

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6 December 2006
in the Parish Council Pavilion

Present : Cllr Anne Wiggins, vice chairman; Cllr D Barnes, Cllr S Carlsson Browne, Cllr I Robinson, Cllr N Fairbanks, Cllr Alan Ball, Cllr E Osborne, Cllr J Richards, Cllr Gary Scott, Cllr J Housden, the Clerk

PUBLIC FORUM: Members of the public were invited to address the Council for a maximum of three minutes from 7.30 until 7.45pm. Mr and Mrs Greenacre attended to query the record of extraction sites and the public responses as recorded by EALC. They were advised that the EALC had previously advised that their responses had been incorrectly recorded and that the Statement of Community Involvement was now planned for February 2007.

In the absence of Mrs Coates the meeting was opened by Cllr Wiggins, Vice Chairman

12.06.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE¹ - Were received from Cllr Joan Coates due to ill health.

12.06.2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr N Fairbanks, seconded by Cllr D Barnes and agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1 November be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Ref 11.06.7(xiii) – The Clerk read a letter received from Kendalls re the increased cost of diesel and advised that with reference to item 10.06.16 – Register of Assets - requesting advice from the District Valuer, that such advice would cost £86 per hour plus VAT with a minimum charge of £200 plus VAT. The Clerk was instructed to write to the District Valuer stating the Councillors were of the opinion that the District Valuer was resource for local government and that as such why was a charge necessary.

12.06.3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA²

Cllr Fairbanks declared a personal interest in item 12.06.10

1 Local Government Act 1972 Section 85(1) and (2)

2 Local Government Act 2000 Part III

12.06.4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr D Robinson spoke about the mobile library questionnaire that the council were being asked to complete and suggested that possibly it would be better for the mobile library to visit fortnightly rather than be discontinued altogether, or that the number of stops could be reduced. The Essex Records Office move to Chelmsford from Colchester would make this harder for many people to use, but the facilities would be much better. An out of hours emergency telephone number for Essex County Council Highways was being made available to Councillors for emergency use. Cllr Osborne reported that the extension of the speed limit on the B1027 through Thorrington was still not being recommended by the police and Cllr Robinson agreed to keep pressing Highways on this. He also asked if a petition could be arranged in support of this and the Clerk agreed to speak to Cllrs Scott and Dimmock about this.

ACTION – CLERK

12.06.5 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gary Scott reported that the mobile home at 21 The Heath had been removed and that he was awaiting a progress report from the Enforcement Officer at TDC regarding action to be taken. Planning papers regarding the Horsley Cross development were passed to the Clerk for circulation to Councillors. Cllr Scott had reported leaking garages in De Staunton Close to Housing and Estates and repairs needed to kerbs, road and pavement surfaces etc in Orchard Road, Coppice Road and Cox Road had been reported to Highways. It was noted that English Heritage were interested in listing the level crossing gates in Station Road and protecting them but no details on this were available.

12.06.6 PCSO'S REPORT

PCSO Terry Fairweather introduced Louise Cox would be taking over from him as the dedicated PCSO for Alresford in the New Year, although PCSO Fairweather stressed that he would still maintain his interest in and contact with the village. He reported that training had been received recently in the use of speed/laser guns and that PCSO's were being given powers to target areas and speeders. PCSO Fairweather was asked to speak to the owners of the various vehicles parked on pavements around the village and said that he would do this.

12.06.7 PCSO

Consideration as to whether the Council should continue to provide PCSO support for Alresford for the financial year 2007-2008 based on public response was debated. The Clerk reported that responses received by her had been generally positive although one resident had been in touch to say that he did not think the scheme should be continued.

Cllr Alan Ball had received negative responses as follows :-

- (i) The public meeting in 2005 had only been attended by approximately 30 residents which should not be considered to be a representative cross

section of the community and the meeting had discussed the option of sharing a PCSO with a neighbouring village.

- (ii) Matters dealt with by the PCSO were rightly a matter for Essex Police and were therefore being paid for twice.
- (iii) In the matter of paying for services twice, where would this stop and was this the thin end of the wedge for similar duplication of other services?
- (iv) Alresford is a low crime area.
- (v) An increase in the general rate of 5% was forecast for 2007. At £13,000 the cost of a PCSO was the largest item in the Parish Council budget, approximately 16% he calculated, and the Council should seriously consider whether this was value for money.

