

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alresford Parish Council held on
Wednesday 2 July 2008 in St Andrews Church

PRESENT : Cllr Joan Coates, Chairman, Cllr E Osborne, Cllr J Housden, Cllr S Carlsson Browne, Cllr Linda Belgrove, Cllr N Fairbanks, Cllr Hedley Green, Cllr Ann Wiggins, 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. The need for CCTV in the area of the village hall and playing field was raised and Cllr Belgrove advised that this had been discussed in depth by the Council and that funding had been applied for. There were also complaints about the standard of grass cutting in the village and damage done by the cutters up at the allotments. The Clerk advised that she was working with the contractors to remedy this and that the situation was being closely monitored. The matter was on the agenda for fuller discussion at item 16.

ACTION : CLERK

PRESENTATION BY NETWORK RAIL ADVISING OF THE PROPOSED WORKS TO THE RAILWAY LINES AND CROSSING GATES IN THE VILLAGE OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

Members were advised that a total of £102 million was to be spend replacing signalling and making improvements to the lines from Marks Tey to the coast to replace obsolete and expired components and to bring the system up to modern standards. Three signalling boxes would be removed from Clacton, Thorpe le Soken and East Gates. East Gates and The Hythe crossings were to be be upgraded to full barriers and the new barrier gates at Alresford would be individually monitored by CCTV. Work in Alresford would be largely undertaken between August/September 2008 and March 2009 with the overall scheme being completed by September 2009. Some road closures were anticipated during the work but these would be kept to a minimum and steps would be taken to keep noise levels under control. Cllr Green asked why both crossings had to be closed at the same time and also asked why the station at Alresford could not be upgraded during the works to allow for fully disabled access, but was advised that this was not possible. Cllr Belgrove asked how disability accessibility could be initiated and was advised that National Express owned the station and leased it to Network Rail. Cllr Belgrove agreed to establish the correct person to contact to take this matter forward. Members of the public present complained about noise levels, foul and abusive language from the men working on the site, and parking nuisance from vehicles and replacement service buses. These matters to be investigated. Questions were asked about the

frequency of servicing for the barriers and residents were assured that inspections were carried out at frequent intervals from weekly to quarterly in accordance with the specific regimes in place. Mr Hester asked if a full timetable of events could be issued for inclusion in the Alresford Advertiser and this was agreed

ACTION : CLLR BELGROVE

The formal Parish Council meeting was opened by the Chairman who thanked the Network Rail representatives for their presentation and members of the public for their attendance.

07.08.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE¹

Cllr C Barrett and Cllr J Robinson tendered apologies as they were on holiday.

07.08.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA²

No interests were declared.

07.08.3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr Housden, seconded by Cllr Fairbanks and agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4 June 2008 be agreed and signed as a correct record. The following matters arising were raised :

- (i) Hard Court Fencing – the Clerk advised that three quotations having been received she had applied for funding from various sources and was awaiting results.
- (ii) Football Club storage container – siting. Cllr S Carlsson Brown advised that he had checked with local residents and established that there were no problems with siting this on the playing field in the area of the hard court. The Clerk had checked with TDC and it seemed likely that there were no planning difficulties as the container was not overly large and the site was temporary. She was waiting formal confirmation of this.
- (iii) A letter had been received from ECC advising that the various highway matters referred to at the June meeting were in the process of being attended to by ECC.

ACTION : CLERK

07.08.4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr D Robinson reported that Ford Lane had it 30mph status and that no objections had been received.

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

2 Local Government Act 2000 Part III

07.08.5 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr G Scott was unable to be present as he was on holiday but he had submitted a written report advising that it had been a quiet month. Complaints had been received from residents of St Andrews Close about the glass on the hard court who had also expressed the urgency of having CCTV installed. It was noted that the Clerk and Councillors had spent a lot of time clearing up broken glass from the hard court and playing field in the last month. The planning application behind 39 station road had been refused. Highways had been asked about the leak near Brook Barn near Thorrington and a survey was being undertaken. The small grant forms were now available and many organisations had already made applications. Residents had expressed concerns about the closure of the shop and were also pleased that the Post Office had adapted to the closure of the main shop by increasing their stocks. More pot holes had been reported to Highways for remedial work.

