

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alresford Parish Council held on
Wednesday 4 March 2009 in the Parish Council Pavilion

PUBLIC FORUM: Five members of the public attended the meeting and reported that further damage had occurred in Cockaynes Wood together with a lot of litter, and motor bikes meeting there on Sundays. It was agreed that some Councillors would meet there possibly with Danny Harris the Community Police officer and members of FoCW on the following Sunday to check on the situation.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman.

Those present : Cllrs J Coates, I Robinson, N Fairbanks, E Osborne, A Wiggins, J Richards, J Housden, L Belgrove, C Barrett, H Green, S Carlsson Browne

03.09.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE₁

No apologies were recorded. All Councillors were present.

03.09.2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Osborne, seconded by Cllr J Robinson and agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4 February 2009 be agreed and signed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

03.09.3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA₂

Cllr N Fairbanks declared a personal interest in item 03.09.22

03.09.4 REPORT FROM PCSO

PCSO Louise Cox was unable to be at the meeting but presented a written report detailing her activities in the past month which included the following :

Nuisance Neighbour dispute	2
Disturbance (related to the above)	3
Nuisance youths	2

Concern for welfare (see below)**

RTC's and road conditions, all taking place on the B1027 when there was black ice on the road	4
Speeding complaint	1
Section 165DL – male arrested for driving whilst disqualified.	

During early February calls were received regarding incidents and black ice between Brook Farm Stables and the turning into Alresford. Residents had continued to complain about dangerous and inconsiderate parking around the school. One parent had received a penalty ticket. Negotiations to try to control parking in the area were in hand. Speedwatch checks had been completed on Wivenhoe Road with the highest recorded speed being 45mph and most of the speeders being local residents.

Concern for welfare** - a call had been received from an elderly gentleman living alone who was having a heart attack. He had been previously visited and identified as being vulnerable during the Christmas Home Alone initiative.

03.09.5 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Derek Robinson reported that he had met with Highways regarding water on the B1027 and on the Brightlingsea Road. Piping was being investigated. A strategic highways meeting had been held at Chelmsford with ECC putting in £61,000,000 and Eastern Region the same amount to improve the A120. A survey on speeding was to take place and the Clerk was asked to contact Councillor Hume regarding this. Councillor Derek Robinson also confirmed that the extra £90,000 funding towards the cost of keeping extra buses running through Alresford early in the morning was to be renewed to 2012. He said that he was pleased to see Councillors from Alresford at the recent mineral policy meeting stating the Alresford point of view. He had recently attended a meeting at the Columbine Center regarding Access to Health Care and had asked for finance to cover the cost of the over 60's using the community bus free in line with other forms of bus transport. The Clerk was asked to write to TDC asking that the concession on buses to be extended to cover the community bus could be considered. Councillor Derek Robinson had also attended a presentation on "Unite" re IT facilities for older people in the district which was enabling some of them to keep in touch with family overseas, for instance, via Internet and cam-recorder facilities.

Cllr Green noted that Highways were now relaying the kerb stones along Clinghoe Hill and was advised that this was thought to be preparatory to resurfacing. Cllr Osborne reminded Councillors that he had reported the hole in the road surface by Brook Farm about a year ago and Cllr Belgrove advised that flooding outside the cabin in Ford Lane continued to be a severe problem. Cllr Barrett advised that water was leaching out of the Cemex pit at the lower end of Ford Lane and purging out of pipes and down the lane. The hedges bordering Ford Lane were also causing problems and needed to be trimmed and access to The Quarters and cottages down at the Hall was proving difficult for dust carts to access. The Clerk was asked to report all these matters to Highways.

Councillor Robinson was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

ACTION : CLERK

03.09.6 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gary Scott reported that he had met with Jenny Jones from Highways regarding the flooding on the B1027 and that he had suggested that the area be sandbagged until the drains had been improved. Large potholes at the junction with Wivenhoe Road and Crestlands had been temporarily filled in and also those in Coppice and Station Road had been repaired. Regarding 21 The Heath, more work had been undertaken and more photographs taken by the enforcement officer. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Fletcher again regarding this matter and asking for action. It was reported that some of the Council houses had damp in the walls and this was being repaired by TDC. The Clerk was asked to report that the street light outside the school was on all day as was one in St Andrews Close. Lights from the Station in Station Road were still too bright and causing a nuisance. The patch of grass at the junction of Orchard and Oak Tree Roads had been damaged by the delivery of a skip - Cllr Gary Scott said that he would try to establish who was responsible. The small grants scheme was to be initiated again and application forms could be obtained from him. He said that he hoped others would apply and those who had not received money in the current financial year would have priority. He had attended a gravel extraction meeting at Danbury and was able to confirm that there was £16,000 of Section 106 money being held at TDC for use in Alresford from three planning applications – money that could be used for play equipment. Cllr Scott said that he would confirm this to the Clerk once he had full details and the Clerk could then apply for this to be released. Cllr J Robinson asked about money for Youth Facilities in the district and Cllr Scott said that he would advise on this at a later date. Cllr Osborne asked Cllr Scott to press for further action on the B1027 regarding the flooding. Finally Cllr Scott advised that, contrary to a report in the local paper, he had not resigned as Lib Dem Councillor.

