

# ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alresford Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 7 November 2007 in the Parish Council Pavilion at 7.30pm

**PRESENT** : Cllr J Coates – Chairman, Cllr C Barrett, Cllr E Osborne , Cllr N Fairbanks, Cllr H Green, Cllr I Robinson, Cllr J Housden, Cllr J Richards, Cllr S Carlsson Browne and the Clerk.

Also present were four members of the public.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman who also thanked members of the Council for the flowers sent to her for her recent birthday.

Apologies were received Cllr Wiggins who was on holiday.

## **11.07.1 PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Andrew Partner of Wivenhoe Road attended the meeting to express concern regarding aggressive, intimidating and rude behaviour from his postman. A complaint had been made to the individuals manager who had instructed him to make an apology. To date no acceptable apology had been made. The Council thanked Mr Partner for his attendance and advised that, although at this stage they did not feel it was a matter in which they could intervene, they would appreciate being kept advised of any further developments or similar troubles.

Mrs Linda Belgrove advised that she was now a member of the Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAPS).

Mr Parker attended with regard to 21 The Heath

## **11.07.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST<sup>1</sup>**

Cllrs Fairbanks and Robinson declared an interest in item 11.7.10

**11.07.3** It was proposed by Cllr Barrett, seconded by Cllr Housden and agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3 October 2007 to be agreed and signed with one small amendment. Matters arising considered were an update on Affordable Rural Housing. Cllr Carlsson Browne advised that he had again been in touch with Mrs Moor of ERH and has asked for pressure to be brought to resolve the land ownership and transfer difficulty. It was considered that if all the land could not be released in one tranche then phasing the development in as land became available would be an alternative option. The Clerk would chase Mrs Moor again for a report at the December meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Local Government Act 2000 Part III

**ACTION : CLERK**

**11.07.4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr D Robinson said in his report that he was aware of the vandalism problems being experienced by Alresford residents and had been in touch with the police to request increased coverage. At County level it was again budget preparation time and there were increased pressures on the Highways and Adult Social Care budgets, with affordable rural housing a major issue together with the proposed post office closures. - on both of which matters Lord Hanningfield was taking action. Cllr Osborne asked if there was anything further to report regarding the lower speed limit on the B1027 but Cllr Robinson said that he was not aware of any further developments and it was still necessary to get the police to back the proposal. The Parish Council would continue to press for this. Cllr Robinson was thanked for his report and left the meeting.

**11.07.5 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Cllr G Scott had received an e-mail from Tendring regarding 21 The Heath detailing the enforcement order and the application for the retention of the stable block. A meeting to discuss these matters was to be held with members of the Parish Council and the Planning Department at Tendring and the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements for this. Reports of damage to the dug-outs on the playing field and graffiti and other nuisances over the Halloween and Bonfire Night weekends had been reported and Cllr Scott advised that his committee at Tendring would be doing a site visit to Stanway Dump shortly to observe advanced methods of dealing with refuse. An extraordinary meeting was to be held, with cross party support, at Tendring regarding proposed Post Office closures in the district and he had been advised that One Railways were once again considering removing the Sunday stopping service for Alresford Station. The Clerk was asked to write an additional letter of protest to this proposal.

Comments had been made welcoming the completion of the new bus shelter by the installation of its concrete floor although it was noted that twice during the process of laying this the concrete had been vandalised. Cllr Fairbanks advised that he had some "Mind The Step" notices on order and these would be installed as soon as they arrived. The shelter adjacent to the Pointer had once again been graffitied and Mr Belgrove had asked the Clerk for more graffiti remover upon receipt of which he would clean it up again together with other areas of graffiti around the village.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**11.07.6 REPORT FROM PCSO**

During October the following occurrences were reported :

Call out on behalf of another force	1	
Civil dispute		1
Fireworks nuisance	1	
Alarm intruder (false activation)	1	

Advice required	1
Nuisance Youths	1
Request for agency involving seizing a vehicle being driven without insurance	1
Thefts (Charity box and electronic scarecrow)	2
Criminal damage (two incidents involving objects being thrown at moving vehicles and one incident of damage to property)	3

Police surgeries for 2008 would commence in January – dates and times to be confirmed. Although attendance was low at the last surgery it was felt important to continue to provide this service to residents.

