

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alresford Parish Council held on
Wednesday 5 December 2007 held in St Andrews Church at 7.30pm

PRESENT : Cllr I Robinson – Acting Chairman, Cllr Linda Belgrove, Cllr C Barrett, Cllr E Osborne, Cllr N Fairbanks, Cllr J Housden, Cllr J Richards, Cllr S Carlsson Browne and the Clerk.

PUBLIC FORUM

Approximately 40 members of the public were in attendance. Cllr J Robinson opened the meeting by thanking members of the public for attending and also welcomed Mrs Linda Belgrove to the Council. Cllr Robinson explained that one of the main objects of the meeting was to gauge public opinion as to whether to continue to employ a PCSO for a further year. He explained that no decision was to be taken at the meeting but that opinions expressed would be taken into consideration at the January meeting when the decision would be made. Members of the public were invited to express their views and Sergeant Andrew Hastings from Brightlingsea Police Station was in attendance to answer questions together with PCSO Louise Cox and other members of the community police team.

Views regarding the maintenance or otherwise of the PCSO were expressed by the following members of the public :

Mr Frank Belgrove, Frances Millard, Mr M Deal, Mr R Simmons, Mr Alan Ball, Mr Don Munson, Mr Milner, Cllr G Scott, Mr Birkett, Mr M Hester, Mr M Barrell, Mr Ian Dimmock and Mr Parker and opinions were equally divided both for and against.

In his address, Sergeant Hastings advised that in the seven month period from April to October 32 recordable crimes had occurred in Alresford and 13 had been detected. This was a rate of 40.6%. The average detection rate being 34%, this showed a clear indication of the value of the PCSO to the area. There was still serious drug supply problem in the village, but one house had been cleared and the residents imprisoned and more results were anticipated. Regarding recent acts of vandalism and damage, two arrests had been made and the perpetrators had admitted causing the damage and further arrests were anticipated. It was agreed that duty sheets would be completed by the PCSO and supplied on a weekly basis to the Clerk to improve the accountability of the PCSO to the Council and villagers were urged to support the police more fully either by reporting information directly to PCSO Cox or by ringing the police, if an act was seen to be being committed by dialing 999 or, to report damage or other activity that had already taken place, by ringing Brightlingsea police station (01206 302515)

12.07.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE¹

Cllr J Coates and Cllr H Green were absent on holidays and Cllr Ann Wiggins was unavoidably absent.

12.07.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA²

Cllr N Fairbanks declared an interest in item 12.07.9

12.07.3 MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr E Osborne, seconded by Cllr Fairbanks and agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7 November 2007 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

12.07.4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

In his report Cllr D Robinson advised that measures to reduce the speed limit on the B1027 were stalled as new studies and criteria were to be undertaken over the next few years but meanwhile the Clerk had written to Mr Hudson at Clacton Police and was asked to chase him for a reply in time for the January meeting. He had received notification of changes to the mobile library stopping arrangements for the New Year but the Clerk advised that she, too had received a timetable and that so far as she could tell, no significant changes were proposed for Alresford. Cllr Linda Belgrove advised that she had been advised that consultations were to be put in hand with regard to the new 30mph speed limit for Ford Lane and asked Cllr D Robinson to confirm that he still supported the proposals. The new speed limit should be in place by spring 2008.

ACTION : CLERK

12.07.5 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr G Scott said that he felt the meeting arranged between the Parish Council and TDC regarding 21 The Heath, which he had been invited to attend, had been useful and productive. He expressed concerns about recent acts of vandalism around the village and advised that a lorry parking in Hawkins Road and causing an obstruction was a matter he was dealing with. The Clerk also agreed to write if necessary and would ask the PCSO to visit the owner. Concerns were also expressed regarding whether or not the new barriers at the station would have an adverse effect on the shops because of parking restrictions and the Clerk was asked to write asking for clarification on this point.

ACTION : CLERK : CLLR G SCOTT

12.07.6 REPORT FROM PCSO

The following report for the month was received from PCSO Louise Cox :

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

2 Local Government Act 2000 Part III

Road Traffic Collision – no injuries	1	
Road Traffic Collision with injury	1	
Suspicious vehicle-broken down	4	
Nuisance Youths/other		8
Request for agency	1	
Criminal damage		7
Concern for welfare	1	
Alarm (false call)		2
Civil dispute		1
Firework		1

Information had been received from a member of the public that led to the seizure of a vehicle being driven in the area no insurance, MOT or tax and with only a provisional driving licence.