07.08.6 REPORT FROM PCSO

Nuisance youth behaviour involving a vehicle	4
Burglary – theft of cycles	3
Concern for welfare	2
Animal related incident	1
Nuisance calls	1
Sudden death	1
Alarm – false call	1
Fraud	1

Councillors were advised that the village was currently experiencing a spate of cycle thefts. In most cases the cycles had been left in residents' gardens. The crime prevention advice regarding cycles was to take a photograph of each cycle and on the reverse note the make, colour and serial number; have cycles post coded; always lock bikes and secure them to something solid like a lamp post or cycle rack and always lock bikes away, even at home. There was to be a bike coding event on 31 July at St Andrews Church at 7.30pm and all local cycle owners were urged to make use of the opportunity to get their cycles post coded and included on the local cycle register. Those under 18 would need to have their parents authority. A very successful youth event had been held at the Church to encourage the youth of the village to participate in organised activities and build up community spirit. Unfortunately a few days later a group of youths had smashed (almost 100) glass bottles and left rubbish all over the playing field and hard court. This was a great disappointment to those involved in trying to make improvements to the village and particularly as PC Harris had spoken to youths at the youth event about this type of behaviour. Any information relating to the persons involved would be appreciated and would be dealt with positively. Information could be passed to any Councillor, the Parish Clerk or direct to the police. (Tel : 0300 333 4444 extension 17140)

A list of youths who had expressed an interest in the summer holiday football had been compiled and those on the list would be invited to youth events held in the village.

07.08.7 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (i) RCCE – Noted. It was agreed to continue with the membership.
- (ii) ECC re Introduction of 1APP – planning (*passed to planning committee*) - noted
- (iii) ECC re Ford Lane (Restricted Road) Order 2008 - noted
- (iv) The Local Works re Guide to the Sustainable Communities Act – noted. The Clerk to write on behalf of the Council in accordance with their known views.

Cllr Green asked whether the Clerk had received any further communication from Network Rail about barrier closing times and was advised that she had not yet received a response to her last letter. She was therefore instructed to write again.

ACTION : CLERK

07.08.8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES :

- (i) ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES & ALLOTMENTS : No meeting had been held, but a form had been completed for the Clerk to submit.
- (ii) FINANCE : no meeting held
- (iii) PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL : Cllr Osborne expressed concern about the durability of the samples of cricket strip surfaces that had been received and it was generally felt that the cricket strip should be laid on concrete. A meeting would be held prior to the September meeting and the Clerk was asked to make a note on the agenda accordingly and do some further research into cricket strip surfacing generally.
- (iv) COMMUNICATIONS : Cllr J Richards advised that he hoped to be updating the website during the summer and asked the Clerk to produce a list of local organisations who had expressed willingness to be included.
- (v) HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS : no meeting held.
- (vi) PLANNING : see also appendix 1 : Cllrs Cllrs S Carlsson Browne and Osborne had attended a planning meeting regarding Church Farm and had reiterated the Council's previous objections, but despite this the application was allowed. Cllr Osborne had also attended a planning meeting for the development behind 39 Station Road - the objection to this had been sustained. He had also attended a meeting regarding the proposed Golf Course in Ford Lane which had been refused. It was noted that 2 items had recently almost been missed by Councillors because TDC had not sent notifications through and the Clerk was instructed to write to the Planning Department about this.
- (vii) HUMAN RESOURCES, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING : The Clerk to arrange an appraisal meeting during the summer recess.
- (viii) GENERAL PURPOSES : No meeting held.
- (IX) CCTV – *see item 07.08.13*

ACTION : CLERK :

07.08.9 MONTHLY PAYMENTS AS LISTED BELOW :

Clerk's salary and expenses (DD)	1260.82
NI	103.40
A & J Lighting – Monthly maintenance - May	71.16
C & C Cleaning (invoice 1609)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 1543)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 1697)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 1769)	28.20
EON – street lighting – May (DD)	122.65
EON – Pavilion and floodlighting - May (DD)	60.00
EALC – short course for councillors	75.00
Alresford Advertiser – PC page	25.00
RCCE – subscription	55.00
Essex Police : PCSO – March – June 2008	3,375.00
Essex Playing Field Association – subscription	25.00

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

ACTION : CLERK

07.08.10 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

It was proposed by Cllr S Carlsson Browne, seconded by Cllr J Housden and agreed that the financial statement for May 2008 be accepted.

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

- (i) Passenger Transport Meeting at Weeley - 20 May – see attached
- (ii) Councillors and the Clerk had also attended a Law and Procedures Course at Tendring.

07.08.12 HARD COURT

Councillors considered a request for the hard court lights to be left on during winter evenings for the benefit of young people using the field, but it was felt that this would lead to problems with insurance as it would be breaking the bye laws regarding the playing field being closed between dusk and dawn. It was therefore agreed that the flood lights would continue to be used only when formally booked and paid for for the benefit of sporting activities. The Clerk was asked to write to the resident who had requested the facility and explain the situation.

ACTION : CLERK

07.08.13 CCTV

- (i) Report and update – *see attached notes at Appendix 2 listing record of vandalism since 2004*
- (ii) Funding – the Clerk advised that the application would be sent in during the next few days

ACTION : CLERK

07.08.14 CAMPER VANS

Following reports from residents expressing concerns in relation to camper vans being parked at the War Memorial overnight, the Clerk had established that the land being used belonged to Essex County Council and she was therefore instructed to write to them advising them of the situation.

