

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alresford Parish Council held on
Wednesday 4 July 2007 in the Parish Council Pavilion

PRESENT : Cllr J Coates, Chairman, Cllr E Osborne . Cllr J Housden,
Cllr S Carlsson Browne, Cllr Dorothy Barnes, Cllr N Fairbanks Cllr
Chris Barrett, Cllr Hedley Green, Cllr J Richards, 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. Mrs
Linda Belgrove reported that she had heard from Geoff Harris of the
ECC Highways regarding the Ford Lane speed limit. The Parish
Council had not heard and the Clerk was asked to chase this. A
meeting with the new portfolio holder was to be arranged. Mrs
Belgrove also reported on the incident in Villa Woods concerning the
stoning and kicking to death of a cygnet by some youths and advised
that Bretts had been notified. Mr Bourne also attended and asked
whether the Clerk could arrange for the bottle banks to be emptied
later than 7.00am as at present.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman who welcomed Councillors
and public and thanked them for their attendance.

07.07.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE¹

Were received from Cllr Ann Wiggins who had a meeting elsewhere,
Cllr J Robinson who was on holiday and District Cllr G Scott who was
also at a meeting elsewhere.

07.07.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA²

Cllr N Fairbanks declared an interest in item 07.07.21.

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

2 Local Government Act 2000 Part III

07.07.3 It was proposed by Cllr Osborne, seconded by Cllr Carlsson Browne and agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6 June 2007 be agreed, with one typographical amendment, and signed as a correct record. The following matters arising were considered :

- (i) B1027 progress on petition – *detailed in District Councillor's Report*
- (ii) 21 The Heath – progress report - *detailed in District Councillor's Report*
- (iii) Broadband connection for chairman (*ref : 06.07.16*) - *a meeting of the Communications Working Party to be held to discuss this and report back to the PC thereafter.*
- (iv) Powergen – new pricing structure for Pavilion – *no further news on this. The Clerk to chase Powergen.*
- (v) Capping Plates for tennis post sockets (*06.07.7(v)*) Ordinary capping plates are £20 each -lockable ones – price still awaited. The Clerk to advise as soon as the price had been received.

ACTION : CLERK : COMMUNICATIONS WORKING PARTY

07.07.4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr D Robinson advised that the new Library Schedule had been fixed and that Alresford would be receiving fortnightly visits from the mobile library van on Tuesdays when the van would be in the village for most of the afternoon. Under the circumstances he felt that this was a good result from the restructuring of the service. He had received a report on Ford Lane from the Highways Department and would support the request for the reduced speed limit but was concerned as to how it would be supervised and also about setting a precedent. He was now sitting on the Highways Panel so was hopeful of a good result. Waste disposal was a major issue under consideration at County level with landfill sites becoming full and incineration a major concern. Cllr Osborne asked Cllr Robinson to redouble his efforts with regard to the lowering of the speed limit on the B1027 and Cllr Robinson agreed to do this but felt that there were still major obstacles to be overcome with regard to lack of support from the police for this initiative.

07.07.5 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

In a report received from Cllr G Scott in his absence he reported a quiet month at District Council level. Cllr Scott congratulated the PC

on achieving Quality Council status and said that he felt this would be a great benefit to the village. Footpaths along the B1027 were to be upgraded from the Sherbro end as far as the farm shop turning in three stages commencing shortly. Residents who wrote to the council about this were thanked for their concern. The Clerk was asked to contact the owners of a large overhanging shrub in Cox Road asking them to reduce its size and impact on the footpath. There was no news regarding the enforcement orders on 21 The Heath. Lights on the lower end of Wivenhoe Road were still out due to damage by BT and every effort was being made to repair the damage. Highways had been requested to spray weeds on footpaths around the village, especially in the ginnell between Ford Lane and De Staunton Close. An overhanging tree in Furze crescent and missing signs in Furze Crescent and Chequers had also been reported to Highways. The Clerk was asked to chase EDF for connection of the lights in the new bus shelter so that the base could be finished. Regarding the petition for the reduction of the speed limit on the B1027, Cllr Scott reported that letters would be going out to residents asking for their support for this. The general advice was that individual letters rather than a petition would have more impact and it was agreed that this should be encouraged.