The issue of bicycle lights was a priority. The PCSO was particularly concerned at the number of parents who do not ensure that their childrens' cycles have lights, or seem unaware that they are being ridden without them and that the children are not adequately visible. She was taking action with regard to this and reporting to parents whenever a child was seen riding bikes without lights. Conversations and consultation with young people were continuing and the lack of somewhere for them to meet to just sit and chat remained the priority. A suggestion was to be made by the PCSO to the Village Hall committee that the hall might possibly be opened up for their use on occasions and the Parish Council were actively looking into the provision of picnic tables on the playing field for them. PCSO Cox and PC Jo Bennett had presented a talk on Stranger Danger to children at the school and were to do a similar presentation to the Beaver Group during November. Visible patrols were carried out on Halloween night with only one nuisance reported although it was stressed that all incidents causing concern should be reported since if they were not, it was not possible to take any action.

#### **11.07.7 21 THE HEATH**

As noted in Cllr G Scott's report, a meeting to discuss these matters was to be held with members of the Parish Council and the Planning Department at Tendring. It was proposed by Cllr J Housden, seconded by Cllr J Richards and agreed that the Clerk should arrange this, ideally for an early morning.

#### **ACTION : CLERK**

#### **11.07.8 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

- (i) ACRFC re ladies toilets - since receipt of this letter it had been established that the land in question was in fact owned by the AVHMC and the Clerk was therefore instructed to write advising ACRFC that the PC would support an initiative to build the required new toilets once AVHMC had given their permission for the land to be used.
- (ii) TDC re tree planting grant award - £100 - noted
- (iii) Brett – re Cockaynes Wood and damage to footpaths - noted
- (iv) Essex Playing Field Association – notification of Award for Best Kept Playing

Field.

- (v) Tendring South NAP re anti social behaviour action – date of next meeting – 3.3.2008 – the Clerk to add this to the December agenda.
- (vi) TDC – re Councils' Statement of Account – available on the web site - noted
- (vii) RCCE re Rural Post Office Closures – the Clerk to circulate this to all Councillors
- (viii) ORR re level crossings – an unsatisfactory response – the Clerk to continue to press for more detail.
- (ix) TDC re Planning decision – wall at 58A Station Road – application declined

### **ACTION : CLERK**

## **11.07.9 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES**

- (i) ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES & ALLOTMENTS – a meeting to be held prior to the December PC meeting
- (ii) FINANCE - Report of Finance Working Party with budget and precept proposals for 2007-2008 – see below
- (iii) PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL – no meeting had been held. The Clerk to write to AHVMC to press for an early meeting to take matters forward now that the precise ownership of the disputed land had been established.
- (iv) COMMUNICATIONS – Annual Newsletter - Cllr Osborne said that this would cost approximately £400 to produce and was advised that this had been allowed for in the budget contingency and that the Clerk was also applying for a grant funding.
- (v) HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS – no meeting had been held but it was noted that the light at the War Memorial had been damaged, reported and repaired.
- (vi) PLANNING - *see appendix 1 and planning decision re Alresford Lodge (attached)*
- (vii) HUMAN RESOURCES, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING – no meeting held
- (viii) HEALTH AND WELFARE – no meeting held

### **(ii) FINANCE :**

The Finance working party had met on 3 November to prepare proposed budget figures for 2008-9. These were presented to members of the Council and explained by Cllr J Robinson. The majority of the proposals were agreed in principle but it was proposed by Cllr J Robinson that the employment of a PCSO should be terminated on the grounds that this was not fully accountable, the PCSO appeared to have a disproportionate amount of paperwork to do and although the Council were kept advised as to when the PCSO would be working and what hours, they did not see completed time sheets as evidence to fully account for the hours worked. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Green. Cllr Richards proposed that this motion be deferred until the December meeting which the Clerk should arrange for PS Hastings and possibly others to attend to give any further information or advice, after which a decision should be made. The Clerk was also asked to try to get members of the public to attend the meeting so that a properly balanced decision could be made based on public

perceptions and requirements. This was seconded by Cllr N Fairbanks and agreed.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**11.07.10 MONTHLY PAYMENTS :**

