

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3 January 2007
in the Parish Council Pavilion

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

The chairman opened the meeting by wishing all present a Happy New Year and welcoming them to the first meeting of 2007. No members of the public were present.

AFFORDABLE RURAL HOUSING

Andrew Smith of English Rural Housing attended to give councillors an update on the situation regarding the possible purchase of land behind the railway station to be used for the project. A preliminary sketch layout had been prepared and was shown to Councillors. The main site is currently owned by Railtrack and leased to One. Further land is presently owned by British Rail Residuary Boards (BRRB). Both Railtrack and One appear to be prepared to sell their part of the land at a reasonable cost to permit the building of flats for local people on a shared ownership basis at about 50%-60% of market value. These flats would be at the upper end of the market and would be built on the site of the old railway house within a building of a similar design. ERH also hoped to acquire the land to the west of the station from BRRB to enable the building of further affordable houses and flats for rent. This would give two schemes to meet a range of needs and Mr Smith advised that negotiations were quite far advanced and coming along albeit slowly. The Planning Department at TDC had seen the preliminary designs and have raised no objections. Approximately 6 flats could be provided in the station house site and 6-12 assorted dwelling on the further site after a more detailed housing needs survey had been undertaken. Councillors were very impressed with the designs shown to them and with the progress to date and Mr Smith was thanked for his visit and for the work undertaken thus far.

01.07.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE¹

Cllr D Barnes was unable to be present due to ill health.

01.07.2 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 6 December 2006 be signed as a correct record.

(i) B1027 progress on petition – no progress was reported. The matter to be taken forward to the next meeting.

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

01.07.3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA²

Cllr A Wiggins declared an interest in item 01.07.8(vi)

01.07.4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr D Robinson reported no further Highways issues but that the Head of the Colne Community School was to leave his post in April and a new headteacher would therefore have to be appointed. He was still waiting to hear further regarding the Quiet Lanes legislation for Ford and Cockaynes Lanes and the Clerk was asked to write to Highways about the state of many of the pavements within the village – especially in Coach Road.

ACTION : CLERK

01.07.5 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr G Scott had received a report from Mr Fletcher the Enforcement Officer at TDC regarding 21 The Heath. A Enforcement Notice had been served requiring the removal of the mobile home on the site – this had been complied with. The “Stable Building” remained incomplete and there had been no further progress on this in recent months, Service of an Enforcement Notice requiring its removal was presently with solicitors for clearance. An Enforcement Notice regarding the reduction of the wall and piers to 1 meter height was also with solicitors for clearance to serve but meanwhile new walls had been erected. Accesses to the site appeared to be changing. The access on the Clacton end of the frontage had been bricked up and was no longer being used and the access on the Colchester end had been sealed on a temporary basis but a new center access appeared to have been created. A further Enforcement notice regarding the closure of this access was again with solicitors. It was hoped that these various notices would have been served by the end of 2006 following which an appeal was anticipated. Cllr G Scott would continue to monitor the situation and keep Councillors informed of any further developments. The Clerk was asked to add the item to each forthcoming Agenda until the matter was resolved. More potholes had appeared in Coppice and Station Roads and had been reported as had continued flooding in Station Road. The new drain outside the shops was not working and would need to be relaid and damage from tree roots to the kerbs and pavements in Station Road had also been reported. Defects in roads and pavements in Coppice, Cox and Orchard Roads had also been reported. Cllr Scott reminded Councillors that the Sunday train service had been reinstated and Mr Bedford and the rail users group were thanked for their contribution towards this improvement. It was noted that Onyx had been renamed Veolia and that recycling collections would be undertaken on a weekly basis on the same day as rubbish collections from the new year. Bernard Jenkin was to ask questions in parliament regarding the level crossing and the result of this would be reported to a future meeting.

