

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of Alresford Parish Council held on
Wednesday 7 May 2009
in the Parish Council Pavilion

Present : Cllr J Coates, Chairman, Cllr J Robinson, Cllr E Osborne . Cllr J Housden, Cllr Ann Wiggins. Cllr S Carlsson Browne, Cllr N Fairbanks Cllr Chris Barrett, Cllr Hedley Green, Cllr J Richards, Cllr Linda Belgrove, the Clerk.

PUBLIC FORUM : Several members of the public attended with regard to a proposed development at 186 Wivenhoe Road. Their views were heard and would be taken into consideration when the Planning Committee met after the AGM to discuss the matter in detail.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman who then stood down from office.

05.08.1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN¹

Nominations for the office of Chairman were called for and it was proposed by Cllr Osborne, seconded by Cllr J Robinson and agreed by all that Mrs Joan Coates be duly re-elected to serve for the forthcoming year. The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

05.08.2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Housden proposed Cllr Linda Belgrove be elected vice chairman, but Cllr Belgrove declined. It was therefore proposed by Cllr J Robinson, seconded by Cllr Fairbanks and agreed that Cllr Ann Wiggins be re-elected to serve for a further year. Cllr Wiggins agreed and thanked the Councillors for their nomination.

05.08.3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE²

Received from District Councillor Gary Scott and police representatives, all of whom were engaged elsewhere.

05.08.4 ANNUAL REPORT – see Appendix 1

The Annual Report having been previously circulated was taken as read and the Clerk thanked for its production.

05.08.5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA³

Cllr Fairbanks declared an interest in item 05.08.17

1 Local Government Act 1972, ss 15(2) and 34(2)

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

3 Local Government Act 2000 Part III

05.08.6 PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

(i) Ref : 04.08.16(ii) – *response from Sue Groves re mobile speed unit with mobile police van - “we carry the mobile speed unit and use it where appropriate and under the direction of officers working the area who express a need”*

(ii) Ref : 04.08.16 (iii) *partially demolished sub-station in Coach Road has now been fully demolished. No action taken.* The Clerk was asked to contact Network Rail to find out what the site was to be used for, if anything, and if there were no plans for its use to ask whether it could be utilised as the new control building instead of building one on the opposite side of the road.

ACTION : CLERK

05.08.7 REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, STANDING ORDERS AND REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

No amendments were proposed.

05.08.8 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

It was proposed by Cllr J Robinson, seconded by Cllr Fairbanks and agreed that Mr Ian Dimmock be asked to continue as independent internal auditor. Mr Dimmock agreed and was duly re-appointed.

05.08.9 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES⁴

The following committees and working parties and memberships thereof for the forthcoming year to be as follows :

FINANCE WP : Cllrs Coates, Wiggins, Carlsson Browne, Robinson, Richards and the Clerk

PLANNING COMMITTEE : Cllrs Osborne, Robinson, Richards, Wiggins, Carlsson Browne and Housden

PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL WP : Cllrs Coates, Fairbanks, Robinson, Richards and Carlsson Browne

COMMUNICATIONS WP : Cllrs Osborne, Richards, Belgrove and Housden

⁴ Local Government Act 1972 ss 101-106 and Schedule 12, Parish and Community Councils (Committees) Regulations 1990 (SI No 2476)

HIGHWAYS, STREET SIGNS AND LIGHTING WP : Cllrs Osborne, Housden,
Belgrove and Fairbanks

ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES AND ALLOTMENTS WP: Cllrs Coates,
Green, Barrett, Belgrove and Housden

HUMAN RESOURCES PERSONNEL AND TRAINING WP: Cllrs Coates, Wiggins
and the Clerk

GENERAL PURPOSES WP: Cllrs Coates, Wiggins and the Clerk

It was proposed by Cllr J Robinson, seconded by Cllr Housden and agreed that the above committees, working parties and memberships thereof be established for the forthcoming year.

05.08.10 ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAIRMANS ALLOWANCE IN PURSUANCE OF SECTION 15(5) OF LGA 1972 and CONSIDERATION OF TDC PARISH REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT FOR 2008-9

It was proposed by the Finance Working Party and agreed that the Chairmans allowance should be set at £300 for the year and it was further proposed by Cllr Carlsson Browne, seconded by Cllr Osborne and agreed that no other allowances to members of the Council would be paid other than expenses incurred.

