

# **ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 7 February 2007  
in the Parish Council Pavilion

Present : Cllr Joan Coates, Chairman; Cllr S Carlsson Browne, Cllr I Robinson,  
Cllr N Fairbanks, Cllr E Osborne, Cllr J Housden, Cllr Cllr A  
Wiggins, Cllr J Richards, the Clerk

## **PUBLIC FORUM :**

Mrs Linda Belgrove spoke on the subject of the need for a 30mph speed limit in Ford Lane, the problems being encountered with speeding traffic and use of the lane by inappropriately long vehicles. She reported on her recent attendance at the East Essex Area Forum meeting and other activities she is undertaking with regard to these matters. The chairman thanked Mrs Belgrove for her continuing efforts and the Clerk was asked to contact Bretts with regard to the placing of signs advising drivers that the lane was unsuitable for long vehicles and also consult TDC regarding the need for planning permission to put up such signs.

## **ACTION : CLERK**

The meeting was formally opened by the Chairman

### **02.07.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE<sup>1</sup>**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Alan Ball who was on holiday and Cllr G Scott.

### **02.07.2 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr N Fairbanks, seconded by Cllr I Robinson and agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3 January 2007 be signed as a correct record.

Matters arising included :

(i) B1027 progress on speed limit - Cllr E Osborne suggested that the Clerk write to Mr R L Bass, Chairman of the Essex Casualty Reduction Board regarding this matter.

(ii) 21 The Heath – it was noted that there had been no progress on this matter.

## **ACTION : CLERK**

<sup>1</sup> Local Government Act 1972 Section 85(1) and (2)

### **02.07.3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA<sup>2</sup>**

Cllr A Wiggins declared an interest in Appendix 1

### **02.07.4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr D Robinson advised that the Quiet Lanes legislation had been discussed at the recent East Essex Area Forum meeting but said that he felt that neither Ford Lane nor Cockaynes Lane would meet the criteria for this. Further information on sand and gravel extraction in the area was delayed until probably late May. Essex County Council were joining forces with Cambridge and Hertfordshire County Councils to object to the proposed second runway at Stansted. Cllr Osborne noted that if the proposed bridge for cyclists and pedestrians was ever completed across the creek this would link up with other cycle routes across the county and would alter the criteria of Ford Lane bringing it into Quiet Lanes status.

### **02.07.5 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Scott had sent a report in his absence advising that a tree had been brought down in recent high winds causing power cuts some of which lasted over 46 hours. Following a complaint about the state of the bus shelter beside The Pointer Cllr Scott had contacted environmental services to establish who was responsible for cleaning this and would report back to the Council. New signs for both ends of Station Road were on order and various repairs to roads and footpaths had been scheduled.

### **02.06.6 REPORT FROM PCSO**

PCSO Cox was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a report and Sergeant Andrew Hasting of Brightlingsea attended in her place. The issues of speeding vehicles in Cockaynes Lane was being monitored and one driver had been warned about driving in a reckless manner. Caring Homes had moved from Cockaynes Lane and the associated parking problems should reduce. Various locations within the village were being targeted with graffiti and evidence of this was being gathered and collated for future action to be taken. There had been some improvement regarding youths cycling without lights and the problem would continue to be monitored.

### **02.07.7 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

- (i) Bernard Jenkin re Sustainable Communities Bill – it was noted that Mr Jenkins would support this.
- (ii) Bernard Jenkin re Quiet Lanes legislation - noted
- (iii) DTI re Rural Post Offices – this was discussed fully under item 02.07.19
- (iv) Andrew Tyrrell of TDC advised that a separate application for change of use regarding a new Indian takeaway would be sent to the PC for comment when a valid application has been made.
- (v) TDC Recycling credits – a further £943.73 had been raised by recycling at the
- (vi) An appeal for support from Citizens Advice Bureau Tendring had been received and would be considered at the March meeting
- (vii) Martin Forth of TDC Planning had written to advise that planning comments

could be made direct onto the web site and training could be provided if required. The Clerk was asked to thank him for this information and seek training for herself.

(viii) Chris Giles – re Village Fun Day. The Clerk was asked to write to Mrs Giles supporting the proposal in principle and advising that Cllr Joan Coates would attend any meetings on the matter.

