

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alresford Parish Council held on
Wednesday 7 January 2009 in the Parish Council Pavilion

PUBLIC FORUM: Five members of the public attended, together with the PCSO, two other members of the Brightlingsea Community Police team and one member of the press. One member of the public requested that dissemination of information regarding Parish Council matters be improved. It was explained that there had been a problem with the clerk's computer recently but this was about to be remedied and web site reports and agendas should improve from January. It was noted that although the lights at the Coach Road crossing had been adjusted, they were still being left on for 24 hours a day – this was felt to be wasteful and excessive. It was also noted that the CCTV cameras were only to be in action when a train was in the area and it was felt that these should be on 24/7. The Relay Station in Coach was described as an eyesore, lowering the tone of the village and the value of neighbouring homes – the Clerk advised that shrubbery screening had been promised and that she would again write to Network Rail about these matters. Another complaint received was that there was too big a gap between the fence and the barrier and this was considered to be unsafe. Finally, one member of the public complained that the comments made at the December meeting, from, he thought, Cllr D Robinson had been insulting and patronising and he felt that an apology was in order. Cllr Robinson was not present at the time but the Clerk agreed to speak to him about this. Comments were also received about motor bikers in Cockaynes Wood and the damage that was being caused and the Clerk again agreed to write to Bretts about this and would chase ECC Highways for a response to her recent letters about the footpath opposite 21 The Heath.

ACTION : CLERK

01.09.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE¹

None received. All Councillors were present except for Cllr Housden who had warned that he might be late and in the event did not get to the meeting.

01.09.2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Barratt, seconded by Cllr Fairbanks and agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3 December 2008 be agreed

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

and signed as a correct record. The following matters arising were considered :

- (i) (Ref Public Forum December) – ownership of land behind shops - Cllr Osborne advised that this problem had now been resolved.
- (ii) Tree outside Jacaranda (ref 12.08.7(x)) – the Clerk had had correspondence with the owner of Jacaranda and Cllr Barratt agreed to look at the tree and give his opinion as to whether it needed to be pruned to the February meeting.
- (iii) (Ref 12.08.25(iv)) – Cllr Barrett confirmed that the drain running down into the creek from Alresford Lodge was order and had consent from the Environmental Agency. A copy of the consent was passed to the clerk.

ACTION : CLLR BARRETT

01.09.3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA²

Cllr Fairbanks declared an interest in item 01.09.16, at which point he would leave the meeting.

01.09.4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr D Robinson arrived and reported that a survey of speed limits on the B1027 was in process and passed on some Age Concern Guides to the Clerk. ECC were trying to help older folk with their bills and assist younger folk back to or into work via apprenticeships and he also advised that Help the Aged and Age Concern were to merge. The Clerk spoke to Cllr Robinson about the complaint received from the member of the public during the public forum and Cllr Robinson suggested that she ask the gentleman concerned to telephone him and he would explain what he had said and deal with the problem.

ACTION : CLERK

01.09.5 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Scott wished all present a Happy New Year and advised that he was still receiving numerous complaints about the new railway crossings, that state of the footpaths around the village, and the roads around the crossings, although these had now been remedied. The Clerk agreed to write again to Network Rail with copies to District and County Councillors and the MP about the various matters concerning the crossings. A member of the public had reported to Cllr Scott that she had seen youths vaulting over the barriers when they were down and trains were approaching and Cllr Scott said that he agreed that the CCTV should be on permanently at the crossings. New rumble strips, illuminated poles, warning signs and cats eyes had been installed on the B1027 in the Thorrington area in order to try to reduce the speed of traffic, but despite this it was noted that 3 accidents had happened in the area during the Christmas period. The footpaths in Station Road and Coach were particularly bad and Cllr Scott advised that these had been prioritised by ECC for attention. Cllr Belgrove asked Cllr Scott if he could find out who had purchased the land behind Furze Road and Chequers and he agreed to do this.