A £50 penalty ticket was issued to a male for trespassing on the railway line.

A talk had been given to Alresford Beavers on the topic of Stranger Danger.

High visibility patrols has been increased in the area during the month in response to the recent spate of vandalism and intelligence had been gathered. Youths had been stop checked and details taken. Enquiries were continuing.

12.07.7 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (i) TDC Standards Committee and appointment of member - noted
- (ii) TDC Housing Survey - noted
- (iii) Network Rail – times of crossing closures – Clerk to pass this letter to Cllr J Green
- (iv) Mrs Morris – dog waste bin for Crestlands – January agenda
- (v) Open Spaces Society – request for donation – January agenda

ACTION : CLERK

12.07.8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES

(i) ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES & ALLOTMENTS - The Environment Working Party met on 15 November to discuss the booklet “Ways to Tackle Climate Change” produced by defra. The following points were identified :

1. Chose lights with low emissions and replace light bulbs with low energy ones when replacing existing
2. Investigate solar public lighting (details in defra booklet).
3. Work together with Horticultural Society to plant drought-resistant plants and shrubs which will look good and need less watering.
4. Use woodchip mulch supplied by local tree surgeon.
5. Work together with the school to teach the children about climate

- change and ways to deal with it.
6. Use the Parish Plan as a means of promoting action in the community
- (ii) FINANCE - no meeting
- (iii) PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL – no meeting – the clerk to chase the Village Hall Committee for an early resumption of meetings to progress the improvement plans
- (iv) COMMUNICATIONS – no meeting held
- (v) HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS – no meeting held but Cllr Barrett reported footpath damage in Ford Lane. The Clerk was asked to write to Highways about this and Cllr C Barrett would let her have details.
- (vi) PLANNING - It was noted that the application for the retention of the stable block at 21 The Heath had been withdrawn and that there was now an application for a revised access to the site. A Planning Committee meeting was arranged to discuss this and other planning matters on 12 December.
- (vii) HUMAN RESOURCES, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING – no meeting held
- (viii) HEALTH AND WELFARE – no meeting held

ACTION : CLERK : CLLR C BARRETT

12.07.9 MONTHLY PAYMENTS AS LISTED BELOW :

Clerk's salary and expenses (DD)	1260.82
NI	143.33
Balance of Clerk's salary increase backdated to April (£36.74x8)	293.93
Just Lamps –	
Monthly maintenance – October	71.16
C & C Cleaning (invoice 10614)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 10718)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 10766)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice)	28.20
N Fairbanks – call out repair to play area fence	51.48
EON – street lighting - (DD)	122.40
Powergen – Pavilion/flood lights (DD)	122.00
Powergen – Pavilion/floodlighting (DD)	122.00
TDC – Pavilion rates (DD)	57.00
Pinnacle – grass cutting	5,453.18
EALC Networking Event	7.00
RCCE Affiliation fee	55.00
Lubbock Fine – audit fee	470.00

SLCC Institute subscription	50.00
Banner – stationery	140.86
Travel – Clerk	33.00

It was proposed by Cllr Carlsson Browne, seconded by Cllr Barrett and agreed that the above payments be made as listed.

ACTION : CLERK

12.07.10 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Clerk advised that the books had been with the auditor for the half yearly audit and that there was therefore no financial statement prepared for October. This would be presented in January.

ACTION : CLERK

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

(i) Cllr Belgrave reported that she had attended the of the Essex Highways and Transportation Summit at the Moot Hall on 26 November. Key issues facing Essex included more than the average cars per household, congestion on the railways, an increase of 127,000 houses by 2021 with the county becoming the Gateway regarding transportation. The strategy was to improve roads, make them safe and make best use of them, tackle congestion, improve passenger transport, cycling & walking facilities to improve the environment, economy and accessibility. It was noted that crime and disorder was linked to 1.4 accidents. Other proposals were that freight should come off roads and onto rail, public transport should be easily accessible and safe with guards on trains and conductors on buses, payment by Credit Card to be introduced, and the use of environmentally friendly fuels to be encouraged. Delegates noted that HGV's were the dominating reason for congestion and that an ageing population needed more suitable public transport which needed to link up i.e. trains, buses and flights.

