

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alresford Parish Council held on
Wednesday 3 September 2008 in the Parish Council Pavilion

PUBLIC FORUM: Members of the public were invited to address the Council. Mr Tony Birkin advised the Council that the new picnic benches had been placed rather too close to the practice nets and this, together with the damage to the turf in the vicinity, had prompted the football club to seek permission to site the nets elsewhere on the field. Councillors confirmed that they had no objection to this and consented to the goals being moved to a more suitable position. Mrs Bourne spoke of the amount of glass on the field – this was confirmed by Mr Birkin, the Clerk and other Councillors who had all spent a great deal of time during the summer trying to clear it up after repeated incidents where bottles were smashed and glass left around on the field and hard court. It was noted that PCSO Cox had recently confiscated two boxes of bottles of beer from youths on the field, followed later that same evening by more from elsewhere in the village. Youths had then moved over to the church lawn area and started to play football there and to use the church roof as a ski slope damaging the gutter and tiles. Mrs Bourne complimented the police on their rapid response to incidents reported but noted that when PCSO Cox was on duty she was at the scene of a complaint with 10 mins or less, whereas the regular police could take up to 40 mins to arrive, and said that she felt the PCSP was a valuable asset to the community.

PRESENT : Cllr Ann Wiggins, Cllr J Housden, Cllr N Fairbanks, Cllr J Robinson, Cllr E Osborne, Cllr S Carlsson Browne, Cllr Linda Belgrove, the Clerk.

The meeting was opened by Vice Chairman Cllr Ann Wiggins.

09.08.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE¹

Were received from Cllr J Coates and Cllr C Barrett both of whom were on holiday, Cllr Green who was attending his daughters wedding and Cllr J Richards who was also unable to attend.

09.08.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA²

No interests were declared.

09.08.3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The following matters arising on the Minutes of the last meeting were considered :

- (i) Football storage container – update (*ref 07.08 3(ii)*)
- (ii) Grass cutting (*ref 07.08.16*)
- (iii) Status of flood lights, picnic tables and swings

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

2 Local Government Act 2000 Part III

The Clerk reported that in the case of item (i), the project had been abandoned due to impracticality and that grass cutting in the village had improved during the summer and was still being carefully monitored. The swings, picnic tables and flood lights had all been either repaired or installed and the resurfacing of the hard court had been completed. The Clerk was asked to ascertain the cost of extra cuts for the grass with the contract starting a month earlier in 2009 and possibly continuing later into the season. **It was proposed by Cllr Housden, seconded by Cllr Fairbanks and agreed that with one minor amendment pointed out by Cllr Belgrove, the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2 July 2008 be signed as a correct record.**

ACTION : CLERK

09.08.4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr D Robinson reported a very quiet month at County level and advised that the East Essex Area Forum fund had awarded £2,000 to Alresford Colne Rangers for football development and the full amount requested by the Parish Council (approximately £6,000) for the installation of CCTV the the village hall, playing field area. No complaints had been received regarding the various level crossings closures during the summer whilst work had been carried out and Highways had also been very quiet. Cllr Osborne asked again about the speed reduction on the B1027 and was advised that this was being reassessed along with all other roads in Essex but that it was unlikely that any decision would be made before 2010. Cllr Robinson said that he would continue to raise this at Highways meetings meanwhile. Local police had confirmed that they would be in favour of a reduction to 40mph along the full stretch through Tenpenny and Cllr Belgrove confirmed that Allan Playle had also expressed concern.

Cllr D Robinson was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

09.08.5 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr G Scott advised that enforcement action was being taken regarding 21 The Heath and that several highways defects had been reported since the last meeting. A damaged street light in Furze Crescent had been repaired and a light continually on in Worcester Crescent had been reported. Weeds in gutters had been sprayed and loose kerb stones in Coppice Road reported. The ginnel between Ford Lane and De Staunton Close was again overgrown with weeds and there was broken glass on the ground. This had been reported. Noise nuisance at the Business Centre and outside maisonettes on Wivenhoe Road had been reported and complaints had been received about British Rail and the workings being carried on in the village. The Clerk was asked to report to the Council on an overhanging tree at the corner of Laxton Road and if necessary get in quotations for further cutting back. Following the death of a pet by a speeding driver in Cockaynes Lane it was agreed that the Highways Working Party should meet to look into getting the speed limit reduced following the success in Ford Lane. Grass cutting on the B1027 had not been completed due to lack of funds and bottles left in bags outside the bottle banks had been cleared away. Residents were again requested not to leave bottles outside the banks. In the unlikely event of the banks being full (and now they were being emptied on a weekly basis this was rare), residents were again asked to take the bottles home and bring them back again later. EDF had been contacted about a site at the end of Station