ACTION : CLERK

01.07.6 REPORT FROM PCSO

PCSO Louise Cox was unable to attend the meeting but reported incidents for

2 Local Government Act 2000 Part III

December including 2 nuisance youths; 1 theft; 1 criminal damage; 2 requests for police assistance; 2 matters of concern for welfare; 1 sudden death and 2 vehicle seizures. During the month PCSPO Cox had continued to focus on youths rising cycles without lights, especially whilst conducting their paper rounds and the local newsagent was assisting with this. The issue of parking on the pavement in Coppice Road was being monitored and action would be taken if required.

01.07.7 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (i) ECC Re Temporary road closure – Station Rd 18.1.07 - noted
- (ii) NHS – Review of Hospital & Community Services - noted
- (iii) Essex Municipal Waste Strategy – Strategic Environmental Assessment – The Clerk advised that she had requested a hard copy of this document as it was 75 pages long but this had not been received to date. Comments were required by 22 January 2007 and she would there try to get this in time and pass it to the Environmental and Planning groups for consideration before the deadline had expired.
- (iv) TDC – Council Tax Base 2007/8 - noted
- (v) ECC – Community Initiatives Fund – The Council were advised that a grant of £3,000 had been allocated from the CIF towards the cost of the new bus shelter.
- (vi) ECC – Essex Minerals & Waste Development Framework - noted
- (vii) ECC - Town & Country Planning Act 1990 re Alresford School locatable classroom units - noted

01.07.8 REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES AND COMMITTEES:

- (i) **ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES AND ALLOTMENTS** – no meeting held
- (ii) **FINANCE** – no meeting held
- (iii) **PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL** – *Ref 10.6.24 – Pavilion Lease - report on findings of working party to be presented to February meeting*
- (iv) **COMMUNICATIONS** - Cllr J Richards advised that the web site was being updated as frequently as could be arranged.
- (v) **HIGHWAYS** – no meeting held but a report would be available at the February meeting
- (vi) **PLANNING** - see appendix 1
- (vii) **HUMAN RESOURCES, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING** – no meeting held
- (viii) **HEALTH AND WELFARE** – no meeting held

01.07.9 MONTHLY PAYMENTS :

It was proposed by Cllr G Scott, seconded by Cllr E Osborne and agreed that the following payments should be made :

Clerk's salary and expenses	1069.64
Banner Business Supplies - stationery	79.13
NI	83.15
Just Lamps – monthly maintenance	71.16
Just Lamps – call out 3V Cox Rd	52.88
EON – Street Lighting – November– DD	159.48
C&C Cleaning – Pavilion (Invoice 459)	112.80
C&C Cleaning – Pavilion (Invoice 659)	28.20
C&C Cleaning – Pavilion (Invoice 601)	28.20
Mike Downing – repairs to floodlights	48.00
Powergen – Flood Lighting – DD	50.00
Kendall Contract Services (November)	420.65
E&J Fire Security – Pavilion	48.04

01.01.10 PCSO COVER

After further consideration and discussion of the pros and cons as to whether the Council should continue to provide PCSO support for Alresford for the financial year 2007-2008 based on public response, and consideration of the various letters and comments received both in support and otherwise, of which the majority were in favour, the chairman called for a vote of those Councillors in support of the retention of PCSO services for the village for the following twelve months. And vote of 6 councillors in favour and 4 against was duly recorded and the matter was agreed. Meanwhile the Clerk advised that she had heard from the Clerk at Elmstead that their Council might be in favour of sharing the PCSO to some extent and a meeting would be arranged with members of both councils and the police to take this forward.

01.01.11 ANNUAL BUDGET 2007-2008

It was proposed by Cllr I Robinson, seconded by Cllr J Housden and agreed that the recommendations of the Finance Working party in its report dated 1 November 2006 be accepted and the precept for 2007-2008 was duly set at £70,000 for the year. This increase (of £12,000) would be entirely for the cost of PCSO cover, all other costs and expenses being maintained at the level of the previous year.

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

No external meetings or courses had been attended during December.