ACTION : CLERK : CLLR G SCOTT

01.09.6 REPORT FROM PCSO

PCSO Louise Cox presented her report which included the following :

Concern for Welfare – 1

Concern re drug use and youths attempting to lights a fire by the railway tracks

Nuisance Youths – 2

Nuisance vehicle – 1 – the driver to receive a section 59 warning

Tree down – 1

Thefts – 2

Disturbance – 1

Fight – 1

RTC – 1

Animal complaint – 1

Police surgeries were to take place on 15 January and 26 February at 20.00–21.00 hours and on 5 March and 7 May from 10.00-11.00am. All surgeries to be held in St Andrews Church.

December had gone y with a very low incident rate of nuisance behaviour with a total of three reports and all incidents being of a minor nature. This compared well with December 2007 when nine calls had been received for nuisance behaviour and two for criminal damage.

Broken bottles at the dug outs on the playing field had been found and CCTV footage had been examined but was not sufficiently clear to enable a positive identification. It was agreed that the CCTV needed a little further adjustment. A Home Alone operation to identify vulnerable elderly people within the village had commenced and PC Harris had accompanied the PCSO to residents over the Christmas period to check on their welfare. The response to this had been positive and greatly appreciated by those concerned.

Damage to the bridge on Wivenhoe Road was noted and further complaints had been received regarding Cedrics buses and the way they are driven through the village or disregarding set routes. The Clerk was asked to write again to them about this and also to liaise with Janet Aldridge, the transport clerk at BTC.

Finally PCSO Cox advised that she had warned a certain group of youths about being on the field after dark in violation of the Bye Law and had then come across the same group of young people again on the field after dark when the field was closed. She asked for the support of the Parish Council in sending warning letters to these offenders and it was agreed that the Clerk should write as instructed.

ACTION : CLERK

01.09.7 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (i) TDC re milk bottle recycling – no further facilities planned
- (ii) Cascade re Housing Needs – Clerk to write for further details
- (iii) TDC re litter bin at Creek – agreed to install extra bin at creek
- (iv) ORR re Crossing Lights - advised to contact environmental services
- (v) TDC – Council Tax Base 2009/10 - noted
- (vi) E&J Fire Security re other services available – Clerk to make further enquiries
- (vii) Albion Planning Consultants re 21 The Heath – *passed to Planning Committee - noted*
- (viii) Project Group – re grant - noted
- (ix) ECC Highways re area outside shops – ECC not seeking to adopt this area
- (x) Environment Agency – Stakeholder Event 21.1.09 – noted. Cllr Barratt to attend
- (xi) Cockaynes Wood Trust re meeting on 31 January – noted

ACTION : CLERK

01.09.8 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES :

- (i) **ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES AND ALLOTMENTS** – no meeting held.
- (ii) **FINANCE** – no meeting held.
- (iii) **PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL** – see below
- (iv) **COMMUNICATIONS** – see below
- (v) **HIGHWAYS** – see below
- (vi) **PLANNING** - *see appendix 1*
- (vii) **HUMAN RESOURCES, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING**– no meeting held.
- (viii) **GENERAL PURPOSES** – no meeting held.
- (ix) **YOUTH COUNCIL** - – no meeting held. Clerk to arrange before February.
- (x) **CCTV** – no meeting held.

(iii) Playing Field and Village Hall. A meeting had been held at which revised quotations for the hard court fence had been considered. One further quotation was anticipated and would be passed on once it had been received. Revised quotations for the new toddler equipment had also been received from Wicksteed and the Clerk confirmed that a grant had been applied for. Quotations for fencing the toddlers area had been received and the Clerk was asked to confirm with the chosen contractor. No meeting with the Village Hall Committee had taken place but Cllr Robinson advised that issues regarding the oak tree in the garden at Avalon had been resolved and that plans were being drawn up for the new Village Hall toilet block ready for submission to TDC, and that arrangements to review the Pavilion lease were in hand.

(iv) Cllr Osborne suggested that matters concerning the CCTV should now be taken over by the Communications working party and this was agreed. It was noted that there were still some minor adjustments to be made to the angle of some of the cameras for optimum viewing and this would be arranged. Problems with the Clerk's new computer would be sorted out in the very near future by Cllr Richards. The Clerk was asked to add amendments to standing orders to the next agenda to cover aspects of the CCTV access.

