



PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Dalwood Parish (24/25.1) held on Monday 20 May 2024 at 19:00 hrs in Dalwood Village Hall

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

In attendance: Others - per attendance sheet (24.20)

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 13 June 2023 and it was agreed that the minutes should be signed by the Chair as a true record.

3. **Dalwood Parish Council**

The Clerk gave a brief outline of the key events for the Council during the year ended 31 March 2024. He outlined total income for the year of £11,667 and total expenditure of £11,982, resulting in a small overall deficiency for the year of £319.

4. Total reserves at the year end stood at £14,851, including a general reserve of £12,142.

5. He explained that the accounts for the year had been successfully audited and that, once they had been finally approved at the forthcoming Parish Council meeting on 23 May 2024, all the relevant financial information would be posted on the Parish Council website.

6. **Blackdown Hills National Landscape**

(formerly Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)

Lisa Turner (assisted by Hannah Metson) attended the meeting on behalf of Blackdown Hills and gave a presentation on the history and scope of the organisation with an emphasis on what the organisation does. Being principally funded by DEFRA (and local Councils), it is one of 46 such areas in England & Wales, and concentrates on supporting nature reserves, trying to mitigate the impacts of climate change on the local environment, whilst trying to provide opportunities for people to enjoy the landscape and cultural heritage of the area.

7. **Dalwood Village Shop**

Sheila Beak gave a short presentation on the last year for the village shop, especially the building of the new Coffee Shop and the way its construction has been funded by local organisations and the local community. She emphasised the recently introduced *Free From* range and commended it to residents.

8. Dalwood Recreation Trust

Shelagh Fearnley gave an excellent rundown on the history of the organisation, formed as it was following the closure of the village school in 2011. She pointed out that it is the only public space now available in the village and that both the Pavilion and the Jubilee Field (now owned by the Trust) can be hired out. The income generated from this (and many annual fund-raising activities) then helps to cover the estimated annual running costs of some £1,800 which is kept at this level only by the extensive voluntary assistance given by members of the community. She emphasised that the Trust is always on the lookout for additional trustees!

9. St Peter's Church, Dalwood

Mary Harrison gave a short presentation on the activities of our local church including its support of the community lunch club. She mentioned that a new Community Worker has recently been engaged by the Five Alive group of local parishes to assist families in the area. She said that everyone would be welcome to the forthcoming annual barbeque being held on St Peter's Day (3 July) and she also asked for suggestions as to how the church could try to achieve Eco Church status by trying to become carbon neutral by 2030.

10. The Corry Valley Community Land Trust ("TCVCLT")

Shelagh Fearnley returned to give another very illuminating presentation on this Trust which was formed in 2012 as a vehicle to try to provide affordable homes for local people. Following a tripartite agreement with a developer and a housing association, it will own the six houses and land known as Newberys, in the village, under the terms of a 125-year lease when the lease expires in 2139. It has annual ground rent income of some £1,400 and over £10,000 has been donated to local charities since the trust was formed. The trust also played a very significant part in the formulation of the Dalwood Neighbourhood Plan which was formally adopted by EDCC in April 2022. Again, Shelagh voiced a plea for new trustees!

11. Dalwood Vineyard

Mike Oliver presented the final talk of the evening on the history and business that is the probable current-day successor to an original Roman version! Since its inception in 2008, the first harvest in 2013 and a subsequent Silver medal award, Mike was at pains to point out that it is really just a very expensive hobby for the few individuals that run the business and that they could not do so without the huge amount of volunteer help at the appropriate times of year when vines must be trimmed and grapes picked (usually, remunerated in liquid form!).

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

13. The meeting concluded at 9:00pm with light refreshments (with cakes baked by Cllr Laing) and superb alcoholic samples provided by Dalwood Vineyard!

Approved

K. G. Laing
Chair

Date: 10 - 6 - 25