Road and Highways had been asked for information regarding No Stopping” signs by the school as well as “No Parking on Pavements” signs. Cllr Belgrove reported a fly tipping incident which had been witnessed and photographed. TDC had written to her to say that they had decided not to prosecute. Cllr Belgrove said she would be pursuing this with TDC and asked Cllr Scott to bring pressure to bear for fly tipping prosecutions to be undertaken.

Cllr Scott was thanked for his report and his attendance.

ACTION : CLERK, CLLR G SCOTT, HIGHWAYS WP, CLLR BELGROVE

09.08.6 REPORT FROM PCSO

PS Hastings and PC Jo Bennett attended the meeting and confirmed the PCSO's report to Councillors (see below). Andy Hastings advised that crime in Alresford was down on last year and said that this was largely due to the efforts of PCSO Cox who deserved credit for her effective measures. There had recently been a clamp down on alcohol being drunk by under age youths. Cllr Belgrove asked PS Hastings about the Forward Intelligence Team of which he was a member and which had recently been effective in cleaning up a no-go area in Pitsea and had also been active locally. PS Hastings explained the system and also advised members of the public to call 0300 333 4444 or PCSO Cox if any young people are seen carrying bags or boxes of alcohol around the village.

The bike coding event had a good attendance despite the rain and several cycles have since been coded by PCSO Cox individually. Future sessions to be arranged. Patrols over the playing field had been increased during the summer and youths spoken to with regard to litter and misbehaving. The issue of moving people off the field at dusk to comply with the bye law was again being considered. PC Harris and PCSO Cox had attended Cockaynes Wood following reports of persons camping there. The individuals were given 24 hours notice to vacate the area and it was thought that they had left and not returned. On the evening of 22 August a large number of youths congregated in Alresford, mainly from Brightlingsea and Great Bentley. They were in possession of alcohol which was confiscated both from them and from a vehicle the owners of which were suspected of supplying the drink.

The following reported incidents occurred during July and August :

Nuisance Youths/Other	7
Nuisance noise	5
Concern for welfare	2
Alarm/intruder	1
Property – found	1
Information	2
Silent 999 calls (traced to kiosk in Coach Road)	2
Suspicious Persons	4
Shoplifting	2
Domestic abuse	4

RTC	3
Theft (items from boat)	2
False alarm	1
Loose sheep in road	1
Burglary	1
Youth information re alcohol	2
Sudden death	1

09.08.7 AFFORDABLE RURAL HOUSING

Mrs Chris Moor of English Rural Housing attended the meeting to give an update on the situation. The dialogue with Network Rail was continuing and the BRRB land in question was to be coming up for auction in the near future as insufficient money had been offered for the site. Mrs Moor had requested details about this and was asked to go back to them making it clear that at no point was the land ever going to be worth more as a development site and asked to report back to the PC about her progress. Mrs Moor was thanked for her attendance and left the meeting.

09.08.8 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (i) ECC re Public Rights of Way – Rolling Inspection and Maintenance Programme
- (ii) Bernard Jenkin re CPRE Stop the Drop litter campaign
- (iii) TDC re Church Farm
- (iv) Mr N Moore re bus shelter (e-mail)
- (v) TDC recycling credits - £367.13 in the quarter January – March 2008
- (vi) TDC – Parish Notifications re Development Control Committee
- (vii) Allianz Cornhill – letter re bye laws (Appendix 1 - green)

The above correspondence was noted.

09.08.9 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES :

- (i) **ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES & ALLOTMENTS** – it was noted that RCCE were offering free native trees and the working party were to meet to consider this and report back and a possible application be made in conjunction with CWT and the school under the scheme.
- (ii) **FINANCE** – no meeting held
- (iii) **PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL** – no meeting had been held since June and the Clerk was asked to write to the Village Hall Committee to ask for a meeting to be arranged shortly and also to request an extension of the pavilion lease because of the delay in progress.
- (iv) **COMMUNICATIONS** – no meeting held. Cllr Osborne said that he was awaiting the response to the parish plan questionnaire before completing the next edition of good neighbour, but was advised that this could take some time and that he should continue with his edition as planned.
- (v) **HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS** – It was noted that The Community Initiatives Fund (Highways) was granting further funds and that the Clerk had sent off an initial expression of interest letter to Highways regarding traffic calming measures for

the village.

