

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alresford Parish Council held on
Wednesday 5 September 2007 in the Parish Council Pavilion

PRESENT : Cllr J Coates, Chairman, Cllr Ann Wiggins, Cllr J Housden, Cllr Dorothy Barnes, Cllr N Fairbanks, Cllr Hedley Green, Cllr J Richards, Cllr J Robinson, the Clerk.

PUBLIC FORUM: Members of the public were invited to address the Council for a maximum of three minutes from 7.30 until 7.45pm. Mrs Linda Belgrove reported that the 30mph speed limit for the entire length of Ford Lane had been granted and would be in place in April 2008 and was warmly thanked by the chairman and Councillors for all her hard work in achieving this result. Mrs Belgrove also reported an increase in the number of tents now in the White House Beach area – about six were currently occupied with several people in each and at least one dog. Members of the public were reporting feeling very intimidated when using the footpath in that area and concerns were expressed regarding the environmental issues arising from occupancy with no toilet or washing facilities. The Clerk to speak to TDC Environmental Department about this. Meanwhile PC Hastings advised that the Police Marine Unit was patrolling the river in the evenings and keeping an eye on the situation.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman who welcomed Councillors and public and thanked them for their attendance.

09.07.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE¹

Cllr E Osborne, Cllr Chris Barrett, Cllr S Carlsson Browne

09.07.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA²

No declarations of interest were recorded.

09.07.3 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4 July 200 and matters arising :

It was proposed by Cllr E Osborne, seconded by Cllr C Barrett and agreed that the Minutes of the previous meeting should be signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising : (i) – The Clerk advised that arrangements had been made for the bottle banks to be emptied later on Mondays and as far as she was aware this was now

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

2 Local Government Act 2000 Part III

being done round about 8.00am.

09.07.4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

In his report Cllr D Robinson said that he was delighted to learn that Alresford Parish Council had received a further grant from the Community Initiatives Fund. The meeting of the full Council in July had mainly concentrated on waste and waste disposal. The 40% recycling goal had been reached in Tendring and was being increased to 60%, with landfill, the possibility of turning waste into fuel for power stations and anaerobic digestion the alternatives for the remainder. Anaerobic digestion was the preferred option. Cllr Robinson said that the recent concerns regarding the No 78 buses had been resolved fairly satisfactorily with Essex County Council putting £94,000 per annum into supporting the route. A proposal was being considered for Essex County Council to work with Brentwood District Council but no details were available. Finally Cllr Robinson thanked Mrs Belgrove for her hard work and tenacity in getting the Ford Lane speed limit put in place and once again explained his views on the matter and assured Councillors that he represented the views of the Council to Tendring. He in turn was thanked by the Chairman for his support and for his report.

09.07.5 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr G Scott also spoke about the good result regarding the 78 bus route and advised that the government were putting £1.8 into rural transport in Essex. No further news on the enforcement order at 21 The Heath was available but it was understood that the owner had approached ECC Highways to agree an alternative access to the site and another large hole had been dug. On the B1027 the footpath improvements appeared to have stopped at Cockaynes Lane leaving the stretch as far as the Farm Shop unimproved. Cllr Scott said he was disappointed about this and would be seeking an explanation. Residents had complained about damage to the hedges and he would be dealing with this also. There had also been complaints about noisy air conditioning at The Pointer from residents in Furze Crescent and The Chequers. Concerns had been expressed about the Poplar tree at the end of Coach Road and the Clerk advised that the removal of the tree was in hand. The owners of the Fish and Chip Shop and Tandoori Takeaway had asked if they could have another litter bin outside their shops and it was agreed that the Council would have no objection to them siting one there. Complaints had been received about the growth of nettles over the road bridge on the B1027 – this was a matter for British Rail to deal with and Cllr Scott would be contacting them. Finally Cllr Scott advised that he had sent letters as promised to the residents of the B1027 between Alresford and Thorrington about extending the 40mph speed limit along there and said that he was looking into the possibility of getting the newly uncovered milestone recorded as a listed item.

ACTION : CLLR G SCOTT

09.07.6 REPORT FROM PCSO

PS Hastings attended the meeting as PCSO Cox was on a rest day. Uncovered waste lorries were still being reported passing through the village and items were still being dropped. PCSO Cox to monitor this and report to EWD.

The police surgeries had proved a useful tool for both PC Bennett and PCSO Cox but

attendance was varied. The surgeries would therefore continue but at less frequent intervals. The next surgeries would be held on :

Thursday 20 September	20.30 – 21.30
Thursday 18 October	10.30 – 11.30
Thursday 29 November	10.30 – 11.30

These would continue to be held in St Andrews Church.