05.08.11 APPROVAL OF INVENTORY AND ASSET REGISTER OF COUNCIL PROPERTY – Appendix 2

It was proposed by Cllr Carlsson Browne, seconded by Cllr Barrett and agreed that the inventory and asset register as prepared by the Clerk be accepted.

05.08.12 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Councillor Derek Robinson advised that he had attended the East Essex Area Forum at which a presentation by the police had taken place and discussions regarding the cost effectiveness of PCSO's had been debated, and that a Tendring Local Strategic Plan – LAA2 - and a Tendring Sustainable Community Strategy Stakeholder Event would be held on 13 June. He had met with members of the homeless community in Colchester and with members of the mental health teams, and in response to a question from Cllr Belgrove advised that a review by Highways of the B1027 would be undertaken in July.

05.08.13 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

No report was available from Cllr Scott but he had advised the Clerk that it had been a quiet month.

05.08.14 REPORT FROM PCSO

A report of the main activities for the month of April from the PCSO was circulated. This included the following items :

Theft of scrap metal from a resident's garden

Theft of cycles (2) – on both occasions cycles were left insecure in front of residents properties

Information from resident

Nuisance youths/other – 5. Three calls related to use of mino motos being used on a residential road. The owner has been contacted and advised accordingly.

False alarm activations – 2

Concern for welfare – 4

Suspicious person – report of male causing concern to resident. All was in order.

Theft of vehicle – stolen from creek area of Ford Lane

Fires – 2. Fires deliberately lit in Crestlands Wood. Youths in the vicinity were stop checked.

Criminal damage – 3. Damage to fence panels, a property window and a vehicle window.

Hoax/abandoned 999 calls – 2

Driving complaint – 1 report of erratic driving in village.

Summer football update – an article had been placed in the evening paper advertising the football event for youngsters who could sign up using registration forms held at Crossways and Spirals in Brightlingsea.

05.08.15 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (i) EALC – ECC Pensions – noted. The PC did not wish to participate.
- (ii) M J Green re woodchip - noted
- (iii) RoSPA – notification of playing field inspection – this to take place in May
- (iv) Friends of Historic Essex – appeal. Noted. The Council agreed to join.
- (v) Carol Cook re Mr James – letter of thanks for donation to Macmillan Nurses.
- (vi) Open Spaces Society – renewal application. Noted. No action.
- (vii) TDC Review of Licensing Policy (being circulated). Noted.
- (viii) ECC Re Essex Saver bus tickets. Noted.
- (ix) ECC re Introduction of 1APP Application Forms. Noted. No action required. New fee structure to be introduced.
- (x) Communities and Local Government – re Planning and Energy Bill. Noted.
- (xi) Network Rail re Timings. Cllr Green considered the reply unsatisfactory and agreed to draft a further letter.
- (xii) Elysha Thompson re swings – noted. The Clerk advised that a quotation from Wicksteed for repair was anticipated shortly.
- (xiii) Wilson Sports Services re Tennis Courts – re-surfacing work to begin 12 May
- (xiv) TDC re Open Space Audit
- (xv) ECC re Ford Lane speed limit. Noted. Confirmation that the new speed limit was being formally advertised on site and in the local press prior to the installation of the signs.
- (xvi) Mrs Fitch – letter of thanks re new bench in memory of David Fitch at the War

- Memorial and a cheque towards the cost.
- (xvii) TDC re 21 The Heath Appeal - noted. The Clerk to respond in accordance with the instructions of the Planning Committee.
 - (xviii) Alresford School re puddle outside school gates – the Clerk to contact Highways about this.
 - (xix) Open Spaces Society – Green Alert appeal. Noted. No action.
 - (xx) ECC – Highway Rangers. Noted. These would be unavailable in Tending for some while yet.
 - (xxi) EALC “Celebration of Quality in Essex”. The Communications working party to consider this and let the Clerk have details in time for the end of May deadline.

