

Minutes of the meeting of East Alington Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th January 2025 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Present – Cllr. Soper (Chairman); Cllr. Hannaford; Cllr. Weeks; Cllr. Hogarth; Penny Clapham (Clerk); 13 members of the public; County Cllr. Brazil; District Cllr. Lawford.

1) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

An opportunity for members of the public to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business on the agenda, or any matter of interest to the parish. The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 15 minutes. (Standing Orders 3e and 3f).

Reminder that members of the public are not allowed to raise issues when Council is in committee.

Parishioner enquiring about the previous allotment site and whether it was for sale.

Parishioner regarding the land adjacent to the playing field which has planning for housing. Any further information would be helpful. County Cllr. Brazil stated that outline planning has been granted, ie the principle of building on that land has been agreed.

2) Apologies For Absence: Cllr. Toorneini (work commitments) Cllr. Wotton (work commitments)

3) Declarations Of Interest: In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have, in items to be considered at this meeting. Members are also reminded that any change to their Declaration of Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer at South Hams District Council within 28 days of the change. Cllr. Soper agenda item 11(iv)

4) Matters raised by the Chairman (for information only) Who owns street lights – most likely to be Highways. Two are not working – these can be reported on the ‘report a problem’ page.

5) District and County Councillor Reports (for information only)

District Cllr. Lawford all car parks are ‘Pay by Phone’ no longer RingGo. This is a new contract. Changing fleet of vans over 2025 to electric. Attended a community woodland day at South Brent – Defra bought the land and the Woodland Trust provided the trees. Anything comes up – please get in touch. Slapton Ley partnership; a new role being created. Devolution, voted to not postpone the county elections.

County Cllr. Brazil, commented that Devon County Council are working on the budgeting process at present; the financial settlement from Government was not kind to either the district or the county. The children’s services budget is well over-spent at present. Devolution white paper released in December including local government re-organisation. Govt wish to set up a combined authority such as Devon & Cornwall with an elected mayor. The re-organisation is a different matter as there are considerations on removing one of the tiers of local government such as the district councils. 500,000 people to be in each unitary authority. Consider this is too big, as do the district councils. Representations to be made to government. Devon has now decided to postpone elections due to be held this May.

Cllr. Hannaford asked why the hunt was not allowed to meet on Boxing Day (Kingsbridge Quay - this was council land). This was a trail hunt; Cllr. Brazil responded that this was a voted decision by the district council.

6) Minutes –the Minutes of the meetings held on the 27th November and 9th December 2024, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7) Public Rights of Way Scheme (PROW) – to receive an update on this scheme; to arrange for the footpaths to be walked and checked prior to completion of the bid forms. Cllr. Hannaford is the footpath warden – Cllr. Hogarth and Cllr. Hannaford will check these paths and report back.

8) Lister Way Allotment Site – to discuss actions regarding this site. To discuss safety issues relating to motorbikes being driven around the estate at speed/mud on the road in Laburnam Way. Cllr. Hogarth stated that the old allotment site is being used by motorbikes now – this does give young people something to do, but some of the activity is upsetting other residents. Cllr. Soper stated that mud on the road is not something the parish council can deal with.

9) ‘Slow’ road signage – to receive an update. Agenda for February; Cllr. Toorneini

10) Open Spaces reports –

- i. Replacement of flooring in the play area – to receive the third quote. Cllr. Hogarth – ongoing.
- ii. Hedging – to receive an update on both sides of the playground area. 3rd Feb start. Some of the hedging has been done.
- iii. Moles – to discuss whether the mole catcher should be employed in the grassed areas. Cllr. Weeks mentioned how many moles were in the grassed area in the past. Cllr. Hogarth has not seen any moles at present, so it’s a wait and see. Cllr Hannaford proposed that if moles appear then the contractor should be called in. All in favour by show of hands.
- iv. Car park/shop area – to receive an update from Cllr. Wotton. Supposed to start clearance this week.

11) PLANNING

Planning Applications - South Hams District Council has asked for observations from the Parish Council on the following planning applications:

- i. 3758/24/FUL Proposed removal of redundant barn and replacement with a single dwelling (in lieu of Class Q permission 4235/23/PDM), Barn at Sx780 783 Barn Park, East Allington. Cllr. Hannaford explained the application.
Standing orders suspended for applicant to speak.
Standing orders resumed.
No objection
- ii. 3996/24/FUL Provision of an agricultural storage/livestock building and engineering works to create a level yard, Land at Sx 750 484, East Allington. (Woodleigh parish).
Advise planning that this is not in East Allington Parish.
- iii. 4040/24/FUL Change of use of agricultural shed to commercial use (B2 or B8 retrospective), Barn at SX 761 499 East Allington.
No comment.
- iv. 4258/23/OPA Outline application with some matters reserved for 5 dwellings and associated works (resubmission of 2743/23/OPA), land at SX772 486 Dartmouth Road, East Allington.
Supported – this is a good use of a brownfield site.

Planning Decisions

Conversion of dairy buildings – refused.

12) FINANCE

Expenditure	Clerk’s expenses Q2	£159.00	BACs
	Microsoft subscription	£59.99	BACs to Clerk
	Employment January	£335.60	BACs
Income	Deposit account interest	£137.68	

Bank Reconciliation and Statement, for information

Council resolved to accept the accounts as listed above. Proposed by Cllr. Hannaford all agreed by show of hands.

13) Budget for 2025/2026 – resolved to confirm and set the budget for the next financial year at a cost of £21,910. Proposed by Cllr. Hogarth, all agreed by show of hands.

14) Precept for 2025/2026 –resolved to set the precept for the financial year 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 at £20,000. Proposed by Cllr. Hannaford, all agreed by show of hands. This reduces the Band D charge by £3.10.

15) Internal Auditor –resolved to agree the appointment of Hania Lee of Lee Accounting as Council's internal auditor for year ending 31st March 2025. Proposed by Cllr. Hogarth, all agreed by show of hands.

16) Parish Forum – Arranged by South Hams Council for 6pm Thursday 27th March – hybrid type; can attend in person or via Teams. Please advise who is attending. Cllr. Toorneini will attend.

17) Decision Notice of the Hearing Panel – Code of Conduct complaint made against Cllr Soper by Cllr. Toorneini. The complaint has been upheld and sanctions applied are for Cllr. Soper and the wider Council to attend training on Governance, Leadership and IT. To agree actions. Cllr. Soper proposed this item be postponed until there is a full council. All agreed by show of hands.

18) Clerk's report

- i. Pay by Phone has gone live for all South Hams owned car parks – you can no longer use RingGo.
- ii. The corporate multipay card is still processing as they have asked to have copies of Council's accounts for the last 2 years – submitted on 13/01.

19) Councillor's reports and External Meetings attended (for information only)

Items for Information - The next council meeting will be on Wednesday 19th February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Email Circulation

DALC Bulletin 58 (sent 18/12)

DALC bulletin 01 (sent 06/01)

S. Hams News Release (sent 06/01)

NALC Open Letter (sent 08/01)