

Minutes of the meeting of East Allington Parish Council held on Wednesday 19th February 2025, 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Present – Cllr. Soper (Chairman); Cllr. Wotton; Cllr. McCoy; Cllr. Hannaford; Cllr. Weeks; Cllr. Hpgarth; 5 members of the public; Penny Clapham (Clerk).

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 reference the proposed new builds beside the recreation field. Council have no further news on this subject. It is still 'under consideration'.

Cllr. Hannaford, hedge between Higher Poole Drive. Clerk to action with Highways.

2) Apologies For Absence: Cllr. Toorneini (personal reasons). District Cllr. Lawford & County Cllr. Brazil. Apologies accepted.

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. None declared.

4) Matters raised by the Chairman (for information only) No report.

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

County Cllr. Brazil reports -

Everything is being dominated by the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and Devolution. Most Devon councils prefer the option of a Devon and Cornwall strategic authority, but Cornwall aren't so keen. We will probably have to wait for government to make a decision.

LGR is more complicated. Exeter want to become a greater Exeter and DCC are pushing for one very large single unitary (minus Plymouth) for Devon. The other 7 districts would like to see more smaller unitaries. Something along the lines of Plymouth being one, and then another of West Devon, South Hams, Teignbridge and Torbay, and a final one of East Devon, Mid Devon, Exeter, North Devon and Torridge. Having said that, unless there is fundamental changes to funding, whatever the make-up of unitaries in Devon, LGR will fail. It's going to cost in the region of £25 - £100 million for LGR in Devon (redundancies, ending contract early, synchronising computer operating systems etc.) Following on from the appalling financial settlement from government not only for councils but also the NHS in Devon the finances are just unsustainable.

While there are possible savings from LGR, we would much prefer to do it our way rather than face the cliff edge presented to us. We have a good record of both sharing and integrating services across Devon. The biggest stumbling block is DCC itself. It's no surprise to see them reluctant to share data with the districts. Thank goodness the elections are going ahead in May, something has to change at County.

6) Minutes –the Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th January 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7) P3 Footpath Scheme – to receive an update as to the condition of the paths: Cllr. Hannaford.
The new footbridge is in place and the paths are currently being checked.

8) Lister Way Allotment Site – A copy of the enforcement notice has been circulated to all councillors.

9) 'Slow' Road Signage – from January agenda – Cllr. Toorneini to report. March agenda.

10) Open Spaces reports –

- i. Play area updates to be received – Cllr. Hogarth reported that the stumps have been removed. Just need the flooring doing and the swing replaced.
- ii. Hedging – this has now been done; some spare trees from the school are going to be used to fill in the gaps in the hedge. The waste logs/hedging will be removed soon.

11) Safety of Lithium-ion Batteries Campaign – for discussion and possible action. This came from an email received by Council. Council will support this campaign. Clerk to respond.

12) PLANNING

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

Planning Decisions

- i. **3995/24/ARC** application for approval of details reserved by 3,4,5,6 & 7 planning consent
0004/24/VAR land at Lower Poole Farm, East Allington
Discharge of Conditions.

2412/22/OPA Land south of Dartmouth Road, East Allington. Amended description & documents.

UNDER CONSIDERATION (current update from the planning portal).

Cllr. Hannaford updated Council on this application.

Write to head of planning, copy to Cllr. Lawford for an update on this planning application. Clerk to action.

Standing orders suspended for parishioner to speak.

Standing orders resumed.

13) FINANCE

Expenditure

Hall hire Nov & Dec	£50.00	BACs
Haddys – service tractor	£255.89	BACs
M. Stallard – hedge cutting	£2,275.00	BACs
Parish Online – website fee	£378.00	BACs
Employment February	£335.80	BACs

Income

Bank Reconciliation and Statement, for information emailed to councillors 4th February.

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

14) Statement for DALC

- a) What's important for our community? Involving parishioners in caring for the community assets, to protect the character of the village and parish as a whole.
- b) What do we do for our community now? Installed CCTV for community safety/installed a defibrillator/consultee on housing/allotments provided in the past/playing fields/seats & shelters/look after rights of way/listen to the community/support the Village Voice magazine/support the upkeep of the churchyard/maintain open spaces and a community orchard

- c) What would we like to do for our community? Reinstate allotments provided there is land available/improving our recreation facilities/provide a parish cemetery as the churchyard is almost full. A village shop.

15) VE Day 80th Anniversary 8th May – Does Council wish to remember this anniversary. To agree actions and associated expenditure. Cllr. Wotton considers a remembrance plaque – involve the school/the parish hall could put something in place. Cllr. Hogarth will talk to the Parish Hall committee. March agenda.

16) Clerk's report

- i) Garden waste subscriptions open now for 2025/26; early bird offer to 31st March of £65.00 – after 1st April cost will be £68.00.
- ii) Annual Parish Meeting – to discuss a possible date between 1st March and 1st June. April. Agenda for March.

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

Meeting closed at 8.32pm

Signed.....

Date.....

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

Email Circulation

DALC Bulletin 04 (sent 28/01)

DALC Bulletin 07 (sent 06/02)

NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (sent 06/02)

DALC Bulletin 08 (sent 13/02)

DALC Bulletin 09 (sent 19/02)