(ix) Mobile Library Review – revised criteria had been circulated but the Clerk was instructed to write again asking for the service to remain weekly in Alresford as it was so well used.

(x) ECC – Highways – it was noted that a new Speed Management Strategy was currently being written by the policy team at County Hall and that the B1027 would be evaluated for a lower speed limit against this new policy once it had been published. Keep Clear markings at the school would be dealt with later in the next financial year.

(xi) EALC re Allocations and Options Paper of Mineral Development document – new guidelines on County wide consultations had been put in place and individual parishes in future should respond directly rather than through the EALC.

(xii) TCVS and NAVCA - letters re lottery funding had been received advising that lottery money diverted to pay for the 2012 Olympics would impact on funding for voluntary organisations. This was discussed at length and it was concluded that this was a matter for individuals responses rather than for the parish Council.

### **ACTION : CLERK**

#### **02.07.8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES :**

- (i) ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES AND ALLOTMENTS** – No meeting held
- (ii) FINANCE** - No meeting held
- (iii) PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL** – *see item 13*
- (iv) COMMUNICATIONS** - No meeting held
- (v) HIGHWAYS** – *see 02.07.2(i)*
- (vi) PLANNING** - *see appendix 1*
- (vii) HUMAN RESOURCES, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING** - No meeting held
- (viii) HEALTH AND WELFARE** - No meeting held

#### **02.07.9 MONTHLY PAYMENTS AS LISTED BELOW :**

Clerk's salary and expenses	1069.64
NI	83.15
Just Lamps – monthly maintenance	71.16
Just Lamps – call out 32V Wivenhoe Rd	64.57
EON – Street Lighting – DD	159.48
C&C Cleaning – Pavilion (Invoice 734 )	28.20
C&C Cleaning – Pavilion (Invoice 837 )	28.20
C&C Cleaning – Pavilion (Invoice 955 )	28.20
C&C Cleaning – Pavilion (Invoice 1030)	28.20
Powergen – Flood Lighting – DD 3.1.07	50.00

Kendall Contract Services ( December )	420.65
Essex Police – PCSO (16.10.06-31.12.06)	3,936.00
Lubbock Fine – audit fee	293.75
EALC – Election Training Day (clerk)	50.00
EALC – Course fee (Cllr D Barnes)	30.00
EALC – Course fee (clerk)	20.00
TDC – allotment rent	190.00
ACRFC – pitch and pavilion repairs	163.45
Travel Expenses – clerk	43.00
Broadband contribution – Clerk	30.00

It was proposed by Cllr S Carlsson Browne, seconded by Cllr J Housden and agreed that the above payments be made.

#### **02.07.10 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

It was proposed by Cllr S Carlsson Browne, seconded by Cllr J Housden and agreed that the financial statement for November – December 2006 be accepted.

#### **02.07.11 REPORTS OF MEETINGS AND COURSES ATTENDED BY MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

- (i) Tendring Community Safety Partnership - Minutes of meeting 9.10.06
- (ii) TDALC – minutes of meeting 18.12.06
- (iii) Consultation on TDC Budget and Council Tax setting process

#### **02.07 12 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Ways to encourage residents to attend and support the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 21 March 2007 were discussed. It was noted that the attendance at this important meeting was always disappointing. The Clerk was asked to advertise the meeting as usual and it was hoped that the Parish Plan meeting on 17 March in the Village Hall might possibly engender some additional interest.

#### **ACTION : CLERK**

#### **02.07.13 VILLAGE HALL – REFURBISHMENT OF TOILETS/PAVILION**

Cllr I Robinson reported on a meeting which had been held with members of the Alresford Village Hall Management Committee to discuss their proposals for upgrading the toilets and also the lease on the Pavilion. It had been anticipated that the Village Hall Management Committee would ask suggest handing back the lease early but in fact an extension of the lease instead was proposed. AVHMC would like to refurbish the toilets as soon as possible but would prefer that the adjoining door be bricked up and that the pavilion/changing room end of the building become a totally separate entity. It was suggested that the Parish Council and Alresford Colne Rangers together sort out what is to be done about the Pavilion changing rooms and toilets.