**ACTION : CLERK : CLLR GREEN : CLLR BELGROVE :
COMMUNICATIONS WORKING PARTY**

05.08.16 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES :

- (i) ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES & ALLOTMENTS** – no meeting
- (ii) FINANCE** – no meeting
- (iii) PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL** – see below * & **
- (iv) COMMUNICATIONS** – no meeting
- (v) HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS** – no meeting held but it was noted that the pink paint was still on the speed camera notices and the Clerk was asked to contact Highways again about this. It was also noted that the Community Speed Watch team had been trained and were operating in the village.
- (vi) PLANNING** – see Appendix 3
- (vii) HUMAN RESOURCES, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING** – no meeting

* A playing field meeting had been held which had been attended by Mr and Mrs Barnett of The Spinney who have undertaken litter picking for the playing field and who have agreed to become involved in implementing the four year plan for the playing field. The next meeting to take place on 27 May.

** A meeting had been held with representatives from the Village Hall committee which had been productive. Cllr Carlsson Browne to produce draft Heads of Terms for the new leasing arrangements and Cllr J Robinson to assist the AVHMC by drawing up some plans for their new proposed toilet block. Councillors who had worked on this project for so long were congratulated and thanked for all their patience and effort. The next meeting to be held on 17 May.

**ACTION : CLERK : PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL WORKING
PARTIES**

05.08.17 MONTHLY PAYMENTS AS LISTED BELOW :

Clerk's salary and expenses (DD)	1260.82
NI	103.40
Just Lamps – Monthly maintenance	71.16
A & J Lighting – repairs to flood lights	1,909.38
A & J Lighting – maintenance – March 2008	71.16
C & C Cleaning (invoice 1050)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 1090)	30.55
C & C Cleaning (invoice 1147)	30.55
C & C Cleaning (invoice 1210)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 1261)	28.20
EON – street lighting - March (DD)	122.40
EON – Pavilion and floodlighting (DD)	60.00
EPFA – entrance fee	10.00
Glasdon – picnic tables and benches	2073.11
EALC affiliation fee	400.67
Alresford Advertiser – March pages	25.00
N Fairbanks – fixing new benches	230.00
Wilson Sports Services – deposit	578.59
TCVS Affiliation fee	25.00
A & J Lighting – repairs	82.78
Queensbury – repair to bus shelter	271.88

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

ACTION : CLERK

05.08.18 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

It was proposed by Cllr Barrett, seconded by Cllr J Robinson and agreed that the financial statement for March 2008 be accepted.

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

(i) Cllr Belgrove advised that she had attended the East Essex Area Forum on 9 April and had viewed the Youth Bus. This was equipped with games, computers, coffee etc and she had arranged for it to be in Alresford on 30 May all being well. Questions had been asked regarding PCSO's and their accountability and value for money and both subsidies and NAPS had been discussed. (Neighbourhood Action Panels). More information about these was to be made available. Powers to pass on more responsibility and funding to Parish and Town Councils for highway matters were being considered and a six month pilot scheme was being trialed in some local areas including Colchester and Braintree. Cllr J Robinson had also attended the meeting and felt that these were well worth while and should always be attended by a Councillor whenever possible.

(ii) Cllr Belgrove reported on the Parish Project meeting held on 10 April.

(iii) The Chairman reported that she had attended a working lunch at Clacton Town Hall with the leader of Tendring District Council and other local Parish and Town Council chairmen and that this had proved useful and interesting.

05.08.20 WEB SITE

Members of the Council discussed ways in which the web site could be improved with regard to content and administration. It was agreed that this needed to be kept more up to date and the Clerk was asked to send more items to Cllr J Richards for inclusion.

ACTION : CLERK |: CLLR J RICHARDS

05.08.21 E-MAIL

Protocols in relation to the using of e-mail as a communication tool were discussed and it was agreed that Councillors should always, as a minimum, answer e-mails if their response was positive.

05.08.22 AFFORDABLE RURAL HOUSING

A report from Mrs Moore of ERHA had advised that Bernard Jenkin had written to the Chief Exec of Network Rail and Head of Corporate Affairs at National Express East Anglia and that she had also heard from National Express.