(ii) PCCG Minutes of meeting 27.9.07 – had been circulated and were noted

(iii) Cllr J Housden reported that he had attended a meeting concerning the proposed infrastructure improvement to be put in place for the 2012 Olympics. The main proposal affecting this area was proposed improvements to the A120.

12.07.12 ESSEX COMPACT

The Clerk was asked to prepare a response to a consultation document circulated by e-mail on 7.11.07

ACTION : CLERK

12.07.13 STREET LIGHTING

It was agreed to defer until the January meeting the appointment of a Councillor to be responsible for street lighting matters following the resignation of Mrs Barnes

12.07.14 YOUTH COUNCIL

Progress report on funding and research - it was agreed to defer this item until the January meeting

12.07.15 VANADALISM REPORT

- (i) Dug Outs – approximate cost £2000
- (ii) 2-x malicious damage to Pavilion -
- (iii) Destruction of street light at War Memorial (cost of repair £829)
- (v) Damage to street light by bus shelter
- (v) Damage to play area fence (£51.48)
- (vi) Damage to new bus shelter (approx cost of repair £300)
- (vii) Fence damaged in Wivenhoe Road
- (ix) Bus Stop up-rooted and dumped in bin. (cost of repair £75)
- (x) Plaque from memorial garden up-rooted (with its concrete base) and dumped.
- (xi) Brick wall at 6 Ford Lane knocked down.
- (xii) The new bus shelter at the corner of Ford Lane and Wivenhoe Road under attack by youths who when the bus arrived shouted abuse at the driver etc.

It was noted that the play area fence had been repaired and the bus stop re-set and it was agreed that the cost of repairing the bus shelter should be discussed at the January meeting. Meanwhile the Clerk to contact the insurers about this.

ACTION : CLERK

12.07.16 AFFORDABLE RURAL HOUSING

The Clerk advised that she had heard from Chris Moore of English Rural Housing. Mrs Moore had been in contact with Bernard Jenkin MP and awaited his reply. She had also contacted Network Rail and One Railways to try to sort of the land ownership hiatus. Cllr Carlsson Browne agreed to chase this matter up with Mrs Moore and report to the January meeting

ACTION : CLLR CARLSSON BROWNE

12.07.17 EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY – CONSULTATION ON DRAFT REVISED INTEGRATED REGIONAL STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURES DOCUMENTS

It was agreed that the questionnaire for completion regarding the above should be left as a similar exercise had already been completed.

12.07.18 CLOSURE OF AUDIT – YEAR ENDING 30.3.2007

The Clerk advised that the audit for the year to 30 March 2007 had been completed.

12.07.19 DAMAGE TO BENCH OUTSIDE SHOPS

The Clerk advised that there was no further progress with finding the missing witness statements and that the police had now advised that none had been taken. The driver of the vehicle was still maintaining that he had not damaged the bench and that it had already been broken. The Clerk was therefore instructed to proceed with replacing the bench and continue to try to get some recompense at a later stage.

ACTION : CLERK

12.07.20 COURSES AVAILABLE

- (i) Planning for the Future of Your Village – 19.2.08
- (ii) Councillor Training Day 2 – 24.1.08
- (iii) How to Raise the profile of your Parish Council – 17.1.08
- (iv) Health and Safety Course – 1.2.08
- (v) NALC – Local Leadership in Action event – 30.1.08
- (vi) Windpower Workshops

Councillors were reminded of the above courses and asked to advise the Clerk if they wished to attend any.

12.07.21 HARD COURT REFURBISHMENT

Quotations were received for the above and would be looked at in detail by the Playing Field W/P for further consideration at the January meeting meeting.

ACTION : CLERK and PLAYING FIELD WORKING PARTY

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

- (i) Cllr Fairbanks asked that the matter of the Youth Shelter and picnic tables be put on the agenda for the January meeting.
- (ii) Cllr Barrett expressed concern about some trees in Ford Lane - the clerk to let him have the TPO list and once the trees had been identified would write to Mr Knowles at Bretts about this.
- (iii) Cllr Osborne asked that Bye Laws be put on the agenda for January

ACTION : CLERK

There being no further business Cllr J Robinson thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10.35pm.

**The next meeting of Alresford Parish Council will be held
on Wednesday 2 January 2008 at 7.30pm
in the Parish Council Pavilion**

**Further details of Council matters can be obtained from any Councillor,
or the Clerk on 825714
or from the web site www.alresford.org.uk**