Cllr Gary Scott was thanked for his attendance and then left the meeting.

ACTION : CLERK : CLLR GARY SCOTT

03.09.7 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- i. Alresford Coop Guild – invitation to Quiz Night – unable to attend as PC meeting
- ii. ECC details of proposed No Waiting restrictions in Ford Lane. Noted. Various residents were responding to ask for the proposals to be further reviewed in light of their various concerns.
- iii. Cascade – Rural Needs led Affordable Housing – further details – noted
- iv. Cedrics Coaches – re speeding response – noted.
- v. Albion Planning re 21 The Heath – the Clerk was asked to respond advising that their client would be welcome to attend any future meetings called on the subject of his property in the normal way but that he would not receive a specific invitation from the Council to do so.
- vi. Ramblers Association – Appeal – noted. No donation to be made.

- vii. CAB Tendring – Appeal – noted. It was proposed by Cllr Carlsson Browne, seconded by Cllr Fairbanks and agreed that a donation of £150 be made.
- viii. TDC re end of rate relief for Pavilion – noted. The Clerk advised that this would make a very small difference to the rates due.
- ix. TDC Community Recycling credits – it was noted that a further £905.48 had been generated by the recycling banks on the car park. The amount of glass in the area was causing a problem and it was agreed that the clerk should purchase a long handled brush and dustpan and she said that she would attempt to keep the area swept on a weekly basis.
- x. TDC – Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2009/2010 – noted
- xi. TDC re provision for sites for Gypsies and Travellers – Briefing Note – noted. No allocation for sites was being made in the Tendring district until the number of provisions required had been identified.
- xii. Mark Garrett re various matters – the Clerk was instructed to write in accordance with Cllr J Robinson' proposed draft response.

ACTION : CLERK

03.09.8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND W/P's :

(i) ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES AND ALLOTMENTS – no meeting but one to be arranged prior to April 1st meeting

(ii) FINANCE – no meeting

(iii) PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL – (a) Playing Field Protection Scheme – whether or not to join – decision to be reported – clerk to add this to April agenda. (b) Hard Court security (new fence and gates). A meeting had taken place with Zaun and the new hard court fencing should be installed within the next 2/3 weeks. The Clerk was asked to look out any details of electric cables in the area and to advise the football teams that there would be no flood lights in use during the construction period. Also to advise the Church that this would be happening. Representatives from Wicksteed had not attended the proposed meeting to progress the installation of the new Toddler Area equipment and this would be chased. Some progress on the pavilion valuation and lease had been made following a meeting with members of the AVHMC but there was still quite a lot of work to do in separating the various services of the two buildings. Further modifications were being made to the plans for the new village hall toilet block.

(iv) COMMUNICATIONS AND CCTV - Cllr Osborne reported that the CCTV was now working well and that reception was exceptionally good at night when all those using the field could be clearly identified. The Clerk was asked to provide a notebook to log details of CCTV activity. Cllr Richards advised that the web site was now fully up to date.

(v) HIGHWAYS - the Clerk was asked to respond to the Speed Management Strategy.

(vi) PLANNING - *see Appendix 1*

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

(viii) GENERAL PURPOSES – *meeting re Youth Council – see Appendix 2.* The Clerk to take this forward and arrange a further meeting in due course.

ACTION : CLERK

03.09.9 MONTHLY PAYMENTS AS LISTED BELOW :

Clerk's salary (DD)	1285.00
NI	106.50
A & J Lighting – Monthly maintenance - January	69.64
A & J Lighting – call out	76.27
A&J Call Out (Coach/Laxton Rd junction)	95.11
C & C Cleaning (invoice 3556)	27.60
C & C Cleaning (invoice 3688)	27.60
C & C Cleaning (invoice 362)	27.60
C & C Cleaning (invoice 3745)	27.60
EON – street lighting (DD)	120.04
EON – Pavilion and floodlighting (DD)	60.00
Allianz – extra premium for CCTV insurance cover	54.99
Alresford Advertiser	25.00
Glasdon – dog waste and litter bins	990.97
ILCM Membership Renewal	133.00
Clerk – expenses (travel)	99.43

It was proposed by Cllr Osborne, seconded by Cllr J Robinson and agreed that these payments should be met.