05.08.23 BOUNTY FOR SPECIAL CONSTABLES

It was agreed that a letter of support should be sent to the Town Mayor at Frinton and Walton Town Council regarding the need for more Special Constables.

ACTION : CLERK

05.08.24 GRASS CUTTING

Grass cutting was reviewed in the light of recent experiences. The Clerk confirmed that an inspection had taken place and a second cut had been undertaken to remedy the appalling first cut and that this was some improvement. She would monitor the situation closely and contact Pinnacle if the next cut was no better. Meanwhile it was generally felt that the first cut should not have to be paid for and the Clerk would advise Pinnacle of this.

ACTION : CLERK

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

(1) Cllr Barrett advised that the dustmen were having difficulty taking their vehicle down to the bottom of Ford Lane because of the overhanging hedges of properties

at the lower end of the lane. The Clerk confirmed that she had written to the householders concerned early in the year but would do so again asking them to cut their hedges back. There was also a large pothole at the lower end of Ford Lane and the Clerk was asked to advise Highways of this.

- (ii) Cllr Housden advised that he was having problems contacting the lighting contractor. The Clerk would seek to remedy this. Cllr Housden also advised that the drain outside Sherbro Kennels appeared to be blocked. The Clerk to notify Highways. Finally he asked the Clerk to write to Sibbons again about the nuisance caused to motorists by their security lights.
- (iii) Cllr Osborne advised that The Lozenge at Brightlingsea had been successfully launched and said that he had been having problems with water quality recently and had been in touch with the water board about this.
- (iv) Cllr J Robinson said that complaints had been received about the Clerk's caravan which had temporarily been sited on the green outside their respective properties. The Clerk confirmed that she planned to move it at the weekend.
- (v) Cllr Belgrove reported damage at the railway station and asked that consideration of Alcohol Free Zones be added to the June agenda. Meanwhile she would do some research into this. She also advised that NAPS were looking into having 20mph areas outside schools and reminded Councillors of the Station Community Day on 12 May. £300 worth of plants had been donated and would be planted and the station cleaned by volunteers. The Community Speedwatch team had been trained and had commenced their activities. So far 4 vehicles had been noted travelling at 40mph in the 30mph areas with 1 travelling at 60mph and using a mobile phone. Response so far from residents had been positive.
- (vi) Cllr Richards asked whether in the light of item 05.08.20 he should renew the web site subscription and was asked to do so.
- (vii) Cllr Green asked the Clerk to contact TDC again regarding the Seawick Market signs and ask for them to be removed.

ACTION : CLERK : CLLR J RICHARDS

The Chairman thanked Councillors for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10.00pm.

The next meeting of Alresford Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 4 June 2008 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Pavilion

APPENDIX 1

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-8

These continue to be exciting times for parish councils and the councillors who are elected to them. One of the matters that the PC have been supporting over the last two years or so has been the Sustainable Communities Bill, which drew cross-party support and has now become law. It owes its place on the statute books to the support of not only government from all tiers from the bottom up, but also to 80 national organisations. The Act paves the way to giving local communities much greater influence over decisions that will shape their future and in October all local authorities will be invited to submit new ideas to promote more sustainable communities. If they take part in this, they must fulfil their obligations (and one of the criteria of Quality Councils) to consult locally. Interestingly, the new Act will also require the Government to break down all public expenditure in each area so that for the first time people will be able to see what is being spent in its name. The Act also allows local authorities to argue that resources be reallocated to fit local priorities. Nick Hurd MP, who sponsored the bill, says “This sows the seeds of a radical change in policy and how decisions get taken. However, for the Act to achieve its potential we need to make sure that communities and local authorities become involved. My message to its supporters is simple : pressure your council to opt in. Get involved with citizen panels and start to build campaigns for the changes you want to see. It is up to us”.

Great opportunities are possible for creating communities where people feel valued, involved, safe and want to live and councillors are encouraged to embrace these opportunities and take up the challenges offered.

A major step forward for the council was achieved in June 2007 when the council was awarded Quality Council status and last years annual report won the EALC annual report competition.