Mini motos and mopeds were being used extensively and in the area and numerous complaints had been received. The situations was being monitored and section 59 warnings were being issued meaning that any of those vehicles subsequently seen being driven in an anti social manner could be seized immediately. Speeding in the village was still causing problems and a speed watch had been conducted at various locations and times of day with 8 out of 100 vehicles found to be driving at excess speeds. The speed watch would continue. A fixed penalty notice had been issued to a resident for dog fouling and a TV plasma screen had been dumped by St Peters Church. This had been retrieved and was thought to have had links with other incidents in the district. PCSO Cox reported that she had made enquiries in relation to weight restrictions on the village roads and had contacted the manager of EWD asking him to keep vehicles from using the village roads to a minimum. Graffiti at the Pointer bus shelter had been photographed for the graffiti database but the Tag was not identifiable. In July and August the following incidents had been reported :

Abandoned Vehicles	4
Suspicious vehicle	4
Criminal Damage	4
Sudden death	1
Information received	5
Request for police	4
Arrest request	2
RTC with injury	1
RTC – no injury	1
Alarm intruder	1
Nuisance reports	8
Domestic violence	2
Nuisance youths	9
Advice request	4
Assault and ABH	1
Drink driving	1
Theft from insecure car	1
Drug supply information	5
Alcohol related complaints	1

09.07.7 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (i) ECC re Grass cutting on B1027 – response noted
- (ii) TDC – Advertisements on roadside – Sea Wick Sunday Market advertisements

had appeared but it would seem that little could be done about this without incurring considerable costs. The situation to be monitored. It was noted that since the letters had been written the signs had gone.

(iii) ECC re Planned Parish Visits - special forms had been received for reporting matters needing attention by Highways.

(iv) ECC re grant from Community Initiatives Fund - £2,500 had been awarded towards the cost of the new roundabout on the playing field.

(v) Following his visit in July, Paul Allen of the Playing Field Protection Society had written to advise that no protected sites would be affected by the development plans for the London Olympics but once the Olympics were over some of the sites developed would be returned for recreational use and could then become protected.

(vi) The Local Works – Campaign for Sustainable Communities Bill – the Clerk had been asked to write to John Healy MP and Hazel Blears MP which she confirmed that she had done.

(vii) ORR re Railway Crossings – a response had been received to recent correspondence but no details on the timings of the proposed new gates - the Clerk to chase.

(viii) Douglas Carswell MP had written to thank the Clerk for attending the recent AGM of TCVS and to offer any support he could. The Clerk to write and thank him for his offer.

(ix) IC2 re Security - the Clerk to collect further details for consideration

(x) Horticultural Society re Quiz to be held on 9 November. It was agreed that the PC would put in a team comprising - Cllrs Fairbanks, Robinson, Green, Housden, Osborne and the Clerk

(xi) An invitation had been received from NALC to attend the forthcoming conference together with further advice regarding Community Empowerment Awards. No Councillor was available to attend.

(xii) Communities & Local Government had written thanking the PC for their support for the Sustainable Communities Bill.

(xiii) TDC - Tree Planting Grant Programme – the Clerk to apply for grant funding for tree(s) to replace the poplar at the end of Coach Road.

(xiv) Bernard Jenkin had written thanking the PC for their support for the Sustainable Communities Bill.

(xv) TDC – Licensing Act 2003 re 55 Station Road – request for a license to sell alcohol.

(xvi) ECC - new bus service – details and timetable

(xvii) Essex Rural Partnership – Post Office Briefing – the Clerk was requested to respond as before emphasizing the need to maintain the local Post Office.

(xviii) Alan Green re Wivenhoe Road Lights - the Clerk to thank Mr Green for his concern – the lights were now back in action.

(ixx) ECC – John Jowers – Local Area Agreement - summaries were handed to each Councillor. The Clerk to write and thank Cllr Jowers for these.

ACTION : CLERK

09.07.8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES :

- (i) ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES & ALLOTMENTS – *see*

