

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Alresford Parish Council held in the Parish Council Pavilion
on Wednesday 7 June 2006 at 7.30pm

Present : Cllr Joan Coates, Chairman; Cllrs A Wiggins, D Barnes, J Richards, I
Robinson, J Housden, S Carlsson Browne, N Fairbanks, A Ball, G Scott,
the Clerk and one member of the public

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

06.06.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE¹

Cllr E Osborne was unable to attend the meeting due to work commitment.

06.06.2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr I Robinson, seconded by Cllr Alan Ball and agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3 May 2006 be signed as a correct record.

06.06.3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA²

Cllr N Fairbanks declared an interest in item 06.06.10

06.06.4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr D Robinson reported on a quiet month locally. He had nothing further to report on mineral extraction and advised that he would be visiting Cockaynes Wood with Tree Warden Robin Cottrill sometime in the near future. County matters were currently centering around the LAA's and LSP's. The Primary Care Trusts for Colchester and Tendring were to combine which Cllr Robinson felt would be a good move.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Robinson for his report and the Councillor left to attend further meetings elsewhere.

06.06.5 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr G Scott advised that matters regarding 21 The Heath were progressing slowly. The Enforcement Officers at Tendring had taken photographs of the site and it had been confirmed that the caravan and fence were actually sited on neighbouring land not that of the owner. A meeting was to be held at the Council offices on 19 July regarding the level crossing gates. The plan was likely to be for the Coach Road gates to be replaced with an automatic barrier or to be closed permanently and two cul-de-sacs formed. The station gates would be replaced with an automatic barrier and there would be no staff at the station. Councillor Scott would oppose these proposals. Sunday train services were to recommence from 10 December on an hourly basis. Complaints had been received regarding grass cutting and the clerk was instructed to advise the contractor of these. She advised that she

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

2 Local Government Act 2000 Part III

had already done so but said that she would do so again if the standard of the next cut was not improved. It was noted that the signs pointing to the fish and chip shop had been removed but Councillors wondered whether the signs advertising the Jaywick Sunday Market had permission to be in place. The Clerk would check this with TDC. Potholes had reappeared in Hawkins and Laxton Roads – Cllr Scott would take this matter up again with the County Council. Complaints had been received regarding the amount of litter being left on the playing field, despite the best efforts of Cllr Scott and the Clerk to keep the area tidy, and also regarding the cycle jumps constructed in Cockaynes Wood. There were parking problems in Hawkins Road and an abandoned vehicle which Cllr Scott would report. The B1027 had been flooded in the recent heavy rain – Cllr Scott had reported this to Highways who were to investigate the problem.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Scott for his report.

ACTION : CLERK : CLLR SCOTT

06.06.6 REPORT FROM POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

It was reported that there had been two thefts, one burglary (from an outbuilding), one instance of criminal damage, nine miscellaneous reports and ten reports of nuisance youths in the past month. Warnings had been applied to two users of mini motor bikes which, if the offences were repeated, would be confiscated.

The Chairman thanked the police representative for her report.

06.06.7 AFFORDABLE RURAL HOUSING SCHEME FOR ALRESFORD

A presentation from Andrew Smith, Strategic Development Manager, English Rural Housing Association was made to the Council who explained how the scheme would work. Following the initial survey of need undertaken last year, suitable land was being sought preferably outside the village envelope. It was stressed that the only properties built would be affordable housing for local people which would never be able to be wholly owned or sold on the open market. The Parish Council would retain involvement in the choice and selection of occupants to ensure that the necessary criteria were observed and maintained. and would be involved in the drawing up of the criteria for occupation of the homes. Once land had been identified and designs drawn up in consultation with the Parish Council a village information day would enable parishioners to see what was proposed. The houses would be for rental or for shared ownership only and would be allocated only according to local need.

Mr Smith was thanked for his visit and presentation and confirmed that he would return once the next stage in the process had been reached.

