in the Village Shop. They also want to try to participate in community energy generation in future.

12. Dalwood Recreation Trust (“DRT”)

Sheila Fearnley gave a brief presentation on the workings of the trust over the last 12 months in its operation of the Jubilee Pavilion and Field. She pointed out that since acquiring the building and field in 2012, its operations have gone from strength to strength and a recent RoSPA equipment inspection was passed with flying colours! However, the overheads of the organisation have escalated significantly over the last year and the organisation is exclusively dependant on donations and fund-raising to cover its overheads, combined with rental income from events. Fund-raising initiatives have included Crazy Cricket, the annual car wash and plant sale, together with a family picnic in the summer. Sheila put forward a plea for residents to use the facilities as much as possible, particularly as it is Dalwood’s only space available for public access!

13. Dalwood Shop

Sheila Beak pointed out that the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Village Shop will be taking place on 4 September 2026 making it one of the most long-standing and highly thought of village shops in the area, operating, as it does, through its wholly volunteer labour force. However, Sheila also disclosed that the annual footfall had recently reduced a little in the last year and that more effort was needed from villagers to buy items from the shop. She said that the shop was often being asked by villagers to acquire items for sale, which they were always willing to do, provided that such items were then purchased! She mentioned that sales of local produce and souvenirs were going well and she also outlined the renovations and renewals that either had taken place, or were taking place in the near future (including a new freezer selling ice cream that was “to die for”!). As ever, Sheila put out a please for volunteers to help with staffing the shop.

14. Dalwood Vineyard

Mike Huskins again presented the final talk of the evening on our local award-winning vineyard. He pointed out that the effects of global climate change had resulted in 2024 being its worst year ever with a very wet and cold period from may through to July. As a result, only some 1,500 bottles were produced, compared with a usual production of 4-5,000 bottles. However, that was followed by the summer of 2025 which has resulted in a “sensational” grape harvest. They are, again, producing a Rose Brut and the Rose wine should be available in about a month’s time. The vineyard is again putting on an Open Gardens event in support of Hospiscare on Sunday, 19 July 2026, offering a reduced admission price, with part of that price being donated to Hospiscare. Mike put out a plea for donations of home-made cakes for sale at the event...!

15. Cllr Laing thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for the very able individuals who gave such informative presentations, highlighting life in and around Dalwood over the last twelve months.

16. The meeting concluded at 8:50pm with light refreshments and cakes baked by Lorna, with alcoholic samples of the 2024 vintage provided by Dalwood Vineyard (together with helpful advice on the correct temperature at which to best serve white wine!).

Approved

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Chair

Date:.....