Appendix 3

- (ii) FINANCE - no meeting held
- (iii) PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL
 - (a) Review of Statement of Licensing Policy - The Clerk was advised to respond in accordance with the Councils already stated policy by the deadline date of 30.9.07
 - (b) Provision of female toilet facilities - Cllr J Robinson advised that a potential problem was being caused by the lack of female toilet provision in the pavilion. The various options were a small facility to be formed inside the changing room block at a cost of £1,100 to £1,200 or an external unisex/disabled toilet which could also be used by hirers of the field and hard court. This would cost about £2500, but issues relating to the land ownership were still to be resolved making this difficult. The hire of portaloos and/or the use of the church toilets were also possibilities. Cllr J Robinson also advised that the meeting with the village hall committee and football clubs on 12 September had been postponed due to various people involved being away but that the meeting would take place as soon thereafter as it could be arranged to resolve the matter of the ownership of the land involved. The Clerk was therefore asked to write to the football clubs advising that the matter of the provision of female toilets would be considered as soon as possible after the issues regarding the land were resolved and in the meantime it was hoped that the church facilities could be made available.
- (iv) COMMUNICATIONS – No meeting had been held but the web site was working and a provision had been made for publishing the agendas as well as the minutes.
- (v) HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS – *see Appendix 2*
- (vi) PLANNING - *see appendix 1*
- (vii) HUMAN RESOURCES, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING – no meeting held
- (viii) HEALTH AND WELFARE – no meeting held

ACTION : CLERK AND WORKING PARTIES

09.07.9 MONTHLY PAYMENTS

It was proposed by Cllr J Robinson, seconded by Cllr J Housden and agreed that the following payments be made by the Clerk :-

Clerk's salary and expenses (DD)	1224.08*
NI	101.00*
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NI	101.00
Just Lamps – o/s 188 Wiv Rd	61.04*
Just Lamps – o/s 188 Wiv Rd	29.16
Monthly maintenance – June *	71.16
Monthly maintenance – July	71.16
C & C Cleaning (invoice 9532)*	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 9581)*	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 9431)*	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 9697)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 9840)	28.20

C & C Cleaning (invoice 9840)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 9892)	28.20
EON – street lighting – (DD) - June	159.67*
EON – street lighting – (DD) - July	159.67
Powergen – Pavilion/floodlighting (DD)	50.00
TDC – Pavilion rates (DD)	57.00
EPA – PCSO – March -June*	3,375.00
TDC – election costs*	953.57
N Fairbanks – emergency re litter bin	60.00
Cllr Green – travel expenses	33.15
Mrs J Pettitt (balance of salary increases)	463.32*
Glasdon – Froggo bin - replacement	368.25
Powergen – Pavilion & flood lights – July	122.00
P Egner – repainting bus shelter by Pointer	190.00
P Egner – painting benches (+ above £30)	255.00
Banner – stationery	133.49
Travel expenses (clerk – Chelmsford)	30.56

(* paid in August)

ACTION : CLERK

09.07.10 FINANCIAL REPORT – YEAR END ACCOUNTS

It was proposed by Cllr J Robinson, seconded by Cllr J Housden and agreed that the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2007 be accepted and submitted to the Auditors. The Clerk and Mr Ian Dimmock were thanked for their work in the preparation and internal audit of the accounts. The Clerk advised that the appropriate notice had been put on the notice board.

ACTION : CLERK

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

- (i) TDALC meeting – *See Appendix 4*
- (ii) Meeting with Councillor Hume of ECC re Ford Lane (Clerk and Mrs Belgrove) – result already noted.
- (iii) SLCC Essex Branch meeting. The Clerk, having been appointed by TDALC to represent Tendring Clerks on the executive committee of the Essex Branch of the SLCC, had attended a meeting during August. There was nothing special to report from this and she said that she would continue to attend meetings for the rest of the year as she had agreed to do so but unless they became more relevant would not agree to be re-appointed at the next AGM.

09.07.12 NEWSLETTER

It was agreed to defer consideration of the style and format of a Parish Council annual newsletter until October. Meanwhile details of the various newsletters under consideration to be passed by the Clerk to Cllr E Osborne and the Communications Working Party to consider these and report to the October meeting.

ACTION : CLERK and COMMUNICATIONS WP

09.07.13 HARD COURT -

It was proposed by Cllr J Robinson, seconded by Cllr N Fairbanks and agreed that the Clerk should order capping plates @ £20 each for the hard court and also to proceed with getting in estimates for resurfacing and re-fencing the area even if no grants were available for this.

ACTION : CLERK

09.07.14 GRANTS to LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Consideration of the feedback responses received to be deferred until the October meeting.

ACTION : CLERK

09.07.15 B1027 – CONDITION OF HEDGES

The Clerk was asked to report to Highways on this matter.

ACTION : CLERK

09.07.16 DRAFT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR TENDRING

The Clerk was asked to collate the various views expressed on the feed back forms already circulated and forward these to TDC in time for the deadline date of 21.9.07.

09.07.17 LGV ACCESS TO ALRESFORD QUARRY

The Clerk advised that the matter had been resolved and signs advising that Ford Lane and Church Road were unsuitable for heavy goods traffic had been put in place.