The newly elected councillors have continued to meet monthly throughout the year and meetings were well attended, occasionally with members of the public being present. It is noticeable that public attendance continues to be when there are contentious matters on the agenda, but equally, there have been a few loyal regular members of the public who turn up out of interest and their support generates great encouragement for the council. The new system of allowing the public forum to be held at the beginning of the meeting rather than at the end seems to have proved popular and is certainly useful in keeping meetings to time! Councillors are always pleased to see parishioners at the meetings and are grateful to those who do come along and especially to those who lend their active support to the council.

The playing field and football pitches have continued to be used throughout the season and the playing field received another certificate of merit award in the Best Kept Playing Field competition run by Essex Playing Fields Association. As part of the programme of improvements for the childrens play area a new roundabout has been installed and the swings were refurbished with anti-wrap chains. Sadly, our unfriendly neighbourhood

vandals managed to ruin these very quickly by bending them around the top bar – this has rendering the swings totally unusable. We are currently in the process of working out with Wicksteed a more suitable option and hopefully this will be remedied before the summer is truly with us.

A weekend of vandalism in November left the village devastated. The street lamp at the War Memorial was destroyed and has had to be replaced at a cost to the Council of about £1,000. The dugouts on the playing field were also totally destroyed. Flood lights, bus stops, the new bus shelter and fences around the village were damaged and a trail of litter, broken glass and graffiti were spread around the village. Since then, police presence at weekends has been increased and a major effort on the part of the local community police team has been undertaken – with – so far – good results and a relatively quiet period. May this continue! However, over £4,000 has had to be spent in the last 12 months to repair these random acts of vandalism and this is, at about 17%, is a high proportion of the overall cost of running the council.

A decision to leave the hard court unlocked during the summer was successful and increased its use and since then it has remained unlocked throughout the winter months and apart from a bit of further unravelling of the fence – which is beyond repair anyway, there appears to have been no further damage. During May the hard court surface is to be totally refurbished and a grant for re-fencing is still being sought.

The notice board was again damaged and we are grateful to the Pine Shop for their kindness in supplying and installing a much strengthened and refurbished one for us.

The new hedging trees and plants around the perimeter of the playing field are growing well and really starting to thicken up now but access is still being made into the woods and beyond and only last week the fire brigade had to be called out to a fire which had been started in Cockaynes Wood.

The new bus shelter installed at the Ford Lane/Wivenhoe Road junction was damaged during the spate of vandalism in November but has now been repaired and is much appreciated by its users.

Our PCSO continues to be busy in her work, particularly in the community liaison aspects, and she, together with colleagues in other villages, are trying hard to get activities arranged for the young during the summer months. Signing up for the inter village seven a side football however, is slow and one wonders what exactly it is that is needed to generate some enthusiasm. Louise pays regular visits to the school and other organisations locally as well as to individuals and a series of regular surgeries in the church have been held throughout the year. These have not been particularly well attended, but as with PC meetings, when there has been trouble, people have made use of the facility.

Little progress has been made on the Affordable Rural Homes Scheme but it is hoped that further news of this will be available shortly.

Following on from the Parish Plan day which was held in the village hall in March 2007, the Parish Project Group was established and is moving forward with a range of initiatives

and objectives with the support of an enthusiastic team of folk from the village which includes some members of the PC.

The council has continued to press Highways and the Police for an extension to the 40mph speed limit on the B1027 between Alresford and Thorrington and it would appear that progress on this may well be reported shortly! Meanwhile the 30mph speed limit in Ford Lane has been extended throughout its entire length and the new signs will be in place within the next few weeks.

Councillors have continued to attend training courses throughout the year to hone their skills and the Clerk has achieved her CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) and has embarked on further training via the University of Gloucester, which is being funded by EALC.

The scheme to provide additional street lighting at the entries to the village on the Main Road has proved problematical but the Clerk is continuing to negotiate with EDF Energy to try to get this put in place during the coming summer.

Grants to local organisations have again been made and have been gratefully received.

Although plans for the extension of the village hall with an upgrade to the changing rooms and facilities, the provision of a parish office and generally improved facilities for users of both the hall and pavilion have been further delayed and little progress has been made, it is hoped that this situation is about to improve and that a much more active year will be reported in the 2009 annual report!