Clerk's salary and expenses (DD)	1224.08
NI	101.00
Just Lamps –	
Monthly maintenance – September	71.16
Just Lamps – repairs o/s war memorial and o/s 186 Wivenhoe Road	113.06
C & C Cleaning (invoice 10245)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 10373 )	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 10033 )	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 10439)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 10493)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 10561)	28.20
EON – street lighting - (DD)	122.40
Powergen – Pavilion/flood lights (DD)	122.00
Powergen – Pavilion/floodlighting (DD)	122.00
TDC – Pavilion rates (DD)	57.00
PCSO - June – September	3,375.00
Broadband	30.00
Ramblers Association – affiliation fee	36.00
Wicksteed – Roundabout	5740.49
Wicksteed – roundabout base	1652.60
UAP – fertilizer for playing field	325.19
Banner – stationery	77.43
N Fairbanks – bus shelter base	265.00
N Fairbanks – bus shelter base - repairs to vandalised new base x 2	30.00
Travel – clerk	109.61

It was proposed by Cllr green, seconded by Cllr Carlsson Browne and agreed that the above payment be made.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**11.07.11 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

It was proposed by Cllr Green, seconded by Cllr J Housden and agreed that the financial statements for August/September 2007 prepared by the Clerk should be accepted.

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

- (i) TDALC – 24 October 2007 – *see appendix 2*
- (ii) Tendring Rural South NAP Public Meeting - *see appendix 3*
- (iii) Parish Plan – see attached

**11.07.13 ECC– GUIDE TO DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS AND THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

The above document having been circulated for comments, the Clerk was instructed to respond by the deadline of 16 November in line with Councillors' comments.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**11.07.14 WAR MEMORIAL BENCH**

The Clerk advised that she had not yet succeeded in getting any grant funding towards this but it was proposed by Cllr J Robinson, seconded by Cllr Fairbanks and agreed that she should go ahead and order benches for both the War Memorial and to replace the one outside the shops and get these installed as soon as possible. She was also advised by Cllr Barrett that she should try to get some funding from the Wivenhoe Branch of the British Legion and he would let her have details.

**ACTION : CLERK : CLLR C BARRETT**

**11.07.15 YOUTH COUNCIL**

No further progress report on funding for this was available. The Clerk to take the matter forward to the December agenda.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**11.07.16 CLOSURE OF ALRESFORD POST OFFICE**

It was noted that Alresford Post Office was not on the current list of post offices for closure.

**11.07.17 CAR PARK**

Cllr Green had done some research and established that the current value of the car park was between £5,000 and £10,000. The Clerk to note this with the insurers and on the asset list. It was also noted that many of the grass verges, if not all of them, appeared to belong to ECC. The Clerk was therefore asked write to ECC to establish the ownership of the areas under Section 40 of the Highways Act 1950 or under Section 38 of the Highways Act 1980, and if it was found that they did indeed belong to ECC establish whether the County rather than the Parish be paying for their upkeep.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**11.07.18 LEVEL CROSSINGS**

In view of the less than satisfactory response by ORR to queries about the length of time the new barriers would remain down once the changes had taken place, Cllr Green proposed that the Council should object to the changes in the crossing gate arrangements. This proposal was not seconded but Cllr Green's objection was noted and the Clerk would once again write trying to establish accurate information regarding this.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**11.07.19 TREE AT COACH ROAD/LAXTON ROAD JUNCTION**

A request had been received from Mr Fitzgibbon of 21 Coach Road that a tree sited on the grassed area adjacent to his bungalow should be pruned. The Clerk to seek quotations and advice regarding this.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**11.07.20 EEDA – DRAFT REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

The document having been circulated, the Clerk was instructed to respond on behalf of the Council in accordance with their notes.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**11.07.21 COURSES AVAILABLE**

- (i) Roles and responsibilities – 13 November
- (ii) Statutory Planning Day – 29 November

Councillors were advised of the above courses but none were able to attend.