01.07.13 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Council were asked to consider ways to encourage residents to attend and support the Annual Parish Meeting on 21 March 2007. The Clerk was asked to contact all recipients of grants from the Parish Council in 2006 and ask them to attend to report on

the way the funds received had been used. Meanwhile Councillors were asked to bring other ideas and suggestions to the February meeting for further consideration.

ACTION : CLERK

01.07.14 VILLAGE HALL – REFURBISHMENT OF TOILETS

A request has been received from the Village Hall Management Committee that the Parish Council make a contribution of £2,000 towards the cost of this project that could be used for match-funding purposes. Cllr I Robinson suggested that a meeting should be held with members of the VHMC and Parish Council to discuss all the implications of this before reaching a decision. The Clerk was therefore asked to add the item to the Agenda for February

ACTION : CLERK : PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL WORKING PARTY

01.07.15 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

After consideration of the relevant eligible projects the Clerk was instructed to apply for funding towards the cost of the Electoral Mandate and towards the training budget.

ACTION : CLERK

01.07.15 LITTER PICK

It was agreed that a litter pick afternoon be arranged for 11 March

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

- (i) Cllr Alan Ball advised that he would be unable to attend the February meeting and offered his apologies
- (ii) Cllr I Robinson advised that he had received information regarding the East of England Plan which he would consider and call a meeting if he felt it necessary.
- (iii) Cllr J Richards advised that parking was again a problem in Cockaynes Lane. The Clerk had been advised that Caring Homes were to be leaving the site during January and it was hoped that this would improve the situation. Meanwhile she would ask PCSO Cox to monitor the situation and take any action felt to be necessary. There were also problems with speeding in the lane at about 4.30pm each afternoon when staff left the premises of the business units and PCSO Cox was to be asked to monitor this also.
- (iv) The Chairman advised that she would be attending modules 1 and 2 of the Chairmans training days on 25 April and that the bottle bank had been reported to be full. The Clerk advised that it had in fact been emptied that morning. The chairman also advised that it had become apparent that the luncheon Club would be greatly assisted by the provision of a microwave oven. She therefore proposed to use the Chairmans Allowance for 2006/7 to provide one for their sole use in the village hall kitchen. This was agreed and it was noted that this was a very nice gesture.

(v) Councillor Ian Dimmock advised that he was ready to conduct an internal audit of the account books as soon as these could be made available to him and agreed to liaise with Cllr G Scott regarding the petition to extend the speed limit on the B1027.

ACTION : CLERK : CLLR DIMMOCK : CLLR SCOTT

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm with thanks to all for their attendance and input.

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

APPENDIX 1

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 3 January 2007
in the Parish Council Pavilion

Present : Cllr S Carlsson Browne, Cllr I Robinson, Cllr E Osborne, Cllr J Housden,
Cllr A Wiggins, Cllr J Richards, the Clerk

It was proposed by Cllr E Osborne, seconded by Cllr J Richards and agreed that Cllr I Robinson be appointed chairman of the committee. The following matters were considered and the Clerk was instructed to convey the findings to TDC in the usual way.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED DECEMBER 2006

Application Number and Applicant	Location	Proposal	Comments
06/01779/FUL Miss M England Letter dated 7.12.06	Land adjacent to Tenpenny Bridge, St Osyth Road, Thorrington	Erection of 6 stables and 6 ancillary buildings and change of use of land from agricultural to leisure and recreational	No objection provided this was maintained for purely private use and no livery use was undertaken.
06/01845/LBC Mr & Mrs Sainty Letter dated 20.12.06	Fanmans Farm	Conservatory	No objection
06/02054/DAV Mr M Miah Letter dated 21.12.06	49 Station Road Alresford	Illuminated advertisement signage	No change of use application has been seen by the Council. Do these apply? No objection to the sign itself was recorded.

06/02099/TPO Mrs Wiggins Letter dated 20.12.06	Heath Farm House Station Road, Alresford	Reduction of 3xEucalyptus and 1x pine trees	No objection
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There being no further matters under consideration the meeting was closed at 9.20pm.