(v) Highways – information regarding the new Highways Strategy was presently being circulated and was to be considered at a meeting of the working party to be arranged prior to the February meeting as the B1027 would fall within the new criteria. The Clerk was asked to write again to Thorrington PC to arrange a joint meeting. It was noted that vehicles were being parked on the green area at the entrance to Crestlands and the grass was badly damaged. The Clerk was asked to write to the householder concerned about this and ask for the area to be made good.

ACTION : CLERK ; HIGHWAYS WORKING PARTY; PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL WORKING PARTY ; COMMUNICATIONS WORKING PARTY; YOUTH CONCIL WORKING PARTY

01.09.9 MONTHLY PAYMENTS AS LISTED BELOW :

Clerk's salary and expenses	1,285.00
NI	252.00
Just Lamps – monthly maintenance	71.16
EON Street lighting – DD	120.04
EON – Flood Lighting – DD	60.00
C&C Cleaning – Pavilion (Invoice 3114)	28.20
C&C Cleaning – Pavilion (Invoice 3305)	27.60
C&C Cleaning – Pavilion (Invoice 3273)	27.60
C&C Cleaning – Pavilion (Invoice 3186)	28.20
Alresford Advertiser	25.00
Pinnacle – grass cutting – playing field	1,110.38
Pinnacle – grass cutting – verges	4,342.80
Kendall Contracts – mole treatment to p/f	206.82
E&J Fire Security – check fire extinguishers	66.35
Essex Police – PCSO Oct-Dec 2008	3,500.00

It was proposed by Cllr Osborne, seconded by Cllr Fairbanks and agreed that the above payments be made by the Clerk.

ACTION : CLERK

01.09.10 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

It was proposed by Cllr Carlsson Browne, seconded by Cllr Wiggins and agreed that the financial statement for November 2008 be accepted. Cllr Belgrove asked whether this could be produced in a larger font size for clarity.

01.09.11 REPORTS OF MEETINGS AND/OR COURSES ATTENDED SINCE LAST MEETING

- (i) Tendring Older Peoples Forum – minutes of AGM– see Appendix 2
- (ii) Cllr Green advised that he had been unable to attend the recent Passenger Transport Representatives meeting but he passed a copy of the minutes to the Clerk, advising that funding was available for new bus shelters, maintenance and repairs of bus shelters etc. The possibility of replacing the bus shelter at the Pointer was considered and the Clerk was asked to consult Mr G Thompson about this for his views as he had built it. An alternative suggestion was to ask for funding towards its upkeep, cleaning and graffiti removal. Solar lighting for both shelters could also be considered and the Clerk was asked to look at all these possibilities and report back to a later meeting.

ACTION : CLERK

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01.09.12 PLAYING FIELD

Receipt of Certificates from Essex Playing Fields Association :

- (i) Certificate of Merit – Class 3 – Childrens Playground
- (ii) Certificate of Merit- Class 2 – Playing Field

Both maintained to the highest standards of satisfaction.

01.09.13 TDC CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES STRATEGY

This was currently still being circulated but would be returned to the Clerk as soon as possible for completion.

ACTION : CLERK ; ALL COUNCILLORS

01.09.14 DOG WASTE BINS

It was agreed that a further dog waste bin should be sited at entrance to Crestlands, the Coach Road, Hawkins Road junction and at the Brightlingsea end of Wivenhoe Road with a further waste bin at the creek – as Glasdon are offering a 10% reduction on prices if ordered prior to 31 January the Clerk was asked to order these and get in quotations for installation.

ACTION : CLERK

01.09.15 NEW LIGHTING SCHEME FOR B1027

The Clerk advised that quotations for the installation of 4 new lights had been received from A&J Lighting but that quotations for connection of the electricity supply had yet to be received from EDF Energy. She would chase these.

ACTION : CLERK

01.09.16 CONCRETE POSTS AT POINTER

Quotations received for the removal of concrete posts at Pointer were opened and considered and it was agreed that the one received from Mr N Fairbanks was the most competitive. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Carlsson Browne, seconded by Cllr Robinson and agreed that the Clerk to advise him of this and arrange for the work to be put in hand as soon as possible.