ACTION : CLERK

07.07.6 REPORT FROM PCSO

A report from PCSO Louise Cox advised the following incidents during the previous month :

Nuisance Youths – 2. One incident of youths on the village hall roof and one incident following a report of youths throwing stones at passing vehicles. The police had attended and the suspects were located and dealt with.

Noise Nuisance – 1. Complaint following a house party.

Nuisance Other – 2. Both these reports related to damage to property by youths.

Concern for Welfare – 1. This related to concern for an elderly resident – inquiries were made and all was in order.

RTC – 1. A road traffic collision had occurred on the B1027, but there were no injuries.

Theft of pedal cycle – 1
Domestic Violence Incident – 1
Information Received – 2
Criminal Damage – 3
Disturbance 1
Fraud – 1

While it was unfortunate that the first police surgery had had to be cancelled due to a major incident elsewhere within the division, the next meeting proved a success. Points raised at that meeting related mainly to parking matters, mini motos and youths racing on pedal cycles in residential areas. The following evening surgery was attended by only one person. Attendance would continue to be monitored in order to establish a useful pattern based on need. Cllr Housden advised that he had attended the recent school fete at which PCSO Cox and PC Bennett from Brightlingsea had been present and noted how well they were integrating in the community and establishing close links with the school and pupils.

07.07.7 NATIONAL PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION PROTECTION SCHEME (NPA)

Address by Mr Paul Allen - Fields Protection Officer of the NPA. Mr Allen said that he travelled the country talking to councils regarding the long term future of open recreation spaces. The national status of playing fields was generally regarded as not being a problem for Councils who owned their playing fields and did not want to release them for development, but, he said, future administrators may feel differently therefore some guarantee of security was required. The National Playing Fields Association (now also known as FIT – Fields in Trust) was formed in 1925 to protect and improve open recreation spaces but restrictive covenants had failed to protect these absolutely in perpetuity. Landowners had initially been invited to hand over ownership of their fields to the NPFA. Since that time a Deed of Dedication had been established which was much less costly to achieve and would result in all land being registered with the Land Registry at no cost to Councils. Absolute protection in perpetuity was guaranteed which would also help with achieving grant aid for various improvement schemes. Copies of the various deed documents and other materials were given to the Clerk who would pass these to the Playing Field Working Party for their consideration and a report to full Council later in the year. Cllr Green asked whether one parcel of land could be exchanged for another and was advised that if successor Councils were obliged to hand over a playing field at a future date because it became in some way unsuitable for recreational use,

replacement by a better site in a more suitable location was obligatory. Mr Allen was thanked for his attendance and advised that the Council would be in touch with him again later in the year.

ACTION : CLERK ; PLAYING FIELD WORKING PARTY

07.07.8 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (i) EPFA - letter re hedge – photographs of the playing field boundary hedge had been sent to EPFA and were acknowledged and would be added to their database.
- (ii) Sustainable Communities Bill – the Bill had passed through its third reading in the House of Commons and was to receive official Government support.
- (iii) TDC Tree Preservation Orders – a review of trees under TPA orders was being undertaken. The Clerk was asked to request a copy of the TPA map which would then be considered by the Environment WP.
- (iv) The Clerk had received details from the University of Gloucestershire re further training following on from achieving her CiLCA qualification. She advised that, if the Council wished her to continue with further training to degree level she would be willing to consider this and was asked to look into the possibility of obtaining grants or bursaries to help defray the costs involved. This would then be considered by the personnel and financial working parties later in the year.
- (v) ECC – mobile Library Services – new timetables had been received. The van would be visiting the village fortnightly on Tuesdays commencing on Tuesday 10 July. The van would be at the following locations :

Primary school from 13.25 – 14.25
Orchard Road from 14.30 – 15.15
Village Hall from 15.20 – 16.00

More information could be obtained from any library or Answers Direct on 0845 603 7628

- (vi) EPFA had advised that the grants applied for towards a new roundabout and the refurbishment of swings on the playing field would be considered at their August meeting.
- (vii) Install Sports – A quotation for resurfacing the hard court in the sum of just under £13,000 had been received. This would be considered in detail by the playing field working party and the Clerk would continue to seek grant funding towards this.
- (viii) TDC Tree Preservation Order 97/22 (21 The Heath) – a response

had been received from TDC indicating that little could be done in this instance. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Dawson and thank him for his response and monitor the situation for any further breaches.