ACTION : CLERK

07.08.15 BYE LAWS

Details of the establishment of Bye Laws had been researched by the Clerk as requested and it was agreed that this matter should be considered by the General Purposes Working Party who would report back to full Council at a later meeting.

ACTION : CLERK : GENERAL PURPOSES WORKING PARTY.

07.08.16 GRASS CUTTING

The Clerk reported that she had had further meetings with the overseer of the contracting company and that remedial cuts to improve the standard of grass cutting would be taking place. Some weedkiller was to be applied to reduce the amount of weeds and long grass along fence lines and around lamp posts etc and assurances had been given that strimming and grass clearing would be undertaken with more care in future. The situation would be carefully monitored over the summer months and a report made to the September meeting.

ACTION : CLERK

07.08.17 TRAINING AVAILABLE

- (i) Roles and Responsibilities – 22 July -Tendring Village Hall

Councillors wishing to attend this course were asked to let the Clerk know as soon as possible.

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

(i) Cllr Richards advised that cars were being parked overnight in Cockaynes Lane and gatherings taking place in the woodlands. The Clerk was asked to advise PCSO Cox about this.

(ii) Cllr Osborne noted that recently an increased number of heavy lorries were driving through the village and the Clerk was asked to contact ECC to see whether any weight restrictions were in place and which routes HGV's were supposed to use, and to add the matter to the September Agenda.

(iii) Cllr Carlsson Browne advised that he would be attending a meeting regarding bus stops and bus shelters, bus shelter solar light etc as funds were being made available to increase and upgrade these facilities in rural areas. It was agreed that he should seek information regarding the provision of new bus shelters at the Pointer, at the end of Poplars Close and outside the Village Shop on the Main Road.

(iv) Cllr Belgrove reported on a successful Youth Event at St Andrews Church when 35 plus young people had attended with 13 adults and Councillors assisting and attending. Good feedback had been received and three residents had agreed to be trained as youth leaders as a result to enable more local activities to take place. Councillors were reminded of the Bike Post Coding Event to be held between 7.30 and 8.30pm at St Andrews Church on 31 July and the Clerk was asked to add Youth Activities to the next agenda.

(v) Cllr Coates advised that she had represented the Parish Council at the last service taken by the Rev Chris Harvey prior to his retirement.

(v) The Clerk requested and received permission to pay budgeted cheques as usual during August and advised that Mr Ian Dimmock had done an internal audit of the accounts and that these were now ready to be sent to the external auditors. She also advised that, following the meeting, a glow worm count would be taking place in the field at the end of St Andrews Close and invited Councillors to join in if they wished. The results would be sent to the informal Glow Worm Survey for inclusion in a nation survey.

There being no further business Cllr Coates closed the meeting at 9.45p, and thanked all Councillors for their attendance and wished them an enjoyable summer.

**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

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
08/00780/FUL Mr Coham Letter dated : 30.5.08	160 Wivenhoe Road Alresford	Single story rear extension for form garden room	No objection

APPENDIX 2

RECORD OF VANDALISM

This is a list of damage over the past 4 years. The dates are dates of payments rather than dates of damage which was usually one or two months earlier.

Destruction of fence around childrens play area – December 2004

Damage to roof of Pavilion – summer 2005

Damage to flood lights – Summer 2005

Burning of car on village hall car park

Damage to Village hall – broken windows etc

Damage to notice Board – November 2005

Various reports of damage around the village to fencing, walls etc

		£
April 2005	Damage to waste bin	50.00
Sept 2005	Repairs to pavilion roof	310.00
Sept 2005	Repairs to Pavilion electrics	158.63
Feb 2006	Damage to notice board	70.00
April 2006	Damage to bus stop	45.00
June 2006	Damage to post by Pointer	425.00
Nov 2006	Damage to posts at War Memorial	100.00
Dec 2006	Damage to pavilion roof	30.00
Jan 2007	Damage to playing field flood lights	48.00
Feb 2007	Repairs to pavilion	163.45
March 2007	Repairs to pavilion roof	179.00
March 2007	Damage to dog bin	65.00
June 2007	Damage to pitch and pavilion	339.90
July 2007	Damage to playing field benches	102.50
July 2007	Damage to bin outside shops	60.00
Nov 2007	Damage to lamp at War Memorial	1,500.00
Sept 2007	Damage to Froggo bin on playing field	368.00
Dec 2007	Damage to bus stop	75.00
Dec 2007	Damage to play area fence	51.48
Jan 2008	Damage to bus stop	75.00
Jan 2008	Removal of capping plates on hard court and supply of new ones	94.00

Feb 2008	Damage to pavilion	57.00
Nov 2007	Destruction of p/f dug-outs (approx)	450.00
May 2008	Damage to bus shelter	271.88

Costs in excess of £5,000 over the 4 year period.