ACTION : CLERK

01.09.17 NO OVERNIGHT PARKING SIGN

No quotation for the design chosen had yet been received and the Clerk to chase this in time for the February meeting.

ACTION : CLERK

01.09.18 AGENDA ITEMS FOR CHAIRMANS WORKING LUNCHESES

Items to be included in the agenda for the working lunch in February with Chairmen of Tendring Parish Councils and Chairman of TDC were passed to the Chairman who would report back in due course. These included action to be taken to reduce fly posting, how to get Section 106 money for Alresford, British Rail and other matters.

ACTION : Cllr Coates

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

- (ii) TDALC December meeting – see Appendix 3
- (iii) Clerk – Insurance Workshop – see Appendix 4

01.09.20 BONFIRE NIGHT 2009

Councillors considered a request from the school for use of playing field for bonfire night celebrations. The Clerk had obtained confirmation from the insurers that, subject to stringent criteria, this was a possibility and she was asked to advise the PTA and make arrangements for a meeting to be held as soon as possible.

ACTION : CLERK

01.09.21 CRICKET STRIP

Cllr Belgrove asked the clerk if she had had any further news of grant funding and it was agreed that a further application for money from CIF and the YOP funds should be sought.

ACTION : CLERK

01.09.22 PCSO

Ways to make best use of the service provided by the PCSO were considered. It was agreed that an agenda item be added each month to review any actions that the PCSO should be asked to undertake.

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

(i) Affordable Housing Scheme – the Clerk advised that she had heard from Mrs Moor of English Rural Housing but that there was no further news. It was suggested that the Council should perhaps start to look elsewhere for sites and support for this.

(ii) Alresford Project Group - AGM - 31st Jan – Invitation to an open morning at the Village Hall on 31 January from 9.00am to review the results of the Parish Questionnaire followed by the AGM.

(iii) Cllr Robinson reported that a meeting of the AYP had been held regarding the possibility of using the Tendring Youth Bus in conjunction with the Pavilion and that a CRB check of those interested in assisting was in place.

(iv) Cllr Belgrove asked whether any further progress had been made with regard to parking around the school. The PCSO was issuing tickets asking people not to park in an inconsiderate and illegal manner and matters improved when she was on duty but continued to deteriorate when she was not there. The Clerk was asked to put the provision of yellow lines on the February agenda. There was also a problem with the grass verge outside numbers 8 and 9 Ford Lane because of cars parking and passing over the verges where there was no dropped kerb and the Clerk was asked to add this matter to the February agenda for full consideration. Flooding outside the Old Rectory in Ford Lane continued to be a problem and the Clerk was asked to write again to Highways about this.

(v) The Clerk advised Councillors of an SLCC conference in February which she thought it might be useful for her to attend. Councillors felt that this was a matter for her to decide as it involved two days and an overnight stay and some distance to travel and she agreed to consider the matter further and make a decision nearer the time.

ACTION : CLERK

There being no further business the chairman thanks all Councillors for their attendance, wished them a Happy New Year and closed the meeting at 10.10pm

The next meeting of Alresford Parish Council will be held

on Wednesday 4 February 2009 at 7.30pm in the
Parish Council Pavilion

APPENDIX 1

Alresford Parish Council Planning Committee

Minutes of meeting held in the Pavilion on Wednesday, 17 December at 8.00pm

Present: Jim Robinson (Chair), Ernie Osborne, John Richards, Simon Carlsson

Browne,

Apologies : Cllr Wiggins, Cllr Housden

The following matters were considered :

08/01520/FUL Lorna Newton Letter dated : 3.12.08	Land off St Osyth Road, Alresford	Change of use from agricultural land to equestrian use. Erection of 4-bay stables block with associated tack room, feed room and hay store.	No objection provided that a condition be attached restricting the stables to private use only and that it is limited to four horses. No commercial use should be considered.
08/01608/FUL Mr A Vintner Letter dated : 1.12.08	“Blythwood” Ford Lane, Alresford	Erection of front porch	No objection

There being no more business the meeting was concluded at 8.30pm

APPENDIX 3

Minutes of the meeting held at Beaumont Village Hall on Wednesday, 3rd December 2008, starting at 8.00 pm.