The Council felt that this was a perfectly reasonable stance but the timing could be problematical. Some members of the AVHMC would like this to be sorted by the start of the next football season but it felt that this would be too soon to have the matter sorted on a permanent basis. It was suggested that a hired 'portaloo' could be used and Cllr Robinson agreed investigate the costing of this but pointed out that there was no allowance in the precept for 2007/8 for such expenditure and that if AVHMC were still asking the Parish Council for a grant towards improving their toilets then it would not be possible to afford both.

A discussion on the possibility of the Parish Council carrying on leasing the Pavilion followed and a further meeting between Councillors and representatives of the football club would be arranged and a report made to the next Parish Council meeting.

One option suggested by the AVHMC was that the Parish Council carry on leasing the pavilion on a yearly basis on a proper market ground rent to be agreed with AVHMC who would then want the right to take back the building in a few years time if they wished to. This was not felt to be a practical proposition. Another possibility was to look at a longer term lease with a periodic rent review, which the Council felt was the minimum that could be considered if the Council are to invest public money into any improvements. A further suggestion was that the Parish Council bought the land off the Village Hall and this had met with approval from members of the AVHMC. A suggestion that the Parish Council buy the whole building from the Trustees had also been put forward.

The minimum requirements of the ACRFC were for one male and one female toilet and the following options were discussed :

1. To hand back the lease to the Village Hall Management Committee.
2. To extend the Lease.
3. To buy the land off the Village Hall that the Pavilion is sited on and run the pavilion and changing rooms as a totally separate entity from the Village Hall with the pavilion being the smaller meeting room available for hire that some organisation in the village are in need of.

It was felt that at least 18 months had been wasted with various discussions on the project but that this was now the time to get this resolved once and for all and members of the Council could see Option 3 working, subject to costings and long term agreements with all parties concerned. Cllr Osborne said that the value of the land and its precise ownership would need to be established independently although it was noted that over time the exact boundaries of the ownership of the land had become blurred and documents relating to the old land transfers were unclear. Cllr Fairbanks proposed the thanks of the Council to Cllr Robinson and Cllr Joan Coates for all the work they had put into producing the above report and their attendance at the meetings and it was proposed by Cllr Housden, seconded by Cllr Wiggins and agreed that the Council were in agreement with the action taken so far and that option 3 should be further considered.

**ACTION : CLLR JOAN COATES : CLLR I ROBINSON**

#### **02.07.14 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT**

See Appendix 2

#### **02.07.15 NOTIFICATION OF CLOSURE OF AUDIT OF BOOKS 2006-2007**

This was noted and recorded and the Clerk was thanked for her work in achieving this.

#### **02.07.16 RURAL POST OFFICES**

A DTI Consultation document had been circulated and Councillors were asked to consider what response and action should be taken to prevent the loss of rural post offices generally and in particular in Alresford. The Clerk would compile a response based on the various views put forward by Councillors following the meeting.

#### **ACTION : CLERK and ALL COUNCILLORS**

#### **02.07.17 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA**

Cllr Osborne reported that one of the 30mph road signs in Ford Lane (near the cabin) was obscured by a hedge and the Clerk was asked to deal with this.

Cllr D Barnes reminded Councillors of the litter pick on 11 March – meeting at the War Memorial at 2.00pm.

Cllr A Wiggins asked it to be made clear in the minutes that only some of the chairmans allowance would be used to purchase a microwave for the lunch club and that a simple model with a digital display was what was required. Cllr Joan Coates would purchase this and deal with the matter.

The Clerk advised Councillors that it had been brought to her attention that someone was advertising moorings for sale down at the creek. She had reported the matter to both ECC and TDC who had advised that this was a matter for the police. The police had according been advised and were dealing with the matter.

A break in had occurred on Sunday 4 February through the pavilion roof and into the bar and store room causing considerable damage. Cllr N Fairbanks was thanked by the Council for his work in repairing the roof and it was noted that ACRFC had offered to re-plaster the ceiling.

#### **ACTION : CLERK : CLLR JOAN COATES**

**The next meeting of Alresford Parish Council will be held  
on Wednesday 7 March 2007 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Pavilion**

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