06.06.8 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (i) A letter had been received from Mr Giles re St Peter's. The Clerk was asked to try to arrange for a further bin to be sited at the area of the churchyard.
- (ii) A letter from Mrs Bates re Crestlands was noted
- (iii) Family Support Brightlingsea had written to thank the Council for the grant recently received.
- (iv) TDC it was noted that a new Parish Member had been appointed.

- (v) Tendring NHS re Press Release - noted
- (vi) Essex NHS - press release – work would be undertaken by May Gurney between 27 May and 23 June from 8.00pm to 6.30am Saturday to Thursday nights.
- (viii) Open Spaces Society – a report and request for a donation had been received. The clerk was instructed to pass this matter to the Environmental working party for consideration.
- (ix) EON – advice of price increase for street lighting of approximately £300 per annum had been received. This followed a recent 40% increase a few months ago. The Clerk was instructed to ask EALC for advice on getting another supplier if one could be found that would be less expensive
- (x) ECC – Community Initiatives Fund – notification was received of a Grant award of up to £5,000 to cover the cost of the recent hedge planting scheme undertaken at the playing field.
- (xi) ECC Department of Transport – Drink Drive Campaign. Posters had been received and placed on the notice board and in the village hall.
- (xii) Charter 88 – re Sustainable Communities Bill – the Clerk was instructed to complete the forms and return them as requested.

ACTION : CLERK : ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY

06.06.9 REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES :

(i) ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES AND ALLOTMENTS

The response of Parish Council to Friends of Cockaynes Wood following the presentation by Robin Cottrill to the April meeting as detailed in the report of the working party meeting held on 24 May 2006 was considered and the Clerk was instructed to send a copy to Robin Cottrill. Cllr J Richards advised that the Environmental working party had chosen the frog design for the litter bin for the childrens play area. The Clerk to order this together with any additional bins required to complete the scheme.

(ii) FINANCE – no meeting had been held

(iii) PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL

Councillors had been asked to consider the possibility leaving the hard court unlocked as entry was still being gained by damage to the fencing, and simply making a hire charge for use of the nets and other items stored in the locker. However, the Clerk explained that this had been tried, resulting in the five a side nets being removed from the hard court and left out on the field. She had asked several times if those using them would kindly put them back into the hard court before they left but mostly this had not happened. The nets were becoming damaged as a result and concerns were expressed regarding any possible accident which might occur as a result of them being left outside the hard court. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for bolting the nets to the ground and meanwhile Cllr Carlsson-Brown and Robinson and Fairbanks would look at the possibility of fixing the nets in some way to the fencing to prevent their being taken off the hard court. It was agreed that the hard court area should revert to being locked in the meantime and the Clerk was asked to write a further item about this for

the next edition of the Advertiser. Councillors commented that it had been nice to see the courts in use again, but once more the actions of a selfish minority had caused problems.

(iv) COMMUNICATIONS – no meeting had been held but Cllr Richards advised that the web site was still running well.

(v) HIGHWAYS – The Clerk reported that she had still received no response from Sibbons regarding the lights which were causing problems along the stretch of the B1027 near to their premises. ECC had advised that they had discussed the matter with Sibbons on previous occasions when Sibbons had claimed to have adjusted the security lighting system to reduce the impact on highway users, but that the highway authority did not appear to be empowered to deal with light pollution. Councillors still felt that the lighting was causing difficulty and asked the Clerk to write to Sibbons again. Meanwhile there had been no further progress regarding reducing the speed limit on the B1027. Cllr Scott report a recent accident and an additional speed camera having been installed in the Elmstead area.

(vi) PLANNING - for recent applications see attached list. TDC Replacement Local Plan – Pre-Enquiry Changes – Cllr Robinson would let the Clerk have comments for submission by deadline date of 19 June. A formal response to the planning meeting regarding the barns at Church Farm would be advised later. Cllr Robinson had circulated a report on his meeting with the TDC Planning Officer regarding the proposed Youth Shelter on 19 May. This report was considered and discussed. It was proposed by Cllr Carlsson Browne, seconded by Cllr Scott and agreed that a move towards an appeal be made, followed later if necessary by a judicial review. The five points recommended in the report should be followed and the Clerk was instructed to write to the other parties as detailed in the report.