**11.07.23 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA**

Cllr J Robinson and Cllr Osborne had tried to attend a meeting run by RCCE but for which the wrong details had been given – they had arrived late having established that the meeting was not being held where it had been advertised and had not found the exercise particularly useful. Cllr J Robinson advised that he would be responding personally to the letter from Mr Crickmore in the last edition of The Advertiser

Cllr Fairbanks asked that the question of the Youth Shelter be re-opened and put on the December agenda. Cllr Greens and Coates both tendered advance apologies for absence for the December meeting due to holiday arrangements.

Cllr Coates advised that she had been invited to an event to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the village hall but was unable to go. No-other Councillor was free to attend in her place. Mrs Coates also advised that it had been suggested to her that Scramblers (a church based organisation in the village) would like to help with fund

raising for equipment for the childrens play area on the field. She would be having a meeting with Mrs Clark about this later in the month.

The Clerk advised that she had purchased a nearly new good quality 4-drawer filing cabinet for £20 and that she had arranged a £25 discount from the cost of the new roundabout to cover the cost of clearing up the car park after its installation. She had been interviewed by the Evening Gazette about the firework damage to the telephone box in Coach Road and would write to British Telecom advising them of the damage.

**ACTION : CLERK**

At this point Mrs Coates closed the meeting to the public with thanks to them for their attendance.

**11.07.22 CASUAL VACANCY**

Following the advertising of the casual vacancy and confirmation from TDC that no other applicant had put forward for this, it was proposed by Cllr E Osborne, seconded by Cllr J Housden and agreed that Mrs Linda Belgrove should be co-opted. The Clerk to contact Mrs Belgrove and arrange the necessary paperwork to be completed.

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

**Further details of Council matters can be obtained from any  
Councillor,  
or the Clerk on 825714  
or from the web site [www.alresford.org.uk](http://www.alresford.org.uk)**

## APPENDIX 1

Application Number and Applicant	Location	Proposal	Comments
No : 07/01584/FUL Letter dated : 16.10.07 Mr D Rutley	46 Coppice Road	First Floor extension	No objection
07/01765/TPO Ian Allston Tree Surgery	Old School House Ford Lane, Alresford	2 Chestnuts – reduce epicormic growth and left remaining branches min 6m above ground level	No objection
07/01763/TPO Mr D Wendon	20 Wivenhoe Road, Alresford	1 blue conifer - fell	No objection

## ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting  
held on Wednesday 17 October 2007 in the Parish Council Pavilion**

**In attendance were :** - Cllr J Robinson, chairman; Cllr J Housden, Cllr E Osborne, Cllr J Richards, Cllr S Carlsson Browne, The Clerk and one member of the public

### **1. APOLGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies were received but Cllr Ann Wiggins and Cllr C Barrett were unable to be present.

### **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA<sup>2</sup>**

Cllr J Robinson declared an interest in item 5 as a member of Friends of Cockaynes Wood

### **3. APPLICATION NO : 07/01576/FUL – 46 COPPICE ROAD**

**Loft Conversion to create additional accommodation and en-suite to bedroom 1 by extending existing dormer window**

No objections.

### **4. APPLICATION NO : 07/00759/FUL – LAND ADJACENT TO THE HEATH - RETENTION OF STABLE BLOCK 21**

Members of the Council objected to this application as this is not an appropriate or credible use of the land for the following reasons :

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<sup>2</sup> Local Government Act 2000 Part III

(i) There is insufficient land for two horses. The British Horse Society recommendation for space for horses for grazing and paddocking is 1-1.5 acres per horse. The land in question is only .148 of an acre.

(ii) There is no access for the provision of fodder, bedding, emergency access or for the removal of waste products.

(iii) There is no provision for a foul drain for cleaning the stables or for surface water drainage either since the owner has filled in the medieval hump/ditch to the rear of the property in order to make up the stated width of the plot. This has removed a natural feature and there is therefore no natural drainage. As a result of this the land floods during heavy rainfall and consequently does 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 will materially effect the viability of these trees.

(iv) There are no details of any completion to the enclosure at the front boundary.

(v) The site is in close proximity to a busy and noisy main road which will affect the safety and well being of the horses.

(vi) The development was very close to neighbouring properties and had been built in defiance of planning objections.