- (ix) A response from Network Rail following the meeting on 22.5.07 had been received and details of CCTV level crossing timings had been given but still no indication of the maximum length of time it could be anticipated that the gates would remain closed at any one time The Clerk to write again asking for details of this.
- (x) ECC had confirmed that any additional street lighting required would have to be installed at the Parish Council's own expenses as new lighting would only be installed by the County Council if there was a history of night time accidents in a particular location.

ACTION : CLERK : ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

07.07.9 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES

- (i) ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES & ALLOTMENTS
The report at Appendix 2 was received and would be considered at a future date
- (ii) FINANCE - no meeting held
- (iii) PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL – *next meeting to be held in September*
- (iv) COMMUNICATIONS – no meeting held
- (v) HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS - no meeting held
- (vi) PLANNING - *see appendix 1*. Cllr Housden was appointed to attend a training session run by TDC to be held later in the month.
- (vii) HUMAN RESOURCES, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING - no meeting held
- (viii) HEALTH AND WELFARE - no meeting held
- (ix) QUALITY COUNCIL – See item 07.07.14. Cllr Coates reported that she had attended a meeting of the District Council and had been presented with the QC certificate by the Chairman of TDC.

07.07.10 MONTHLY PAYMENTS AS LISTED BELOW :

Clerk's salary and expenses (DD)	1,532.92
NI	140.53
Just Lamps – Monthly maintenance -	71.16
C & C Cleaning (invoice 9151)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 9224)	28.20

C & C Cleaning (invoice 9365)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 9288)	28.20
EON – street lighting - (DD)	159.67
Powergen – Pavilion/floodlighting (DD)	50.00
TCVS Affiliation fee	25.00
EON – street lighting DD	159.67
Nick Fairbanks – emergency call out re bench in childrens play area	102.50
Shaw and Sons – Councillors Guides	11.75
Bruce Landscapes (swings)	252.63
TDC – Pavilion rates (DD)	57.00

It was proposed by Cllr Housden, seconded by Cllr Barnes and agreed that the above payments be made by the Clerk on behalf of the Council.

ACTION : CLERK

07.07.11 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

It was proposed by Cllr Housden, seconded by Cllr Barrett and agreed that the financial statement for May 2007 be accepted.

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

(i) The Clerk advised that she had attended a meeting of the Village Hall committee at which it had been proposed that meetings to consider the future of the village hall, pavilion and various improvements and/or extensions would reconvene in September with updated plans in a simplified version to be drawn up by Cllr J Robinson.

ACTION : CLLR J ROBINSON

07.07.13 CHILDRENS' PLAY AREA

The Clerk advised that the refurbishment of the two sets of swings had been completed.

07.07.14 QUALITY COUNCIL

The Council had been granted Quality Council status on 22 June and the Clerk was congratulated and thanked for all her work in bringing this about. There were now just under 400 Quality Councils in England with Essex leading the way with appropriately 40 Quality Councils four of which were in the Tendring area. The Clerk was asked to write to the Clerks of Thorrington and Frating who had also achieved the status in the current round and congratulate them.

ACTION : CLERK

07.07.15 NOTICE BOARD

The Clerk reported that the notice board had once again been damaged and was no longer in use. Consideration was given to the total replacement of the board but it was decided that the Clerk should first seek estimates for a repair using shatter proof glass and a different kind of locking system and a decision would be taken regarding repair or replacement when figures had been established for comparison. A new board of a suitable size would cost approximately £630. As there was not going to be a meeting of the PC until September and this matter needed to be dealt with as a priority, it was proposed by Cllr Fairbanks, seconded by Cllr Richards and agreed that tenders received should be opened by Cllr J Coates and that a sum of up to £300 be authorised for the repair.

ACTION : CLERK

07.07.16 GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

To consider feedback responses received – item deferred until September

ACTION : CLERK

07.07.17 LITTER

Following the suggestion by Mrs Belgrove (*ref 06.07.22*) that some of the funds received from recycling could be used to pay for more litter clearing in the village, it was proposed by Cllr Fairbanks, seconded by Cllr Green and agreed that the Clerk be asked to confirm with Pinnacle the price they would charge for clearing litter at the same

time as cutting the grass and arrange for this to be done once during the summer. The whole matter of litter in the village to be added to the September agenda for further consideration. The Clerk was also asked to advise Mrs Belgrove of the action taken.

