

**West Alvington Parish Council**  
**Annual Parish Meeting Report**  
**5<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

The last twelve months have been very interesting for the Parish Council. In the scheme of things the Councillors are all still relatively new to the role, however, everyone has relished their involvement and worked together to realise many positive improvements for the parish.

We now have maintenance contracts in place for the village hall car park and some footpaths and in addition to this we now have regular working groups who give up their time to work on other areas that need a little extra attention. There is a working Parish Paths Partnership in place and we have purchased equipment that we can use to better maintain certain paths, as agreed with Devon County Council.

The burial ground had an abundance of wildflowers last year, we noted that the upkeep over the winter months was not as we had hoped but we do have plans in place for the next year to ensure that it will look well kept for the entire period. Who knows, maybe in a year we'll be able to enter the competition for best kept burial ground.

We have purchased two Vehicle Activated Signs, which have been in place for some months now. They have some effect in reducing traffic speeds but there is always room for further improvement. It's clear that there are some drivers who continuously ignore the signage and it's been extremely worrying to see the speeds that some achieve when they drive through our village. We have recently submitted a bid for the road to become a 20mph zone; we await to hear if this has been successful.

Our ties with the school have improved; it's been great to work with them on the new play equipment project which recently culminated in an order being placed. We look forward to working with them on other projects.

We would like to thank the church for hosting a number of our meetings over the winter months; their support has been much appreciated.

Over the year we've seen a variety of planning applications, all of which have been given due consideration prior to our feedback being submitted to South Hams District Council. We look forward to undertaking more site visits in 2022/23 and to meeting more of the applicants at our monthly meetings.

More recently we've installed a new noticeboard at the bottom of Town Park, this will be kept updated with parish news as well as the agendas and minutes from our meetings. We have also launched a parish newsletter which we aim to issue quarterly, two issues have been distributed to date with a third due out shortly. The Parish Council has recently set up its own Instagram account to help promote the Parish and keep residents and visitors informed. It already has an audience of 190 followers.

With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022 the management and upkeep of the Village Hall was passed to the Parish Council. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved on the Village Hall Committee for all their hard work in keeping the hall maintained and operative – we hope that we can continue to operate the hall as a community hub. A survey will be issued this month to establish what YOU, the parishioners want to see happen with the hall and surrounding area. Please take the time to complete this and give us your views.

There are many more things that we haven't yet mentioned - refurbishing benches, tree planting, the Climate & Nature Fair and even the very fine cakes that are regularly supplied (and devoured) for the working parties. If you want to find out more, please visit the Parish Council website <http://www.westalvingtonparishcouncil.co.uk> or join us at any of our meetings.

As things stand, we still have one councillor vacancy which we have been unable to fill for some months now. If anyone would like to join the team, please speak to one of the Councillors or the Parish Clerk, we'd love to hear from you.

Finally, thank you to all the Councillors, Ward Members and our District Councillors for all the time and support you have given to the parish over the last year.