**5. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (as amended)**

**Application No : TEN/758/91**

**Villa Farm Quarry, Cockaynes Orchards, Cockaynes Lane, Alresford**

**Condition Nos : 17, 19 and 21**

**Details relating to : Restoration of Heathland and Water (17) Scheme of Planting of Trees, Shrubs, Reeds and other plants (19) Provision of After-care Scheme (21)**

## APPENDIX 2

### TENDRING DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Chairman's Notes of Meetings Attended submitted to TDALC Meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

#### **East Essex Area Forum**

I attended the Forum meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September entitled 'The Essex Environment Summit' held at The Venture Centre, Lawford. This meeting, chaired by Mike Page CC, welcomed Lord Hanningfield and about 100 interested 'stakeholders' including delegates from, ECC, TDC, EALC and the Voluntary Sector. The Forum received presentations on The Essex Strategy and The Essex Environment, with key issues identified by a County Task Force; issues that included the priorities of climate change, quality environment, sustainable development, bio-diversity-living landscape-cycle routes, environmental education, waste minimalisation, climate change mitigation, water resources, coastal issues and rural regeneration. There was a plenary discussion led by the Chairman followed by group discussions and feedback. The group that included me was almost entirely from Tendring and they identified their three leading priorities as adaptation to climate change, waste minimalisation and the role, with more support, for the voluntary sector. It was made apparent that this 'Summit' was one of 6 or 7 proposed throughout Essex on a number of subjects intended as part of a consultation process informing the future strategy for Essex County Council. To conclude the Chairman drew attention to the Government proposal to close 2,500 post offices in the U.K. by December 2008. Members should note that a six weeks consultation period will be taking place beginning shortly which should be published in local post offices and on various web-sites.

#### **EALC Annual General Meeting**

I attended this meeting with other members of the TDALC on 19<sup>th</sup> September at Essex Record Office, Chelmsford. The meeting was preceded by a 'Making the Links Event'. The hosts included Cll'r. John Jowers ECC, Portfolio Holder for Localism and Legal and Peter Baggott Chairman EALC. This event was an exercise intended to illustrate the problems of a fictitious parish council and a solution of partnerships to include District and County Councils; leading to Local Area Agreements linking with available funding streams. Lord Hanningfield has recently announced an additional £200,000 funding to support partnership working to develop local initiatives that will no doubt link with Local Area Agreements. Updated LAA documents are available on the ECC web-site [www.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.essexcc.gov.uk). More information will accompany the series of LAA articles.

The business agenda of the AGM included the acceptance of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts, circulated to members. An increase of the Annual Fees to EALC of 2.5% was agreed as were a number of previously

notified amendments and alterations to the constitution. These alterations allowed the appointment of up to two vice chairmen. It was agreed that the Executive Committee could appoint a Financial Consultant to undertake matters to the benefit of EALC financial management. There then followed the presentations and awards received in the year 2006/7 for Education and Council Achievements and County Competitions. The date for the next AGM was agreed as 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at a venue to be agreed.

Members to note:

EALC 'Supporting Your Community Voluntary Organisations', leaflets and sample application forms, available on EALC E- Toolkit from [Jacqui.hearn@ealc.gov.uk](mailto:Jacqui.hearn@ealc.gov.uk)

EALC and Essex Training Partnership calendar of events 2008 circulated to T/PC.

Rural and Social Community Programme Grant Scheme launched 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007. Electronic copy to [info@ealc.gov.uk](mailto:info@ealc.gov.uk) or hard copy phone or write to EALC.

ECC Community Tree Planting Scheme 2007- Financial assistance {£500 to £5000} for projects on publicly accessible community group land in Essex. This is to coincide with National Tree Week 21.11.07 - 2.12.07. For more information you can contact Simon Smith, ECC Natural Environment, E3, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH. [E-mail [LEandT@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:LEandT@essexcc.gov.uk)]. The closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007.