ACTION : CLERK

07.07.18 STATE OF KERBS, FOOTPATHS ETC

The poor state of repair of many kerbs and footpaths around the village and the overgrown condition of the ginnell between Ford Lane and De Staunton Close was noted and the Clerk was asked to thank Cllr Scott for his efforts to remedy these matters.

ACTION : CLERK : CLLR G SCOTT

07.07.19 OVERGROWN HEDGE IN FORD LANE

Following a complaint, the Clerk was asked to identify the hedge concerned and write to the householder asking for it to be cut back.

ACTION : CLERK

07.07.20 RCCE AGM

No-one was available to attend RCCE AGM on 11 July

07.07.21 REPAINTING BENCHES

Quotations for repainting the benches at the Wivenhoe Road bus stops were opened by Cllr Coates and it was proposed by Cllr Richards, seconded by Cllr Housden and agreed that the quotation from Mr Paul Egner in the sum of £225 be accepted. The Clerk to put the matter in hand at the earliest opportunity.

ACTION : CLERK

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

- (i) Cllr Barrett noted that the broadband service to the village was appalling and Cllr Housden agreed and advised of the various

complaints that were being made regarding this by other members of the community. The Clerk was asked to write to BT about this.

- (ii) Cllr D Barnes noted that there was a lot of rubbish along the estuary footpath and asked the Clerk to contact Colchester Borough Council about this.
- (iii) The Clerk was asked to put the matter of the hedges along the B1027 on the agenda for the September meeting.
- (iv) It was reported that a dumper truck had been used to deposit large amounts of earth on the footpath near to the entrance to Cockaynes Wood. The Clerk was asked to advised PCSO Cox, Bretts and Robin Cottrill about this.
- (v) Cllr Green said that he would be speaking to the Clerk during the next few days about a valuation of the Village Hall car park and also the creek moorings.
- (vi) The Clerk was asked to circulate details of the SLCC Conference to Councillors for consideration and also to check price details.

ACTION : CLERK : Cllr Green

There being no further business, Cllr J Coates wished all members of the Council a good summer and closed the meeting at 9.55pm.

**The next meeting of Alresford Parish Council will be held
on Wednesday 5 September 2007 at 7.30pm
in the Parish Council Pavilion**

APPENDIX 1

A meeting of the Planning Committee was held at 10.00pm on Wednesday 4 July 2007 attended by Cllr E Osborne , Cllr J Richards, Cllr J Housden and the Clerk.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Robinson, Cllr Ann Wiggins and Cllr S Carlsson Browne

The following matter was considered and no objection raised :

Application Number and Applicant	Location	Proposal	Comments
07/00914/FUL Mr D Rutley Letter dated: 5.6.07	46 Coppice Road, Alresford	First floor extension	No objection.

APPENDIX 2

Report of Environment Working Party. 27. 06. 07.

Present: Joan, Hedley, Dorothy. Apologies from John H.

We recommend the creation of a Wild Flower Meadow on the Playing Field, subject to the approval of the Playing Field Working Party. This to be put out to tender giving specific measurements, seed types, and the possible need for soil removal. Investigate whether the soil can be used for any other purpose on the Playing Field, such as in the creation of a garden leading to the Children's' Playground.

We still do not feel that joining P3 is to the advantage of the Parish Council, but recommend that a Guide to the Footpaths of the Parish in conjunction with P3 may be something the Parish Plan Committee may like to undertake.

Our thoughts regarding a Four Year Plan are as follows.

Ensure the completion of the Litter Bin Project.

To work in closer cooperation with the Playing Field Working Party.

To try to raise civic awareness and increase the participation of residents in maintaining the appearance of Alresford with especial reference to problem areas such as the Estuary Footpath and Beach, the Playing Field, and the public areas in front of the shops on Station Road. Also the track behind the station.

To consider taking over the maintenance of all the Flower Beds in Alresford and employing contractors to carry out the work.

To consider "Green" issues in any future building plans or projects the Parish Council is involved in.