(vi) **PLANNING** - see attached report. A further Planning meeting to be held on 10 September.

(vii) **HUMAN RESOURCES, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING** – The Clerk's Appraisal had taken place and details had been passed to Councillors in a confidential memo.

(viii) **GENERAL PURPOSES** – the working party had met and concluded that the Bye Laws for the playing field should be amended to include a prohibition on glass being taken onto the fields and Cllr S Carlsson Browne was asked to liaise with the Clerk re some suitable wording. The playing Field working party were also asked to finalise the site for the replacement Froggo bin presently in the Clerks garden, so that this could be installed as soon as possible.

(ix) **CCTV** – it was noted that the full amount of the CCTV grant had been awarded (£6,784) and Cllr Belgrove was warmly thanked for all her hard work in getting this. The working party to meet at an early date to decide on the criteria for quotations and the Clerk would then get these in time for discussion at the October meeting.

ACTION : CLERK, ENVIRONMENT W.P., CLLR E OSBORNE, CLLRS CARLSSON BROWNE, PLAYING FIELD WORKING PARTY

09.08.10 MONTHLY PAYMENTS AS LISTED BELOW :

Clerk's salary and expenses (DD)*	1260.82
NI*	103.40
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NI	103.40
A & J Lighting– Monthly maintenance – July *	71.16
A&J Lighting – annual check and clean*	237.35
A & J Lighting - Monthly maintenance – August	71.16
A & J Lighting – flood light repair*	637.73
A & J Lighting – repairs Cox Rd, Bramley Close & De Staunton Close	52.88
C & C Cleaning (invoice 1889)*	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 1967)*	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 2049)*	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 2117)*	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 2163)*	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 2223)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 2296)	28.20
St Andrews Church – use of for 2.7.08 meeting*	22.50
EON – street lighting – (DD) - June	122.65
EON – street lighting – (DD) – July*	122.65
Powergen – Pavilion/floodlighting July (DD)	60.00
TDC – Pavilion rates (DD)	
Wilson Sports Services – balance of h/c payments*	3,818.75
Mrs J Pettitt – travel*	35.36
Alresford Advertiser PC pages	25.00
Wickstead – swing repair	1386.50

Banner Supplies – stationery	73.33
EALC – Law & Procedures Course (Cllr Belgrove)	52.00
EALC – Governance & Accountability Guide	12.00

- paid in August

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

ACTION : CLERK

09.08.11 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

It was proposed by Cllr E Osborne, seconded by Cllr J Robinson and agreed that the financial statements for June and July 2008 and Bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2008 be adopted.

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

No reports available but any outstanding would be presented to the October meeting.

09.08.13 GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Following the positive feedback responses the Clerk was instructed to write to all organisations seeking their requests for grant aid in the 2009-2010 financial year and present these to the Financial Working Party for consideration in the next budget.

ACTION : CLERK

09.08.14 VANDALISM REPORT

- (i) Graffiti at the Pointer bus shelter – cleaned off by Mr Belgrove after being photographed for the police archive.
- (ii) Parties at White House Beach with consequent noise, disruption and litter.
- (iii) Large quantities of glass on the playing field and hard court

09.08.15 TRAINING COURSES AVAILABLE

- (a) Councillor Training Day – 18 October
- (b) Greens and Commons Course – 24 October
- (c) Roles and Responsibilities – 21 October
- (d) Law and Procedures – 16 October

The Clerk advised the above training opportunities and asked Councillors to let her know of anyone wished to attend so that she could make necessary arrangements.

ACTION : CLERK, ALL

09.08.16 FUTURE PLANS – BUDGET PREPARATION

The Clerk asked all working parties to let her know about any items to be included in the budget for 2008/2009.

ACTION : CLERK, ALL WORKING PARTIES

09.08.17 CRICKET STRIP

The Clerk reported on research and findings for both the cricket strip and fencing for the hard court and was asked to get the grant applications in as soon as possible for both these.