#### Tendring LSP Executive Board

I attended a Board meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September at Clacton Town Hall. The Board received a feedback presentation and participated in a workshop with Joseph White from Zurich Municipal on 'Risk Assessment' relative to the work of the LSP. We considered a report by the Head of Leisure Service TDC introducing the Tendring Cultural Strategy 2007-2012 and received a presentation by Sherry Dobbin and Tony Beckwith of Haring Woods Associates, the consultants engaged in developing the strategy. Further reports were received on Future Budgeting, a Communication and Media Relations Protocol, a Theme Lead Partners Meeting, a LSP[wp] report on a 'Learning Organisation' and 'Electronic Warehouse' and an update on Local Area Agreements 1 and 2. Minutes of this meeting are awaited. A Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> November 2007 to consider the responses following the public consultation on the draft Community Strategy for Tendring.

#### TDALC/TDC

With our Hon. Sec. and Cllr. Dave Halsey [Ardleigh], I attended the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at Weeley Council Offices. TDC was represented by Cll'rs. Michael Talbot, Environment Portfolio Holder, who chaired the meeting and Jose Powell, Chairman Licensing Committee.

Also present were Chris Kitcher A/Head of Environmental Services and Amanda Cobb TDC.

The agenda included the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005, Equality and Diversity and the Draft Sustainable Community Strategy. On matters arising from previous minutes, TDC Regeneration Portfolio Holder had written to the PM to express TDC concerns on the affect of Post Office closures and the Governments reduction in rural subsidy, receiving a similar reply to us. With regard to 'Fly-Tipping' warning signs, CK can assist following receipt of a schedule of 'Hot Spots' identified by TDALC members and forwarded by HON. Sec. \*

PCSOs in uniform have been authorised to issue tickets for 'depositing litter' and 'dog fouling' in Tendring also Parking Enforcement Officers and Community Wardens for 'litter' and Dog Wardens for 'dog fouling'.

A discussion took place on the Government approved ENCAM courses obligatory for Parish Council 'Authorised Officers' and should parishes seek a Tendring Group course to bring down costs then this could be identified by TDALC and processed through an application to TDC\*. T/Parishes with current concerns should 'information gather' and consult with Police/PCSO'S to assist with enforcement.

Amanda Cobb outlined the responsibility of an Equality and Diversity Champion who gives, in essence, a service quality impact assessment to ensure that policy decisions taken by councils through consultation reasonably take into consideration the affects on all groups in society whether ethnic, disabled, illiterate or blind etc., or in anyway isolated from the consultation processes. The subject may be further researched on the Tendring Web-site.

The TDALC view of the Community Strategy was sought by TDC. This was given as not being distinctive for the sum of the views expressed by individual members who have responded as part of the TDC consultation process.

Future meetings have been scheduled for 25.01.08, 30.05.08 and 26.09.08.

\* denotes possible agenda items for TDALC meeting 24<sup>th</sup> October 2007

**Mike Brown. Chairman TDALC**

**8<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

**MEETING BETWEEN MEMBERS OF TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL  
AND REPRESENTATIVES OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS**

**28 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER – WEELEY COUNCIL OFFICES**

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor Michael Talbot	- TDC Councillor
	Councillor Jose Powell	- TDC Councillor
	Michael Brown	- TDALC
	David Hinds	- TDALC
	David Halsey	- TDALC
	Richard Walker	- TDC
	Stephen Sparrow	- TDC
	Amanda Cobb	- TDC

(2.30 p.m. – 4.25 p.m.)

–Election of Chairman

Councillor Michael Talbot agreed to act as Chairman for this meeting.

–Apologies for Absence

Councillor Mark Cossens.

–Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 September 2006 having been circulated were agreed as a correct record.

–Matters Arising from the Minutes.

Item 3 - Threat to Rural Post Offices: ROW reported that the former Regeneration Portfolio Holder Mick Page had written to Alistair Darling MP voicing his concern at the threatened closure of a number of rural Post Offices. MB informed the meeting that it was now being announced that 2,500 post offices across the country were designated for closure by December 2008. There will be a six week consultation but no date had yet been set for this. No list has yet been produced but it is understood that should there be sufficient

pressure to allow a threatened post office to remain open then another post office, previously not on the list, would be closed. MB felt the whole exercise was purely one of cost cutting. It was agreed that it was very important to raise awareness of the proposed closures across the district.

- ROW to arrange with TDC PR officer to issue a press release drawing the public's attention to the proposed closures and any details of the consultation process.