(vii) HUMAN RESOURCES, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING – No meeting held

(viii) HEALTH AND WELFARE – No meeting held

ACTION : CLERK : CLLRS CARLSSON BROWNE, FAIRBANKS AND ROBINSON

06.06.10 AGREEMENT TO PAYMENTS AS LISTED BELOW :

Clerk's salary and expenses	1069.64
Stationery	23.85
NI	83.15
Just Lamps – monthly maintenance	71.16
TCVS Affiliation Fee	15.00
EON – Street Lighting – April – DD	136.63
Busy Bees – Pavilion Cleaning (27.4-17.5-06)	112.80
Powergen – Flood Lighting – DD	50.00
Alresford Advertiser – PC page	25.00
Install Sports – two new notices for PF	176.25
Nick Fairbanks – repairs to posts by Pointer	425.00

ACRFC – Grass seed etc (ref 06.06.15)	105.00
Kendall Contract Services (April)	397.15
Macemain Amstad – litter bins and liner	448.85
Britannia Installations Ltd (Pavilion lights)	529.36
Travel – Clerk	20.00

The Clerk advised that since she had received the invoice from Install Sports for the supply and fixing of the two new notices they had in fact both been removed. She had retrieved them but did not consider that the invoice should be paid until the work had been satisfactorily completed. They had only been attached to the gates with plastic ties. It was proposed by Cllr Fairbanks, seconded by Cllr Wiggins and agreed that the Clerk should contact Install Sports and arrange for the notices to be securely and satisfactorily fixed before sending payment. Apart from this one item, it was proposed by Cllr Housden, seconded by Cllr Ball and agreed that payments should be made as listed.

ACTION : CLERK

06.06.11 FINANCIAL REPORT

It was proposed by Cllr S Carlsson Browne, seconded by Cllr J Housden and agreed that the financial report for April 2006 be accepted.

06.06.12 QUALITY COUNCIL – SPIRIT OF BEST VALUE

This matter, having been deferred from the April meeting was again considered. Cllr Alan Ball commented that, at a recent course he attended at Great Dunmow on Law and Procedures, he had been impressed with the high standard of Alresford Parish Council and the way matters were conducted and meetings run. Cllr Robinson felt that more thought and effort might be put into getting residents to attend and support meetings, especially the Annual Parish Meeting. It was felt that the establishment of the web site was a step in the right direction of raising the profile of the Council and further work would be undertaken throughout the coming year with regard to creating a Parish Plan or Village Design Statement.

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

- (i) Crestlands – A report on the meeting held on 26 May to consider the establishment of a Residents Association had been circulated and it was felt that no further action should be taken on this matter by the Parish Council.
- (ii) A report on a meeting of Cllr D Barnes and Clerk with Andrew Boutell of Just Lamps (UK) Ltd on 19 May was given by Cllr D Barnes and it was confirmed that the estimate for the repair of pole 3V in Church Road dated 22 February 2006 in the sum of £138 should be accepted and the work put in hand as the light was again not working. (Ref 04.06.15) The Clerk would ask Mr Boutell to contact EDF regarding a supply to the pole outside the cabin and a revised schedule of lighting numbers would be provided by Just Lamps to eliminate the present confusion. Finally the matter of additional lighting would be further considered at a later meeting.