Members present: *

Alresford	A	Jennifer Pettitt	Little Bentley	Guy Richardson
Ardleigh	*	Dave Halsey	Little Bromley	
		Hazel Andrews		
Beaumont		Geoffrey S	Little Clacton /	* Bernard
		Macey	Weeley	Leatherdale
	A	Tracey Stevens	Little Oakley	
Bradfield		Harry Woolrich	Manningtree	Ray Streames
		Gus Fidgett		Vernon Bettle
Brightlingsea	A	Vivien Chapman	Mistley	Geraldine Carter
Secretary	*	Janet Russell	Ramsey & Parkeston	
Elmstead	A	Nick Bell	St Osyth	A Mike Talbot
Frating			Tendring	A Pat Goodman
Frinton and Walton	A	Terry Allen	Thorpe-le-Soken	* Josie Powell
	*	John Halls		Peter Cannons
Great Bentley - Chairman	*	Robert Taylor	Thorrington	A Jenny Cant
Great Bromley	A	M Frostick MBE	Weeley	
Great Oakley		Stephen M Huk	Wix	* John Mathews
		JP		
Harwich	A	Elaine Novorol	Wrabness	* Richard Colley
Lawford		Brian Rolfe		

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Jennifer Pettitt (Alresford), Tracy Stevens (Beaumont), Vivien Chapman (Brightlingsea), Terry Allen (Frinton and Walton), Elaine Novorol (Harwich), Mike Talbot (St Osyth), Pat Goodman (Tendring) and Jenny Cant (Thorrington).

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September were agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting.

Arising from those Minutes was a response from Cllr Halsey and Ardleigh Parish Council on Training Courses which had suggested “Risk Assessments”, “Health and Safety Matters”, “Annual updates of changes in legislation and in planning regulations and guidelines” and these were . He reported that Ardleigh Parish Council was happy with using Tendring Village Hall as the venue as it was central to the area covered. These suggestions were generally agreed.

Chairman's Report - The Chairman apologised for not producing a written report this time. He said that there were two things:

- 1 Tendring Local Strategic Partnership - Following a peer review which took place in the early months of the year, there was to be a discussion at a Tendring District Council committee meeting on 17th December at Weeley, starting at 7.30 pm. This was to look at the restructuring work being done by the LSP and the contributions of voluntary and other bodies involved in the LSP and who report back to their bodies; it would also be looking at the Action Plan, Smart Targets, etc., to assess a wide range of subjects.
- 2 TDC and TDALC Liaison Meeting - The Chairman reported that he, the Vice-Chair and Secretary had all been able to attend this meeting with various officers of TDC. He added that it had been a very good meeting and Richard Walker (TDC officer convening these meetings) had declared it to be one of the best ever. The Chairman, the Vice-Chair and the Secretary reported on the presentations and discussions which had covered: Health Inequalities; Electronic Planning; Parish Plans and Village Design Statements; The Weight Given to Town and Parish Council comments on planning applications; and 20 mph speed limits near schools.

The Chairman said that:

- a) Chris Kitcher was booked to make his presentation at the TDALC January meeting when he would show how badly Tendring compared with the rest of the county for health inequality.
- b) Nigel Goodier had been invited to a future, open, special meeting of TDALC to be held at Weeley (because of the need for good broadband internet connection) so that he could show the electronic planning system to as many Councillors and Clerks as possible (some of the latter having already been given a run through individually might care to be reminded). The Chairman undertook to find the best possible date for this and the invitation would include "RSVP" to achieve the maximum attendance possible.
- c) The discussion on Parish Plans and Village Design Statements had been interesting with RCCE being the body to advise, although the experiences of some Parish and Town Councils with RCCE had not been encouraging - Cllr Halsey said that Ardleigh had lodged its Village Design Statement some two years previously and it still had not been adopted by TDC. It was agreed that Malcolm Inkster be invited to address a future meeting.
- d) Parish and Town comments to planning applications was connected and it was agreed that Peter Fletcher could make a worthwhile contribution to a future meeting which could consider the Development Framework and Consultations which were in TDC's future programme.