09.07.18 CALOR – ESSEX VILLAGE OF THE YEAR FEEDBACK

The Clerk to pass the papers to the Environment WP so that a meeting could be held in order to report to the October meeting.

ACTION : CLERK AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

09.07.19 TDC – POLLING DISTRICT/POLLING PLACE REVIEW

A review to be completed by TDC by the end of the year had been circulated and the Clerk was instructed to write advising that the Council wished to keep the arrangements as they were.

ACTION : CLERK

09.07.20 CLERK'S TRAINING

Further training for Clerk was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Ann Wiggins and seconded by Cllr J Richards that this be left for a further year and meanwhile considered by the Personnel and Training Working Party. This was agreed with one against and one abstention.

ACTION : PERSONNEL AND TRAINING WORKING PARTY

09.07.21 PLAYING FIELD DITCH

Although several quotations had been sought for clearing the ditch on NE boundary, only one had been received. This was from Pinnacle who had offered two options. It was proposed by Cllr Richards, seconded by Cllr Green and agreed that the more thorough option in the sum of £1,600 be accepted and the work put in hand as soon as possible.

ACTION : CLERK

09.07.23 VANDALISM REPORTS

It was noted that the following acts of vandalism to Council property had occurred during the past two months :

- (i) Frog Bin (£368.25). A new bin had been purchased - the siting of this to be considered by the Playing Field Working Party before it was installed.
- (ii) Notice board (to be replaced by a new one being made at no cost by Alresford Fine Furnishings)
- (iii) Bin outside shops (£60)
- (iv) Bus shelter by Pointer – graffiti 2 days after being repainted at cost of £190. A further repainting, after being cleaned by Mr Belgrove, at a cost of £30 followed by further graffiti – again cleaned off by Mr Belgrove

ACTION : PLAYING FIELD WORKING PARTY

09.07.24 UPDATE ON PARISH BENCHES

The Clerk reported that these had been repainted and looked very nice.

09.07.25 UPDATE OF AFFORDABLE RURAL HOUSING

A new local officer had been appointed by English Rural Housing -Mrs Chris Moor. Mrs Moor would attend the October meeting to report on developments. The Clerk to add this to the October agenda,

ACTION : CLERK

09.07.26 TRAINING COURSES AVAILABLE

The Clerk advised a Councillor Training Day at Great Dunmow on 18 October but no-one was able to attend.

09.07.27 FUTURE PLANS – BUDGET PREPARATION

Consideration of items to be included in the budget for 2008/2009 to be deferred until October and the Clerk was asked to put it on the agenda. The Clerk was also asked to collate the four year plans already submitted and circulate these prior to the October meeting

ACTION : CLERK

09.07.28 STREET LIGHTING POWER CONTRACT

A new street lighting contract with EON had been negotiated by Cllr Fairbanks giving an overall saving of 21%. Cllr Fairbanks was warmly thanked for his work on achieving this and the contract was passed to the Clerk for signature and return to EON.

ACTION : CLERK

09.07.29 TDC DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

This had been considered by Councillors and the Clerk was asked to respond by the deadline of 28 September in accordance with their known wishes.

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

(i) Cllr Robinson asked whether the new roundabout had been ordered and was advised that it had and was to be installed during September. He also advised that he had spoken to Wayne Wilson about the cyclists in Cockaynes Wood and it had been agreed that AYP would become involved in the formation of the rough cycle track proposed. He had been advised by Cllr Osborne that a meeting of Community Reach had been held and that funding towards the cycle track might be obtained from that source.

(ii) Cllr Wiggins advised that a willow outside Heath Farm was to be lopped by EDF.

(iii) Cllr Barnes advised that this was probably going to be her last meeting as she was planning to move from the village. She was warmly thanked for all her hard work on the Council and wished well in her move.

(iv) Cllr Fairbanks noted that the bench in the childrens play area was being moved on a regular basis.

(v) Cllr Richards asked if a letter could be sent to Bretts regarding the state of the footpath area in Cockaynes Wood and suggested planting spare trees in the gaps around the playing field during the winter. The Clerk to write to Bretts and speak to Jay Pettitt about these matters.

(vi) The Chairman had spoken to some older girls on the playing field who had said that there was little provision for teenage girls in the village and who had suggested some benches or picnic tables around the field where they could sit and chat. The Playing Field Working Party to consider this option.

ACTION : CLERK ; PLAYING FIELD WORKING PARTY

There being no further business the Chairman thanked Councillors for their attendance and patience at such a long meeting and closed the proceedings at 10.05pm

**The next meeting of Alresford Parish Council will be held
on Wednesday 3 October 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**