Cllr I Robinson stated his agreement to these points. Cllr N Fairbanks stated that he felt it unfair to have to pay for the same service twice but pointed out that the village was asked at the public meeting and of those attending the majority were in favour of the scheme. Cllr Alan Ball moved to put the provision of a PCSO for the financial year 2007-8 to the vote. The Clerk advised that she had heard of the possibility that Elmstead Market were reconsidering their own decision to have a PCSO if they could find a nearby village to share with. Cllr J Richards moved an amendment that the matter should be reconsidered in January and that meanwhile the Clerk should contact Elmstead to confirm whether or not this was the case. Cllr Alan Ball again moved that the provision should be put to the vote, seconded by Cllr I Robinson. Cllr J Richards moved his amendment that the matter be deferred until January to allow further time to reconsider the matter and for the Clerk to contact Elmstead. This was seconded by Cllr E Osborne and a vote was taken on the amendment resulting in six Councillors in favour and two against. Meanwhile the Clerk was instructed to contact Elmstead and other local parishes to see whether they would reconsider the possibility of sharing an officer and also try to get further responses from residents.

ACTION – CLERK

12.06.8 TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (i) NHS - East of England - noted
- (ii) ECC – Minerals Development Document – no further comments to be made.
- (iii) TDC – Environmental Protection Act 1990 – B1027 (Sibbons). Noted – the Clerk to chase the Police Authority for their response.
- (iv) Caring Homes – It was noted that the company would be leaving the village early in 2007.
- (v) Open Spaces Society – registration of new greens. No further action to be taken
- (vi) Countryside Alliance re Post Office closures – reply to be sent as drafted
- (vii) EPFA – Certificate for Best Kept Playing Field
- (viii) Bernard Jenkin – re Sustainable Communities Bill - noted
- (ix) ECC – Review of Mobile Library services. Questionnaire to be completed.

ACTION – CLERK

12.06.9 REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES :

- (i) **ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES AND ALLOTMENTS** - No meeting held
- (ii) **FINANCE** - No meeting held
- (iii) **PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL** (*Ref 10.06.24 – Pavilion Lease – report on findings of working party – Meeting to be held for report to January meeting.*)
- (iv) **COMMUNICATIONS** – the Clerk was asked to speak to Cllr J Richards (who had left the meeting early) with regard to the Minutes of previous meetings which had not been posted on the web site
- (v) **HIGHWAYS, STREET SIGNS AND LIGHTING** - *various matters - memo dated 12.11.06 refers – see Appendix 2*
- (vi) **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** - see attached
- (vii) **HUMAN RESOURCES, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING** - No meeting held

ACTION – CLERK

12.06.10 PAYMENTS AS LISTED BELOW :

Clerk's salary and expenses	1069.64
NI	83.15
Kendall Contract Services – grass cutting in October	420.65
Kendall Contract Services – extra cut of football pitch	38.78*
Kendall – mole treatment	216.20
Powergen – Pavilion lighting – November – DD	50.00
EON – Street Lighting – DD	318.96
Just Lamps – Maintenance October	71.16
Busy Bees – pavilion cleaning - 11.10.06 – 1.11.06	112.80
Grant to St Peter's for Churchyard	350.00
Alresford Advertiser	25.00
Ramblers Association subscription	24.00
EALC – Chairmans Day	50.00
EALC – Affordable Rural Housing Seminar	45.00
N Fairbanks – repairs to pavilion roof	30.00
Computer desk	70.00
Office Chair	100.00
TDALC Affiliation fee	15.00
Banner Business Supplies	108.07
SLCC subscription	120.00
Travel to EALC Conference (Cllr Barnes)	30.10
• payment to be reimbursed by ACRFC	

It was proposed by Cllr J Housden. Seconded by Cllr D Barnes and agreed that the above payment should be made.

ACTION – CLERK

12.06.11 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2006

It was proposed by Cllr E Osborne, seconded by Cllr N Fairbanks and agreed that the financial report for October 2006 be accepted.

12.06.12 BUDGET 2007-8

This item to be deferred until January 2007 in the light of the decision made with regard to item 12.06.7. The Clerk was asked to advise TDC that the precept form would be forwarded immediately following the January meeting.

ACTION – CLERK

12.06.13 REPORTS OF MEETINGS AND COURSES ATTENDED BY MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

- (i) Affordable Rural Housing Seminar – attached – Appendix 3
- (ii) Parish Plan Information Evening – Cllr I Robinson reported that he had attended the meeting at the new RCCE offices and that it had been both useful and informative. The Clerk reminded Councillors of the Parish Plan workshop to be held in the Village hall on 17 March.
- (iii) EALC Conference Day - attached

12.06.14 PLANNING WORKING PARTY

It was proposed by Cllr I Robinson, seconded by Cllr J Housden and agreed that in accordance with proposal Ref 10.06.23 the Planning Working Party should be reconstituted as a Planning Committee. It was proposed by Cllr Alan Ball, seconded by Cllr N Fairbanks and agreed that Cllr Carlsson Browne should be included as a member of the Planning Committee.