ACTION : CLERK

06.06.14 REPORT ON MEETING OF CHAIRMAN AND CLERK WITH JOHN HAWKINS (CHIEF EXECUTIVE AT TDC) AND CLLR TERRY ALLEN AT CLACTON TOWN HALL

Cllr Joan Coates reported that she and the Clerk had attended the Town Hall that afternoon and had had a very useful meeting with John Hawkins and Cllr Terry Allen. Items discussed had included the Youth Shelter and the rejection of the planning application which they had promised to investigate. The Town Hall had asked to be sent copies of the Alresford Advertiser as they were published and it was noted that TDC were taking a very strong line on anti-social behaviour and related matters such as litter, dog fouling etc. The Clerk had been asked to write another item for the Advertiser about this asking members of the public to report any such incidences to TDC, especially, for instance, people seen dropping litter from vehicles. The vehicle number and details of the time and date of the offence should be reported to TDC who would then follow the matter up with a fixed penalty notice. When writing to thank Mr Hawkins and Mr Allen for their hospitality, the Clerk was instructed to ask what influence comments from the Council regarding planning applications had and whether the Council could be advised of any subsequent conditions that were attached to planning consents that the Parish Council could then monitor.

ACTION : CLERK

06.06.15 PLAYING FIELD/FOOTBALL PITCH

A request had been made by ACRFC that the Council apply fertilizer to the pitch prior to the commencement of next season and to reimburse ACRFC for grass seed, pitch sand and top soil already applied in the sum of £105. It was proposed by Cllr Carlsson Browne, seconded by Cllr Barnes and agreed that the payment be made and the Clerk was instructed to arrange for the fertilizer to be ordered, delivered and spread.

ACTION : CLERK

06.06.16 DAMAGE TO FENCE BESIDE PAVILION ENTRANCE

The Clerk was instructed to obtain quotations for the repair of the fencing adjacent to the pavilion. She should advise contractors that the fencing would need to be fixed to the wall because of the electricity cable running along the ground beside the pavilion.

ACTION : CLERK

06.06.17 THE POINTER

In view of the recent alterations and improvements currently being undertaken at The Pointer it was felt that no further action regarding applying for listed building status should be pursued. (Ref : 12.05.19).

06.06.18 21 THE HEATH

Consideration of this matter had been dealt with under item 06.06.5.

06.06.19 PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

Cllr Alan Ball reported that a Bennett van was regularly parked on the pavement outside 48 Wivenhoe Road and the Clerk was asked to write to the resident of that property regarding this.

ACTION : CLERK

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

Cllr G Scott advised that he would not be present at the July meeting.

The Chairman then invited the member of the public present to address the Council and the Editor of the Alresford Advertiser thanked the Parish Council for the recent grant towards the running costs and also for forwarding a grant from BENSCH towards the cost of improving the technology concerned with its production.

The Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the meeting at 9.55pm.

The next meeting of Alresford Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 5 July 2006 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Pavilion

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Application Number and Applicant	Location	Proposal	Comments
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06/00721/FUL Mr and Mrs Williams Letter dated 2.5.06	16 Elm Close, Alresford	Two storey side extension	No objection
06/00741/FUL Mr D Smith & Ms L Wagner Letter dated 4.5.06	191 Wivenhoe Road, Alresford	Erection of single storey rear extension and loft conversion with front dormer	No objection
06/00567/FUL Sue Letter dated 4.5.06	18 Ford Lane, Alresford	Single storey rear extension	No objection
06/00873/TPO M J Green Letter dated 17.5.06	Alresford Grange	Removal of deadwood and reduction by 25-30% of self seeded willow, birch and oak. Laying resulting brush down to form boundary hedge along footpath. Laurels to be coppiced.	No objection
06/00876/FUL Mrs Tooley Letter dated 24.5.06	"Karita", Main Road, Alresford	Change of use from dwelling to use for childminding	Objection on grounds that it would be inappropriate for such a business to operate in a residential area and that traffic leaving, entering and dropping off would cause chaos on a very busy road.
06/00916/TPO Dr A R Khan Letter dated 25.5.06	39 Station Road, Alresford	T.2 Oak – lop branches to clear neighbour's roof by 1 meter	No objection provided the work is carried out by a qualified arboriculturist.