ACTION : CLERK

09.08.18 NETWORK RAIL

Councillors considered action to be taken with regard to the various complaints received about the behaviour of Network Rail workers in the village during the current work on the railway line and crossings and were advised that Cllr Scott was dealing with this and would continue to do so.

ACTION : CLLR SCOTT

09.08.19 YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Cllr Belgrove reported that the visits of the youth bus and youth workers to the village had been a success, but that until the village could provide its own youth workers it was unlikely that these events could be repeated in the near future. She would be taking this matter up with the necessary bodies and report back to the October meeting. The Clerk was asked to include the item again on the October agenda.

ACTION : CLERK, CLLR BELGROVE

09.08.20 BRIDGE OVER CREEK

This item having been included on agenda at request of Cllr Barratt who was not able to be at the meeting, the Clerk was asked to add this again to the October agenda.

ACTION : CLERK

09.08.21 YOUTH COUNCIL

It was agreed that the General Purposes Working Party meet to consider the establishment of a Youth Council and the Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements and report on her findings in due course.

ACTION : CLERK

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

- (i) The Clerk was asked to write to the football clubs to thank them for redecorating the Pavilion during the summer.
- (ii) Cllr J Housden asked the Clerk to write again to Sibbons about the lights and also to enlist the support of the new Clerk at Elmstead regarding this.
- (iii) Cllr J Robinson asked the Clerk to add the provision of notices prohibiting the parking of camper vans at the site of St Peters Church and possibly elsewhere to the next agenda.
- (iv) The Clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of a large rubbish bin at the creek and arrangements for it to be emptied – possibly by Veolia.
- (v) Cllr Wiggins asked the Clerk to compile a list of contacts for the various working parties.
- (vi) Cllr Belgrove advised that in her capacity as a member of NAPS she and PSCO Cox had been calling at homes in the area to establish links with the community. She also asked the Clerk to add an item about her concerns over the environmental issues of people living on boats at the creek as numbers seemed to be increasing.

ACTION : CLERK

There being no further business Cllr Wiggins thanked members for the attendance and closed the meeting at 10.15pm.

The next meeting of Alresford Parish Council will be held
on Wednesday 1st October 2008 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**

PLANNING

Application Number and Applicant	Location	Proposal	Comments
08/01150/ful Mr M Miah Letter dated 20.8.08	12 Cox Road, Alresford	First floor extension and dormer window to existing roof	Objection. Over development of site and setting a precedent as there are no other 3 storey buildings in close proximity to this property.
08/01067/FUL Mrs F Fleischmann Letter Dated : 13.8.08	8 Station Road	Erection of single storey rear extensions	Objection. An unattractive development that will severely affect the neighbouring property and block light from the adjoining garden
ESS/52/97/TEN(R) Cemex Angling Ltd Letter dated 11.8.08	Land at Plumptons Farm, St Osyth Road, Alresford	Continuation of development without complying with condition 17 (restoration) attached to planning permission ES/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.	Objection. See below *

ESS/52/97/TEN(R) Cemex Angling Ltd *

The Committee objected to this application on the grounds of the unwelcome visual impact and noise, and the security and safety of the site. Access from the B1027 is at the position of a recent accident involving and causing the death of a horse and injury to its rider, and is close to two stable blocks for which planning permission has recently been given.

The mix of angling on such a scale (100 anglers), open seven days a week, with the conservation of the site would be uneasy and there is no planning gain to the village. There is already sufficient angling provision for local residents; this new facility would be for large scale fishing activities and is seen as being a commercial enterprise which breaches TCR16 for a site of importance for nature conservation. The site is also thought to be part of the Coastal Protection Belt and the effect of the proposals on wildlife from

both the angling and equipment inevitably left behind (lines, hooks etc, together with the noise and disturbance would be detrimental.

It appeared there has been a procedural error in sending out the notifications regarding this proposal, as only two members of the public received the correct information after first having received applications (relating it was believed to a development in Mistley) and having queried this. Other residents in the area did not appear to have been properly advised.

The car parking access and arrangements are not shown on the plans enclosed. Despite notation on coloured plan P3/284/4/3 it was impossible to locate the car parking areas and access track shown in the key to the plan. This needed to be improved and further information was requested.

Finally, the Committee objected to the plan as angling use was different from the original application and the area which had established itself as a natural area much used by overwintering, feeding and nesting birds and other indigenous wildlife would be threatened by this proposal.