

# ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alresford Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 3 October 2007 in the Parish Council Pavilion at 7.30pm

**PRESENT** : Cllr J Coates – Chairman, Cllr C Barrett, Cllr E Osborne , Cllr N Fairbanks, Cllr Ann Wiggins, Cllr D Barnes and the Clerk.

Also present were two members of the public and Mr David Lines Executive Leader of TDC.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman

## **10.07.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE<sup>1</sup>**

Apologies were received Cllr Green, Cllr J Robinson, Cllr J Housden and Cllr J Richards none of whom were able to attend the meeting.

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

No interests were declared.

## **10.07.3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was proposed by Cllr Fairbanks, seconded by Cllr Coates and agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5 September 2007 be signed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

## **10.07.4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr D Robinson advised that there was little to report at County level and that there was no further progress on a speed reduction for the B1027.

## **10.07.5 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Cllr G Scott advised that he had been in touch with the Enforcement Officer for 21 The Heath who was still monitoring the situation. Cllr Carlsson Browne asked whether, in view of the planning application for the maintaining of stables on the site, this could be brought back to the attention of the Monitoring Officer as it was difficult to see how a building which was not supposed to exist could be granted planning permission to be retained. Cllr G Scott was asked to clarify the situation with the Enforcement Officer without delay and e-mail the Clerk with advice about this so that she could advise the planning committee accordingly. Cllr Scott reported that a resident had asked whether, in the light of continued acts of vandalism and graffiti at the Pointer bus shelter, this could be demolished and replaced with one like the new one at the Ford Lane stop.

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

2 Local Government Act 2000 Part III

However, the view of the Council was quite clear that this course of action would mean that the vandals had won the battle and therefore was not to be considered. A policy of zero tolerance on vandalism was now in place and this was to be made perfectly clear to residents and their cooperation in countering the effects of vandalism and damage was requested. The air conditioning unit at the Pointer had been fixed and the noise therefore no longer a nuisance. Weeds were again becoming a problem in the ginnel between Ford Lane and De Staunton Close and Cllr Scott would report this to Highways together with a request for repairs to the footpaths in Coach Road. Highways had advised Cllr Scott that a third cut of the verges was to be undertaken and residents had complained about the number of HGV's using Wivenhoe Road. Cllr Scott to ask the residents to try to get the vehicle names and numbers. Regarding the railway gates the Council advised Cllr Scott that it had made no formal objection to the proposed changes but were monitoring the situation closely. Cllr Scott advised that he had been given details of a source of funding for the provision of female toilets for the football clubs and would pass this on to the football club secretary. A resident had fallen caused by tripping over uneven paving slabs outside the shops. Photographs had been taken and the Clerk was asked to write again to the shop owners about the state of the paving in this area.

#### **ACTION : CLERK : CLLR G SCOTT**

#### **10.07.6 REPORT FROM PCSO**

In her report PCSO Cox stated that the majority of occurrences in September were information being passed to her – a positive note that communication was vital in dealing with community issues. The incidents recorded in September were as follows :

Missing persons/concern for welfare – 3

Two reports re children late returning home – both children returned home within a short period of time. One concern regarding an elderly relative.

Request for Agency – 2

Following the issue of Section 59 reports on vehicles for anti-social driving, two vehicles were seen to be committing offences on a second occasion and were subsequently seized.

Thefts – 2

Index plates from a vehicle and cash from a vehicle.

Nuisance Youths/Others – 3

Mopeds being driven around the village. Details of offenders had been taken and Section 59 warnings issued. One moped had been seized.

Domestic Violence -1

Issue between family members.

Criminal Damage - 1

A low wall damaged – unconfirmed whether this was caused by persons or a road traffic collision.

Graffiti on bus shelter – 1

Following a further incident, three possible suspects were searched but with a negative result. However names had been obtained and should further incidents take place action would follow.

PCSO Cox concluded her report by advising that she had had many conversations with young people regarding lack of places to go to in the village. The young had been meeting on the playing field but after dusk they have to be moved on to comply with the byelaws. This then forces them to congregate in other parts of the village or the train station platform and they have to be moved on again. PCSO Cox had advised the young people that they should contact her with any ideas they may have for a solution to this situation as their views as part of the community were important.

The Clerk advised that grant funding was now available towards the cost of setting up a Youth Council and was asked to do some research into this and report to a later meeting.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**10.07.6a AFFORDABLE RURAL HOUSING PROJECT**

Mrs Chris Moor of English Rural Housing reported that there had been little progress on acquiring the land required for this because of the complications arising from the land itself being in the ownership of various sections of the railway authority. Cllr Carlsson Browne suggested that she should contact MP Bernard Jenkin for assistance and also gave her details of a web site which she would find helpful. Mrs Moor was thanked for her visit and left the meeting after giving her report.