Item 5(3) and Item 6(3) of the minutes of 6 June 2006 meeting – DHi said there had still been no response on either of these items. ROW informed the meeting that he had chased this issue and produced a copy of an email reassuring him that both items had been dealt with.

- **SS to check with Environmental Services and report back directly to the Secretary of TDALC.**

Item 8 – MB was very pleased to note that TDC had at its most recent Council meeting agreed to support the preservation of the railway crossing gates at Frinton as an icon of the town.

#### –Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005

MB outlined the issues with regard the opportunity for TPC having greater involvement in dealing with incidents of litter and fly tipping, particularly the ability to issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCN) but the inability to enforce those that were ignored. There was a general view amongst TPC that PCN should be issued firstly by PCSO's, then the Police, followed by TDC, and lastly TPC. SS explained the current position with regard enforcement officers. PCSO's had completed training and were now issuing FPN, and Police had started to issue PCN but after an initial surge they now appeared very low in numbers. There were two, soon to be three, neighbourhood wardens in the Golf Green and Pier wards that could issue PCN but the wardens were limited to just this area (under Safer, Stronger, Cleaner Funding). Consideration was being given to using the Parking Enforcement Officers. Any individual could report incidents of littering and fly tipping but would need to give a witness statement and be prepared to go to court. Recently there had been a high number of incidents of tyre dumping.

MB asked whether, with the rolling out of PCSO's across the district and issuing FPN, could they then turn to TDC to chase non-payers. SS confirmed this and stated that a copy of any PCN was always sent to TDC and unpaid ones were chased by the District Council.

- SS agreed that TDC would provide TPC with information on success of fine payment along with the reasons should an outstanding fine not be pursued.

DHa requested that TPC also receive some statistics on numbers issued and numbers paid.

- SS offered to collate information and feedback to TPC.

MT explained that police must be formally qualified to issue FPN.

- TDC to look at possibility of carrying out block training.

DHa was concerned that the extra work on TPC for gathering information would fall on the TPC Clerk who, in many instances, already put in greater hours than they were being paid for. MT replied that those TPC registered as Quality Councils were allowed to keep the money raised through fines and could consider some form of reward payment to the Clerk.

MB asked about responsibility for removing graffiti and SS explained that TDC was responsible for removing graffiti from its own buildings but looked to the private sector to clear graffiti from their own buildings. TDC has written to larger organisations (private and public sector) to encourage “signing-up” to a graffiti removal pledge.

SS explained that TDC now has additional powers but is not at this present stage utilising them all.

- TDC to look at possibility of arranging a training session on the use of these powers for TPC subject to a discussion between MT and DHi.

#### –Equality and Diversity

AC introduced herself and explained the actions TDC was taking to address Equality and Diversity (E&D) both within the organisation and across the district. MB asked if there was a “toolkit” that TPC could use and AC replied that an Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken on policies and projects by services within the Council.

- AC to provide the Secretary of TDALC with the Equality Impact Assessment form along with the relevant guidance notes.

AC also reported that the Council’s Corporate Equalities Policy, Race Equality Scheme, Disability Equality Scheme, and Gender Equality Scheme were available on the Tendring Website and could be used to assist TPC. It was stressed that, in order to be inclusive, TPC should consider the actions they take and whether these would disadvantage or discriminate against any minority group. If it was felt this might occur then TPC should see if there was any reasonable action that might be taken to reduce that inequality. The important word being “reasonable”.

#### –Draft Sustainable Community Strategy

ROW reported that there had been a good response from individual Town and Parish Councils during the current consultation period on the Draft Sustainable Community Strategy however, with the consultation process ending on Monday 1 October 2007 it was hoped a few more might still respond. He also asked if TDALC as a body was considering responding, appreciating that through their Chairman they were represented on the Local Strategic Partnership Board. MB reported that the item had appeared on a TDALC Agenda but it was not the

intention of TDALC to respond as a body. This was because unless there was total agreement from all members to any points it would not be right to purport to be truly representative of everyone.

- Acknowledged that consultation responses would come from the individual Town and Parish Councils and there would be no “corporate” response from TDALC.

TDALC was very pleased to note that the Strategy was in a better and clearer format than the existing document.