Banking Arrangements - The Secretary reported that the forms had been returned to the bank and confirmation, in the form of the next statement due, was awaited.

Topics for Discussions at Future Meetings - In addition to those that arose from the Liaison Meeting, a presentation on the Freedom of Information Act as it now applies had

been suggested by Beaumont Parish Council; Cllr Halsey was asked to talk to a solicitor who had some experience in this field to ask him either to attend a future meeting to speak or to suggest someone who could do so.

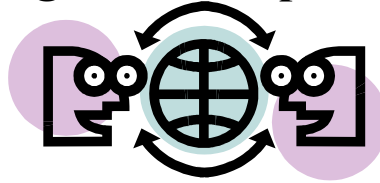
Other Business

- a) Cllr Colley asked if anyone had had any direct dealings with Essex County Council in relation to the closure and re-opening of Post Offices. None had. He said that there were complications in re-opening a closed Post Office and Mr Colley said that he would report back any developments.
- b) Cllr Halsey said that Ardleigh Parish Council had discussed 20 mph speed limits outside schools and, although it is not possible to have one on an A class road, the parked cars round the school slowed the traffic down sufficiently to make it safer. He added that Ardleigh Parish Council would support any move to put such a limit in near schools not on main roads. It was again reported that there are schools which put out A-boards just at arrival and departure times and it was stressed that these were not enforceable but were not illegal as such.
- c) Community Speed Watch and use of speed guns was raised and a short discussion on these ensued with no conclusion.

The Chairman asked Parishes to submit their requests for items on the next agenda then closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

APPENDIX 2

Tendring Older People's Forum



Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held on

Friday 14th November 2008

At

Weeley Council Offices

1. Welcome and Introduction

Present:

Gerald Wallington-Hayes (Chair)
Robert Taylor
Ann Wiggins
Deborah Ollett
E Rawlinson
Gordon Beare
Jacqui Mee
Jayne Albone
Jennifer Pettitt
Ken Edwards
Robert Taylor
Roy Brabbins
Russ Burrows
Victor French
Wendy Jackson
Margaret Andrews
Coral Born
Tonia Parsons

Tendring Police Representative
Gt Bentley Good Neighbours
Family Support Brightlingsea
Help the Aged
Age Concern Clacton
TENPAG
Age Concern Essex
The Guinness Trust
Alresford Parish Council
Lawford Parish Council
Gt Bentley Good Neighbours
H O S Residents Action Group
Mistley Parish Council
HOS Residents Action Group
Essex County Council
Alzheimer's Society
Citizens Advice Bureau
NHS North East Essex

2. Apologies for Absence: David Mcleod, Theresa Coyne, David Lines, Victor Brown, Sue Shearing, Peggy Muddiman, Pat Oakley

3. Reaffirmation of the Constitution/amendments

The following amendments to the Constitution were agreed by the Members.

Item 7 (i) Meetings to be held bi-monthly on the last Friday of every other month. Dates for 2009 have already been issued and the Meeting room booked.

Item 7 (iv) Amend to read a quorum for Meetings of the Forum shall be 12 Members.

These were adopted. Proposed by Russ Burrows and seconded by Robert Taylor.

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting November 2007

Members agreed and Gerald signed as a true record

Minutes of the 8th October 08 Meeting

Members agreed and Gerald signed as a true record.

Matters arising

Robert Taylor, in his capacity as Chair of the Association of Local Parish Councils, spoke on issues related to older people's health, comparing Tendring with other parts of Essex. He had recently attended a presentation by Chris Kitcher and membership agreed it would be useful to invite him to a future meeting of the Forum. Wendy Jackson reported that a seminar is being arranged for the New Year around the same issues involving Essex County Council and the PCT and will keep the Forum informed on how this is progressing.

Vic French and Roy Brabbins asked about the future of Surgeries in Holland-on-Sea.