Members of the council again took part in a village quiz organised by Horticultural Society in November and formed a team for the WI Quiz Night in March – both events proved extremely enjoyable.

Sadly, Councillor Dorothy Barnes moved away from the village last autumn and her active presence will be much missed. Fortunately for the Council and for the village, Mrs Linda Belgrove agreed to be co-opted to the Council in her place and has proved to be a great asset. Mr Belgrove, too, is proving to be a great support and has a personal mission to remove graffiti around the village and has also adopted the railway station, which is about to receive a major facelift at a community open day on 11 May.

New seats have now been installed at the War Memorial (in memory of the late David Fitch) and outside the shops (to replace the one that was damaged by a car last year), and two picnic tables are about to be put in place on the playing field.

Financially the Council has remained on a sound footing but costs have risen. However, these have been kept under control and the precept has only had to be increased this year by 2.14% (one of the lowest in Tendring DC) to cover rising costs generally.

Overall the Council has worked hard to continue to support the village and to provide the amenities and create the atmosphere that is such a valuable part of rural life.

APPENDIX 2

ASSET REGISTER

<u>PROPERTY</u>	£ (approximate value)
Pavilion and Changing Rooms	131,000
Car Park	unknown
Grass verges and greenswards	unknown
<u>GOODS AND CHATTELS</u>	
HARD COURT AND PLAYING FIELD :	
Storage container	612
Sports equipment and flood lighting	14,000
Basket ball nets	2,000
Signs at entrance to playing field and hard court	200
Fencing around playing field and gates	20,000
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT :	
large whirling platform	3,400
large 3 seat swings	1,500
small three seat swings	800
see saw	1,500
play equipment for under 10's	5,500
pedestal slide	2,300
mobile spring seat	750
OFFICE :	
Computer, printer, scanner, laminator, filing cabinets, stationery and other office equipment, books etc	2,500
Computer Desk and chair	200
MISCELLANEOUS :	
43 Footway lights	15,000
Village sign	345
Notice Board	500
War Memorial	unknown

Litter and dog waste bins	3,500
Various Memorial seats -	2,000
Chairman's chain of office	500
Bus Shelter at Pointer	4,000
Bus Shelter at Ford Lane/Wivenhoe Road	5,000
6 litter pickers, 4 heavy duty buckets and some black bin bags (stored in garage at 1 Laxton Road)	100

Approximate of value of total assets : £217,208

APPENDIX 3

The AGM of the Planning Committee was held following the Parish Council AGM. It was proposed by Cllr Osborne, seconded by Cllr Wiggins and agreed that Cllr J Robinson be re-elected as chairman.

Meetings of the Planning Committee were held on 29 April and 7 May to consider the following applications.

Present : Chairman, Cllr J Robinson, Cllr Ann Wiggins, Cllr J Richards, Cllr J Housden, Cllr S Carlsson Browne, Cllr E Osborne and the Clerk.

Application Number and Applicant	Location	Proposal	Comments
08/00523/FUL Mr and Mrs Webster Letter dated : 24.4.08	186 Wivenhoe Road, Alresford	Change of use from dwelling to residential care home for persons with learning disabilities, including single storey extension to form additional bedrooms and lounge	For consideration at AGM. See comments below at *
08/00242/FUL Mr K Rush Letter dated : 10.4.08	Dormers 196 Wivenhoe Road Alresford	First Floor extension, new garage and remodelling to provide two additional dwellings	Objection on the grounds of intensification of use and increased traffic which will exacerbate an already existing highway problem as the site is on a blind bend at the edge of a 30mph speed limit which is already a cause for concern.
08/00503/FUL Mr C Carroll Letter dated : 7.4.08	Land adjacent to 21 The Heath, Alresford	Retention of the existing stable block on the site	See comments below at **

*** APPLICATION NO : 08/00532/FUL
CHANGE OF USE FROM DWELLING TO RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME FOR PERSONS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES, INCLUDING SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION TO FORM ADDITIONAL BEDROOMS AND LOUNGE
186 WIVENHOE ROAD, ALRESFORD**

The Council objected to the proposal for the following reasons :

1. Clustering :

In the Design and Access Statement on page 2, under “Layout” it was stated in the final paragraph that “Tendring District Council Local Plan Policy COM5 states that changes of use such as this proposal will be considered on their own merit but that the site should not be located away from Settlement boundaries, would not lead to clustering of similar uses in the locality, would not impact on public safety or lead to over development of the site.” It was stated that in all these respects the proposal complied.