12.06.15 BUS SHELTER

The Clerk confirmed that arrangements were in hand for the new bus shelter to be installed on 22 January. Cllr I Robinson and Cllr N Fairbanks would survey the site and arrange for the litter bin to be moved prior to that date.

ACTION – CLLR I ROBINSON AND CLLR N FAIRBANKS

12.06.16 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

- (i) The Clerk advised that Install Sports had agreed to re-site free of charge the missing notice if the Council would arrange to have another one made. They would also produce a better sign for the large notice board in the sum of £150. This was agreed.
- (ii) A list of courses for 2007 had been circulated by the Clerk and Councillors were urged to attend some of these.

- (iii) Problems had been occurring with the flood lights – the Clerk had organised temporary repairs undertaken by Mr Downing but was asked to get quotes in for a full repair project for consideration at a later meeting.
- (iv) Cllr D Barnes suggested a litter pick of the Estuary, creek footpath and Ford Lane in the spring – the date to be set at the January meeting.
- (v) Cllr I Robinson asked the Clerk whether the free calendars produced for 2006 were to be available again for 2007 but the Clerk said that she had not heard anything about this.

ACTION – CLERK

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.50pm

The next meeting of Alresford Parish Council will be held
on Wednesday 3 January 2007 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Pavilion

APPENDIX 1

PLANNING APPLICATIONS – NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006

Application Number and Applicant	Location	Proposal	Comment
06/01793/TPO T H Fisher Letter dated : 30.10.06	23 Crestlands, Alresford	Oak tree in back garden – reduce back to previous points	No objection
06/01846/FUL Mr and Mrs A C Sainty Letter dated 16.11.06	Fanmans Farm, Wivenhoe Road, Alresford	Conservatory	

The Clerk to enquire whether Fanmans Farm is a listed building and whether or not Listed Building Consent should therefore be sought.

ACTION – CLERK

APPENDIX 2

Report from Highways Working Party Ref 12.06.9(v)

Here are our thoughts on memorandum "Various Matters"

Can we thank Linda Belgrove for the copy of her letter to Stephen Ladyman.

I will try to produce a map of the proposed sites for lighting on the B1027.

Nick is going to contact other energy suppliers to see if they will quote for power for our street lights.

Please reply to Jo Carrington regarding Quiet Lanes.

We disagree that Ford Lane and Cockaynes Lane do not meet their criteria, especially Ford Lane. Here we agree that it will be unlikely to need protecting from future traffic growth and it will not link to other quiet lanes, but it is part of a number of circular walks, linking many public rights of way including footpaths to Wivenhoe and Brightlingsea. It is used on a daily basis by many pedestrians who are at risk from the vehicles which use the road.

The Clerk to write further on the matter of Quiet Lanes legislation and as directed above.

ACTION – CLERK

APPENDIX 3

Ref : 12.06.13(i)

Report on the EALC Affordable Rural Housing Seminar at Dunmow on 8 November attended by Cllr J Housden, Cllr S Carlsson Browne and the Clerk.

The meeting was chaired by Wendy Lewsey of the Rural Community Council for Essex who said that the lack of affordable rural housing threatens the sustainability of rural Essex which together with the loss of post offices, rural transport etc and the right to buy of council houses was having an adverse effect on the availability of affordable homes and social and informal care networks were breaking down as a result of young people having to move away to seek somewhere they can afford to live. Local services, shops, pubs, post offices and bus routes are all becoming further endangered through lack of sustainability and school roll numbers are falling.

Part of the solution is to build affordable homes in rural areas.

Point to consider about the affordable rural housing schemes are that the maximum ownership of properties is 50%, there is no right to buy ever and housing benefit is available on the rented portion of the properties.

Homes within the affordable rural housing schemes are built to higher and larger standards than those built for private developers and are built on exception sites – those that do not fall within the village planning envelopes. This is the factor in keeping costs down as the land is cheaper. They must be outside but adjacent to the village development boundaries and close to village centers and services, on fairly level ground, with a power supply, good access and visibility for roads etc. As far as possible two parking spaces per dwelling are allowed for.

Simon Latham of Thaxted reported that Thaxted are now on their 4th phase and said that success builds on success and that for Thaxted the schemes so far have been really encouraging.