ACTION : CLERK

03.09.10 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

It was proposed by Cllr Green, seconded by Cllr J Robinson and agreed that the financial statement for January 2009 be accepted.

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

- i. B1027 – a meeting with Thorrington Parish Council had taken place. Thorrington were fully supportive of Alresford's position regarding the B1027 with regard to both speeding and the problems with the flooding.

- ii. A meeting to review requirements for gravel extraction in the area had taken place at Thorrington and a further meeting to finalise the Alresford response had been called for Thursday 5 March at 7.30pm.

03.09.12 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed that presentations should be made at the APM to the crossing keepers who had worked in Alresford over recent years and Cllr J Robinson said that he would be prepared to give a brief synopsis of the gravel extraction meeting if required to do so. James Burrell's report of his Leadership Training expedition to Norway was to be on display and the clerk was asked to purchase wine and vouchers and make all necessary arrangements.

ACTION : CLERK

03.09.13 AFFORDABLE RURAL HOUSING

Mrs Moore had reported some response from the Railways Board regarding the land off Station Road and had also done some further investigations into land off the Main Road near to Cockaynes and had spoken both to the planners and the current owner about this. A further report would be made to the April meeting.

03.09.14 BENCH OUTSIDE SHOPS

Councillors agree to continue to monitor the situation and review it again in three months. The Clerk to add the matter to the July agenda.

ACTION : CLERK

03.09.15 STREET LIGHTING CONTRACT

Quotations had been requested from the following contractors regarding renewal of the street lighting contract :

- i. A&J Lighting (current contractor)
- ii. Aerial Contractors Southern
- iii. T Cartledge & Co

The Chairman opened the tenders received (i & iii) and it was agreed that the current contractor should be invited to continue.

ACTION : CLERK

03.09.16 PARISH COUNCIL COMPUTER

Cllr J Richards reported that he was working on a format to establish protocols for the use and maintenance of computer and other equipment for inclusion in Standing Orders and the Clerk was asked to add this to the April agenda.

ACTION : CLERK

03.09.17 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Consideration was given to a proposal by Cllr Belgrove that a monthly newsletter be produced by the Clerk giving a brief report of the PC meeting (not Minutes) and any other items of interest. This to be placed at key points around the village for collection (shops, Church, Village Hall Notice Board , The Pointer etc) The proposal was seconded by Cllr Osborne who suggested an initial print run of 50 copies with the matter to be further reviewed in six months. Cllr Osborne agreed to think of a title for the newsletter and advise the Clerk.

ACTION : CLERK : CLLR OSBORNE

03.09.18 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Having carefully considered the provisions of the revised Act, it was proposed by Cllr Belgrove, seconded by Cllr Carlsson Browne and agreed that the revised Freedom of Information Act be adopted.

ACTION : CLERK

03.09.19 RURAL SERVICES NETWORK

Further information on this had been requested and the clerk was asked to add the matter to the April agenda.

ACTION : CLERK

03.09.20 BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

It was agreed that Alresford should enter this and the documents were passed to Cllr Barrett who would call a meeting of the Environment Working Party and put the matter in hand in time for the deadline date.

ACTION : CLLR C BARRETT AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

03.09.21 HIGHWAYS BONANZA

The Clerk advised that grant funding had been received from Community Initiatives Fund (Highways) of £27,000. This would cover the cost of Vehicle Activated signs and village gates in an effort to reduce speeding through the village. She was to have a meeting with highways to discuss the details of this and possible position of the gates and VAS's and to make arrangements for putting required works in hand.

ACTION : CLERK

03.09.22 INSTALATION OF NEW DOG WASTE AND LITTER BINS

Quotations had been requested from the following contractors for installation of 6 new dog waste and litter bins at sites around the village :

- i. Nick Fairbanks
- ii. Mick Whitting
- iii. J Murphy

The chairman opened the tenders received (i and ii) and it was proposed by Cllr Carlsson Browne, seconded by Cllr Housden and agreed that the quotation from Nick Fairbanks be accepted. The Clerk was asked to confirm this and ask him to put the work in hand at the earliest possible opportunity.

ACTION : CLERK

03.09.23 PAVILION ROOF REPAIR

Quotations had been received for repairs to the pavilion roof, the renewal of the time switch serving the flood lights and the installation of a new outside light in the area between the pavilion and the shower/changing rooms. It was agreed that the quotation from East Green Contractors of Brightlingsea be accepted and the Clerk was also asked to get an asbestos survey of the Pavilion done – possibly in conjunction with the village hall. Cllr Carlsson Browne would advise her on this.