The Parish Council did not agree that the proposal complied with COM5, in that there was already one residential care home in close proximity (less than 100 yards) of the proposed development

2. Impact on Public Safety :

Again referring to the Design and Access Statement, COM5 was contravened because there would be intensification of use and increased traffic from staff and visitors which would exacerbate an already existing highway problem. The site exit was on a blind bend with a hidden dip at the edge of a 30mph speed limit which was already a cause for concern.

3. Over Development of the Site :

Again referring to the Design and Access Statement, COM5 was contravened because it was considered that the proposed development would over develop the site with the building virtually doubling in size and being disproportionate with the neighbouring domestic premises.

4. Loss of Amenity

The establishment of a full time residential care home in a private residential area would lead to a loss of amenity for the neighbouring properties. They would not be able to enjoy the peaceful nature of their private garden areas due to the increased noise level from the residents of the care home.

A number of residents living adjacent to the property attended to meeting to make their objections known and would be writing separately.

**** 21 The Heath – Retention of Stable Block**

1. There was insufficient land for two horses. The British Horse Society recommendation for space for horses for grazing and paddocking was 1-1.5 acres per horse. The land in question was only .148 of an acre.
2. There was no access for the provision of fodder, bedding, emergency access or for the removal of waste products.

3. There was no provision for a foul drain for cleaning the stables or for surface water drainage either since the owner had filled in the medieval hump/ditch to the rear of the property in order to make up the stated width of the plot. This had removed a natural feature and there was therefore no natural drainage. As a result of this the land flooded during heavy rainfall and consequently causes further damage to the trees on the rear boundary which are the subject of Tree Preservation Orders. The whole development and its proximity to them would materially effect the viability of the trees.
4. There were no details of any completion to the enclosure at the front boundary.
5. The site was in close proximity to a busy and noisy main road which would affect the safety and well being of the horses.
6. The development was very close to neighbouring properties.

21 The Heath

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 – SECTION 174 ENFORCEMENT APPEALS BY MR CHRISTOPHER CARROLL AND MR ALAN ROBERT CARROLL CONCERNING LAND ADJACENT TO 21 COLCHESTER MAIN ROAD, ALRESFORD.

A letter had been received from TDC informing the Parish Council of enforcement appeals by Public Enquiry lodged concerning the decision of the Council to issue an enforcement notice relating to the alleged breach of planning control and giving their reasons. The Clerk was asked to respond by the deadline date of 28 May listing the grounds for the breach and the grounds for the appeal and supporting the original enforcement notice as requested. A letter to be drafted and circulated to the Planning Committee prior to sending.

ACTION : CLERK

There being no further business Cllr J Robinson closed the meeting at 10.30pm.

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

deposit account – business rate tracker account

	£
Balance at 28 February 2008	51,509.64
+ Interest	512.47

	52,022.11
- Transfer to C/A	10,000.00

BALANCE AT 28 MARCH 2008	42,022.11

community account

INCOME

Balance at 28 February	4,826.26
<u>Add income</u>	
Transfer from BRTA	10,000.00
ECC G- grass cutting grant	383.37
EON - overpayment refund	768.23
TDC – tree planting grant	44.47

	16,022.33
Less Expenditure	3,917.98

BALANCE	£ 12,104.35

EXPENDITURE SINCE 30 JAN 2008

DD – Powergen (F/L & Pavilion)	122.00
DD – EON – street lighting	122.40
Clerk – salary & expenses	1,260.82
NI	105.70
C & C Cleaning	112.80
Just Lamps – maintenance (Jan)	71.16
Alresford Advertiser	100.00
Clerk – travel & broadband	33.10
M & J Green – removal of tree	940.00
Parish Plan – donation	1,000.00
EALC – chairmans day	50.00

	3,917.98

BALANCE AT 28 MARCH 2008 - £ 12,104.35