- TDALC felt it important that the Strategy was flexible and would reflect the changing needs of the district and be capable of responding accordingly.

ROW informed the meeting of the Local Area Agreement and the uncertainty of how funding might be allocated to areas across Essex in future. MB pointed out that Local Strategic Partnerships and local authorities did not have access to TPC funding (from the precept) but could and do involve TPC in areas of joint working.

#### 8. Any Other Business

There was none.

#### 9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was agreed to set out the following meeting dates for the next year:

Friday 25 January 2008 at 2:30 p.m. – Council Chamber, Weeley.

Friday 30 May 2008 at 2:30 p.m. – Council Chamber, Weeley.

**Friday 26 September 2008 at 2:30 p.m. – Council Chamber, Weeley.**

## APPENDIX 3

### Tendring Rural South NAP Public Meeting

A Public Meeting was held in The Colne Community School, Brightlingsea on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm. Despite the fact this was well advertised, no more than 20 Members of the Public attended.

The Chair Martine WARD welcomed everyone and introduced herself and the panel members introduced themselves to the Public.

Gill BURMBY gave a brief explanation about what the NAP was and how it works.

Sgt HASTINGS then updated the Public on the Action Plans that the NAP were currently working on.

#### Concerns arising from The Floor:

**1. John WISEMAN: Mobility scooters on roads and pavements around Brightlingsea.**

Sgt HASTINGS explained that there was a small problem owners will be spoken to when seen.

**2. Linda BELGROVE: Lower speed limits outside of schools:** The speed limit should be no more than 20mph; this appears to happen in Suffolk. Ford Lane in Alresford has now been given a 30mph limit after a much consultation.

There is a summit being held at Colchester Town Hall in November, which is a public forum for Transport/Highways run by ECC. Sgt HASTINGS will contact Traffic Management re speeds of vehicles in these areas and also contact ECC.

**FEEDBACK FOR NEXT MEETING (ANDY)**

**3. Mrs HODGSON: What are Police doing re £75 fine for litter? Could enforcement signs be erected?**

Sgt HASTINGS explained that if these people are seen, they will be given a ticket. With regard to signage this will be looked into.

**FEEDBACK FOR NEXT PUBLIC MEETING (ANDY)**

**4. Mr REYNOLDS: There is a lot of litter dropped outside of public houses now, is this not the landlords responsibility:**

TDC have the responsibility of checking these premises to make sure they are complying with the no smoking. Sgt HASTINGS will make enquiries with TDC, licensing and pub visits.

**FEEDBACK FOR NEXT PUBLIC MEETING (ANDY)**

**5. Mrs HODGSON: Recycling Bins:** Can we contact the Council and ask what is the responsibility of the agencies that collect the Recycling Bins, often rubbish is left, which has blown out of the recycling bin.

Sgt HASTINGS will contact TDC

**FEEDBACK FOR NEXT PUBLIC MEETING (ANDY)**

**6 Mrs NIXON: Too much recycling for bins, people put in carrier bags and open cardboard boxes.**

Gill BURMBY explained that on certain days of the week, recycle bins can be collected free of charge from Weeley Council Offices. She will contact Weeley and find out what day this service is available. She will also mention that maybe Tendring Matters could run an article on how to pack recycling so that we don't have this problem with litter blowing around the streets.

Martin FROSTICK and Robert TAYLOR also mentioned that Great Bromley and Great Bentley Councils have a supply of bins available. If Brightlingsea Council contact Weeley they should be able to get hold of some.

**FEEDBACK FOR NEXT PUBLIC MEETING (GILL)**

**7. Charles HERBERT: Obstruction of vehicles in Brightlingsea:** Regular problems in several areas.

Chief Inspector ROBINSON explained that this would be something the NAP could work on if there was a particular area highlighted.

**8. Des ROWSON: Parking in Manor House Way:** This appears to be students from the school, who prefer to park there rather than be blocked in by the school coaches after school.

Sgt HASTINGS will contact the school. Perhaps an article can be placed in the newsletter which is sent home with students.

**FEEDBACK FOR NEXT PUBLIC MEETING (ANDY)**

The next Public Meeting will be on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008 at Brightlingsea Community Centre, Room 1 at 7pm.