ACTION : CLERK : CLLR CARLSSON BROWNE

03.09.24 PAVILION OUTSIDE LIGHT

See above - item 23

03.09.25 YOUTH CLUB

Cllr J Robinson reported that Alresford Youth Projects would be starting a Youth Club for young people living in Alresford in school years 7-11 (ages 11-16) starting on the 20 March. This would be held at the Village Hall from 7- 8.30pm every other Friday. Registration forms would be available from the Village Hall on the 6 March from 7pm and they were asking anyone interested in helping to come along then for an informal chat. It was hoped that visits from the Tendring Youth Bus and other activities would also be included from time to time. Insurance was being organised and various volunteers to help had been CRB checked. An initial admission fee of £1 was being

proposed. It was proposed by Cllr Green, seconded by Cllr Barrett and agreed by all that £250 be donated towards the cost of the Club from the contingency grants budget and the Clerk was asked to draw a cheque for approval at the April meeting. The Clerk was also asked to put a notice on the board giving dates for the next three months Youth Club meetings and publish these in the Advertiser.

ACTION : CLERK

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

- i. The Clerk advised that 60 trees and shrubs had been delivered from the RCCE – the majority of these would be planted around the village and playing field with 10 being passed on to the school.
- ii) The Clerk advised that following her letters to local businesses, a cheque for £250 had been received from Alresford Fine Furnishings towards the cost of the new litter and dog waste bins. She had already written to them and the appreciation of Councilors to this generous gesture was warmly welcomed.
- iii) Cllr J Robinson advise that he was not able to attend the Planning Services Meeting on 17 March at Brightlingsea but that Cllr Carlsson Browne and Cllr Osborne would be attending.
- iv) Cllr Belgrove asked when the No Overnight Parking sign was to be put up near to St Peters and was advised by the Clerk that this was being done on 5 March. Cllr Belgrove also advised that there would be a TDC Cabinet meeting on 12 March at Brightlingsea and further, that she would like an opportunity at some point to explain her role on the Police Authority. The Clerk was asked to put this on the April agenda.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked all Councilors for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10.10pm.

The next meeting of Alresford Parish Council will be held

on Wednesday 1 April 2009 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Pavilion

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held in the pavilion on Wednesday 4 March at 10.15pm.

Those present : Cllr J Robinson (Chairman), Cllrs Wiggins, Carlsson Browne, Osborne, Richards, Housden and the Clerk.

09/0002/FUL Mr R Hinson, Oak Tree Road, Alresford – Single storey rear extension – No objection.

ESS/04/09/TEN – Land at Plumptions Farm, St Osyth Road, Alresford – continuation of development without complying with Condition 17 (restoration) attached to Planning Permission ESS/52/97/TEN(R) seeking variations to the approved restoration scheme to allow for revised contours and the existing amenity lakes to be used for nature conservation purposes, angling and the creation of wet grassland conservation areas.

The Council objected in the strongest possible terms to the proposal to vary the approved planning condition from 'conservation ponds' to fishing lakes on the following grounds :

1. The applicant had already undertaken works in the last couple of years, possibly in contravention of the approved plan, which had undermined the original intention for this to be a conservation area.
2. The Water Vole and Otter Survey and Habitat surveys submitted with the application were seriously flawed as it was known that there were Water Voles and Badgers within 50m of the North Western site boundary and there were local reports of both species having been seen on the site over the last few years. If the works that had been already carried out had caused the disappearance of these species then it was surely a breach of the current approval and should be subject to an enforcement notice.
3. Since the extraction works ceased the area was regenerating extremely well and had attracted a vast array of feeding, nesting and overwintering bird life and it seemed inconceivable that left to regenerate further this would not become a nationally important haven for these and all number of animal and reptile species. The introduction of up to 100 anglers fishing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week did not appear to be in any way compatible with the approved use as a conservation area.
4. The access from the B1027 was at a position that had been the scene of numerous accidents including the death of a horse from the stables opposite the entrance and was on a section of road subject to the national speed limit. In addition 3 further stable blocks adjacent to the entrance road had been approved in the last year and it was felt that the possibility of cars arriving at all times of the day and night would cause serious security issues.

5. The site was within the Coastal Protection Belt which restricted development to uses that could not be located elsewhere and there was no justification within the application for going against this policy. In addition it was believed that part of the site actually fell within an SSSI and there did not appear to be any compelling argument to allow a purely commercial operation within this area.
6. The neighbouring properties would suffer a loss of amenity due to both noise and light pollution of traffic movement being allowed at any hour of the day or night in what was otherwise a very tranquil setting and it was felt that this would affect the suitability of the site for nesting birds.

Finally, there did not appear to be any benefit to the local community from these proposals at all and the Council therefore urged rejection of this application and the enforcement of the implementation of original approval.

There being no further business Cllr J Robinson thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 10.45pm.