**10.07.7 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

- (i) TDC Recycling credits £409.14 - noted
- (ii) NALC Newsletter of Year response – no award made
- (iii) Family Support Brightlingsea – thanking for grant in 2007
- (iv) West Essex NHS re changes to mental health services - noted
- (v) Mrs Wells on behalf of Elm Close residents - Cllr Fairbanks agreed to replace the NW sign that had blown down.
- (vi) EPFA – grant of £1,000 towards refurbishment of swings etc - noted
- (vii) ORR re level crossing gates – advice that a response would be sent but that it might take some time. The Clerk to chase again for clarification.
- (viii) Cllr Barnes had written a letter of resignation from the Council because she was moving from the village. Regret for this was expressed together with thanks to Cllr Barnes for all her hard work on the Council during her years of service. The Clerk was instructed to advertise the vacancy in accordance with the regulations.

**ACTION : CLERK : CLLR FAIRBANKS**

## 10.07.8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

- (i) ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES & ALLOTMENTS – *See Appendix 2*
- (ii) FINANCE - the meeting to plan the budget proposals for 2008-9 would be held on Saturday 3 November at 10.30am. The Clerk was advised that she should allow extra in the budget for the year to cover the cost of repairs to street lamps as many of these were now needing more extensive repairs due to their age and possibly would need replacing.
- (iv) COMMUNICATIONS – Regarding the production of a newsletter in 2008 Cllr E Osborne requested a budget figure of £400 be considered by the Finance Working Party to cover the costs of production. The Clerk advised that the 2007 newsletter produced just prior to the elections in May and which had been circulated to every house in the village, had been entered in the Essex Newsletter of the Year competition and had been commended in its class and that it had then gone on to become the overall winner. She had been awarded the certificates at a recent meeting in Great Dunmow.
- (v) HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS - no meeting held
- (vi) PLANNING - *see appendix 1*
- (iii) PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL - *see item 25 and memo dated 3 August 2007 attached*. Councillors had met with members of the football club and AVHMC to measure out and compare the conflicting records of the land with the maps and Land Registry documents to avoid any further misunderstanding. It was discovered that the land abutted and possibly slightly overlapped but it would appear from the Land Registry plan that the VHC plans were correct and it was agreed that the Parish Council accepted this and that there was no further dispute. For the avoidance of doubt it was proposed by Cllr Fairbanks, seconded by Cllr Carlsson Browne and agreed that the Parish Council did not dispute the land ownership and that it could see no problems with any negotiations to resolve the future of the pavilion and changing rooms. Joint meetings with the AVHMC and the ACRFC would therefore recommence to resolve the situation.
- (vii) HUMAN RESOURCES, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING - no meeting held
- (viii) HEALTH AND WELFARE - no meeting held

## 10.07.9 MONTHLY PAYMENTS

It was proposed by Cllr Fairbanks, seconded by Cllr Wiggins and agreed that the following payments be made by the Clerk :

Clerk's salary and expenses (DD)	1224.08
NI	101.00
Just Lamps –	
Monthly maintenance – August	71.16
Annual clean – new lamps	46.77
Repair- Orchard Road	173.90
C & C Cleaning (invoice 9942)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 9997)	28.20

C & C Cleaning (invoice 10136)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 10186)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice10033)	28.20
EON – street lighting - (DD)	159.67
Powergen – Pavilion/floodlighting (DD)	122.00
TDC – Pavilion rates (DD)	57.00
Booking fee – (RCCE Community Buildings Conference)	30.00
TDALC Affiliation fee	15.00
THWS Allotments	30.74
THWS Pavilion	99.57
Macemain Amstad hex gadget for bins	23.50

**ACTION : CLERK**

**10.07.10 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

It was proposed by Cllr Osborne, seconded by Cllr Carlsson Browne and agreed that the financial statements for June and July 2007 be accepted as correct.

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

- (i) Essex Environment Summit 13.9.07 (*see attached*)
- (ii) TDALC Meeting 29.8.07 (*see attached*)
- (iii) Police and the Community Consultative Group Meeting - Cllr Osborne had attended this and found it well supported and interesting. There were now 42 PCSO's in Tendring District and this had made a considerable difference to crime levels. More action was required regarding parking near to schools and more help was required from parents to cut down on the numbers of children riding bikes without lights. There was an especial concern for paper boys and girls and one newsagent had purchased sets of lights and given them to all the children he employed. There were now extra police officers in Brightlingsea and in Tendring District generally and Neighbourhood Watch schemes were to be encouraged and strengthened. Thorpe Police Station had been reopened and the cells could be visited by members of the public! Cllr Osborne advised that after the meeting he had spoken to the Chief of the Police there about the B1027 who had asked the Clerk to write a personal letter to him on this matter. The Clerk and Cllr Osborne to liaise on this.
- (iv) Tendring Community Safety Partners meeting – *Appendix 4*

**ACTION : CLERK : CLLR E OSBORNE**

**10.07.12 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

Mrs Belgrove advised that she had a complement of volunteers to be trained in the Community Speedwatch scheme but that some Coucillors would be invaluable on this also. Cllr Coates, Cllr Barrett and the Clerk all agreed to undergo the necessary training and Mrs Belgrove would put this in hand for as soon as possible. Funding was

available, but she had been advised that places were currently oversubscribed and that there was a waiting list.