Tonya Parsons from the PCT reported that a three month consultation had taken place over the summer and the majority of replies were in favour of the Brighton Road site. The Ipswich Road site was not initially included in the consultation but this was offered after a request by the local residents. Three and a half thousand letters were sent out and the majority were still in favour of the Brighton Road site.

Gerald suggested that Vic and Roy contact their local Councillor.

Gordon asked Tonya about the Phlebotomy Clinic which was promised at the Hospital over a year ago and has still not materialised.

Action: Tonya to take this back to the PCT

Gordon also cited a case where a patient needing oxygen supply had to wait two or three days due to paperwork, and asked whether it would be possible to supply the oxygen first and then sort out the paperwork as this was thought to be the cause of the delay. Tonya explained that Pharmacists used to be able to provide oxygen but now a Consultant needs to approve this.

Gerald asked Tonya about rumours that Harwich Hospital is to become private as there is a for sale notice which has been badly placed nearby and this is causing alarm locally. Apparently the Department of Health is selling off a piece of land alongside the Hospital and this is what the notice is for. As the flooring work is nearing completion Clinics are now functioning. e.g. Maternity, Podiatry for part of the week, Colchester Hospital provide Out Patients.

Gerald reported to Tonya that local doctors had not been allowed to visit their own patients whilst in hospital

Action: Tonya to investigate.

Gordon asked Tonya about a One Stop Walk-in Centre in Clacton

Action: Tonya to investigate

Chairman's/Treasurer's/Secretary's reports

Chairman

The year has meant we have at last got ourselves established and are moving forward. TCVS need to get the web site revamped and Gerald would like to get this going.

Treasurer

Victor Brown was elected but due to ill health has resigned as Treasurer. As Robert Taylor was a signatory he took over. The bank have now requested more signatures. Once this has been resolved the sum of £5,000 will be put into the account.

Secretary

No report from Anne Lax as this was her first meeting back with the Forum after the departure of Nicki.

Election of Chairman and Officers

Gerald (Chairman), Robert (Treasurer) and Anne (Secretary/Minutes Secretary) were re-elected by the Forum who also agreed that they be confirmed as signatories.

As Robert has now moved to Treasurer, the post of Vice Chair had become vacant. Gerald had spoken with Pat Oakley prior to the meeting and asked whether she would be prepared to take on the role which she agreed subject to the wishes of the Forum. In her absence the Forum agreed her election to the post.

Reports from Members

Wendy Jackson

Meetings with PCT are to be held in the future and Wendy suggested people from the Forum attend.

Action: Wendy to let Anne have details – dates, venue.

Margaret Andrews

Margaret was welcomed to the Forum for the first time. She is from the Alzheimer Society Tendring Area, based in Imperial House.

Jayne Albone

Jayne reported that a new gardening service operated by Home Improvement Agency (contact Sarah Sackswood) is available at a charge of £5 an hour.

Ken Edwards

Ken reported that Foundry Court is currently open two days a week. Age Concern and Crossroads are involved. There are facilities for carers with qualified staff. £20 a day including lunch, and free transport.

Jacqui Mee

A Befriending Co-ordinator has been appointed and is based at Imperial House. Volunteers will be recruited to visit or phone people who may be isolated. This is a free service.

Jacqui also announced that a new charity merging Age Concern and Help the Aged is being set up. The two charities will continue to run separately for the next two years due to legacies.

Victor Brown

Victor informed that at last there has been some change at the Ipswich Road car park. There are yellow lines on one side and parking is available on the other. There is liaison ongoing with the local M.P. regarding parking for residents to attend surgeries and for shopping, but this has not yet been successful. Suggested Ian Taylor is contacted in order to get a limit of say 1 hour.

Vic French

Vic would like to thank TVS for their help in getting money for the Bowls Club. **Action: Margaret Andrews agreed to pass this on.**

Vic French

Vic wished to apologise to Tonya for his comments during the heated debate earlier in the meeting concerning the proposed siting of surgeries in Holland-on-Sea.

Gordon Beare

Mentioned International Day of Older People. He reported that Douglas Carswell has given his support to a Walk-in Centre in Tendring.