#### **10.07.13. BEST RURAL RETAILER**

Nominations for the various categories were considered and the Clerk instructed to put this in hand as follows :

1. Best Local Food retailer – John Swinburn, Family Butcher
2. Best Village Shop-Post Office – Alresford Post Office
3. Best Diversification – Alresford Fine Furnishings - from a garage to a pine workshop
4. Best Traditional Business – Direct Animal Feeds

#### **ACTION : CLERK**

#### **10.07.14 BUS SHELTER**

It was agreed that a supply of extra paint could be purchased for repainting the bus shelter by the Pointer if further graffiti occurred. Anti vandal paint at £90 per tin was considered to be an expensive option but would be reconsidered if the problem continued. Meanwhile Mr and Mrs Belgrove would continue to investigate further the CCTV option as discussed.

#### **10.07.15 CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- (i) Following further advice from EALC regarding funding for training it was proposed by Cllr Fairbanks, seconded by Cllr Carlsson Browne and agreed that the Clerk should seek further details with regard to continuing training to a higher level and pursue this if she felt able to commit the necessary time required.
- (ii) TDALC proposed courses for Councillors – details to be advised in due course.
- (iii) EALC Council Finance and Planning Courses – no Councillors were able to attend either of these options.
- (iv)

#### **ACTION : CLERK**

#### **10.07.16 LITTER BINS**

Cllr Fairbanks reported that the renewal and refurbishment of the litter bins project was now completed.

#### **10.07.17 VANDALISM REPORT**

- (i) Further spray paint on bus shelter. Cleaned by Mr Belgrove.

#### **10.07.18 DRAFT ESSEX SCHOOL REORGANISATION PLAN 2007-2012**

The Clerk was instructed to respond to the draft by the due date in the light of previous comments to similar documents.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**10.07.19 GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

Feedback responses to grants awarded in 2007 had been collated by the Clerk and it was agreed that any future beneficiaries should be required to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to give a report on the use to which their grant had been put. Meanwhile the Clerk to write to local organisations seeking details of any grant funding required for 2008.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**10.07.20 FUTURE PLANS**

Four year plans had been produced by the various working parties and had been passed to the Clerk for consideration at the finance meeting to prepare the budget for 2008/9.

**10.07.22 COACH ROAD TREE**

Quotations received for felling tree at end of Coach Road were opened by the chairman and considered. It was proposed by Cllr Osborne, seconded by Cllr Carlsson Browne and agreed that the quotation from M J Green in the sum of £800 should be accepted. The Clerk was asked to confirm this and request that the work be put in hand as soon as possible and also to ask how long it would be before the area would be ready for a replacement tree to be planted.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**10.07.22 CLOSURE OF ALRESFORD POST OFFICE**

**10.07.23 CAR PARK**

To consider value for insurance purposes

**10.07.24 LEVEL CROSSING STATION ROAD**

To consider action to be taken regarding failure of Network Rail to supply promised information.

*Items 22-24 had been included on the agenda at the request of Cllr Green. In his absence it was agreed that these items should be held over and included on the November agenda.*

At this point the Chairman closed the meeting to the public and thanked them for their attendance.

**10.07.25 PLAYING FIELD DITCH**

Consideration of confidential item – *see Appendix 5*. The Clerk was thanked for bringing this matter to the attention of Councillors but after due consideration it was agreed that the decision taken at the September meeting should stand.

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

(i) Cllr G Scott advised that he had received information that a second milestone used to exist between Coach Road and Heath Road and it was agreed that if this could be found it should be uncovered and considered for listing.

(ii) Following an incident when a member of the public had fallen down an old well at the site of the bridge keepers cottage by the old railway bridge at the creek, Cllr Fairbanks and the Chairman had effected a temporary repair and were thanked for their prompt action. The Clerk was asked to write to the new owner of the land and advise him of the incident.

(iii) The Clerk asked permission to buy a new filing cabinet as one of the two in the “Parish Council office” was broken. It was proposed by Cllr Carlsson Browne, seconded by Cllr Fairbanks and agreed that a new three drawer cabinet should therefore be purchased.

**ACTION : CLERK : CLLR SCOTT**

The meeting was closed by the chairman at 9.20pm with thanks to all for their attendance.

**The next meeting of Alresford Parish Council will be held  
on Wednesday 7 November 2007 at 7.30pm  
in the Parish Council Pavilion**