**ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd March 2022**

**at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Ford Lane, Alresford**

**Cllrs. present:**

Cllr. F Belgrove (Chairman),

Cllr. E. Osborne (Vice Chairman),

Cllr. A. Broom

Cllr. J. Claremont-Brown

Cllr. S. Clark.

Cllr. J. Housden

Cllr. G. Scott,

Cllr. A. Wiggins

Cllr. R. Swash

Cllr. S. Hammick

**Also present:**

Parish Clerk/Proper Officer M Cooke

County. Cllr. A. Goggin

Members of the public x4

**Meeting opens: 19.34hrs**

**Announcements:**

Chairman Cllr F Belgrove announcements: Welcomes everyone to the March meeting, confirms that covid arrangements are in place for those who wish to maintain them but that legislation does not insist. Subsequently announces that all present should stand for 1 minute silence in solidarity with the Ukranian people over the invasion of Ukraine.

Two further announcements. Queens Platinum Jubilee, free to attend event Platinum Party in the Park, bring your own picnic and chairs, with a live band in attendance, from mid-day until 5pm June 4th. Additionally there will be an Over 75’s tea party Thursday June 2nd. Committee seeks financial support. Chairman asks for agenda item on Aprils Agenda to discuss provision of funds. Cllr Scott mentions that district councillors will be providing £500 to jubilee funding.
Chairman announced that now was perhaps a perfect opportunity to thank Cllr Sue Hammick for all her work on behalf of council, as she does not have a moving date yet for her relocation from Essex to Derbyshire. Cllrs expressed their thanks for the myriad projects undertaken and wished Cllr Hammick well in her new adventures.

**03.22.2063 Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr. L. Belgrove

**03.22.2064 Declarations of Interest.**

Cllr G Scott and Cllr A Wiggins declared interest in item 2082.

**03.22.2065 Minutes of the last monthly meeting:** To approve the minutes of the meeting of the 2nd of February 2022.

Proposed: Cllr G Scott

Seconded: Cllr J Claremont-Brown

2 Abstentions

Carried unanimously.

**03.22.2066 Public Forum** (members of the public and guests can address the Council) Time limit 3 mins per person. Item limited to 10 minutes.
A member of the public spoke to ask about implementation of VAS Sign on Wivenhoe road.

Asks for Chairman to advertise for an apprentice to take on learning to maintaining the rose garden as MOP is set to retire from community gardening. Cllrs declare sadness over the announcement and Cllr Scott assures MOP to further raise related issues surrounding rose garden with TDC Planning officers. Cllr Osborne also supported MOP over the damage done to the rose garden and hedgerow near to the development. Chairman asks for a further meeting to support MOP in their decision.

A second MOP spoke on the recruitment process for Wyvernwood, complimentary of the calibre of candidates interviewed for placements in the new business that came from the local community. Impressed with the value of the village hall hire. Cllr Scott spoke as a district councillor in support of the MOP and the Wyvernwood business and its vital role as a local employer.

**03.22.2067 Finance Matters.**

February Finance Report - Council to review and approve. See Appendix A.
Cllr Osborne remarked on the excellence of the report, as previously.
Cllr Clark sought clarification of allotment income. Then asked a further question in regard to the allotment valuation. Cllr Swash also sought clarification on the free let period which ran 2021-22.

Proposed: Cllr A. Broom

Seconded: Cllr E Osborne

Carried Unanimously.

**03.22.2068 Planning Matters:** Review applications (presented on screen)

i: 22/00173/Detail Location Land North of Willow lodge, Cockaynes Lane, Alresford, Essex

**Proposal:** Proposed erection of 2 No dwelling houses.

Cllr F Belgrove introduced the application going from outline approval previously granted progressing to detail application. Cllr Scott mentioned it was approved by Planning during lockdown.

Cllr Osborne, Scott and Clark all comment in regard to the neighbourhood plan and how exceptions can be allowed within the neighbourhood plan. Cllr Osborne agreed that houses proposed are not out of character with the scale of the space. Cllrs Belgrove Scott and Osborne all mention the ancient hedgerow and the destruction of it. Cllr Clark questions need and use of the housing in proposal. Cllr F Belgrove seeks a resolution from council. Cllr G Scott sought clarification on what the planning officer has stated.

Cllr F Belgrove proposes council object

Cllr S Clark Seconds

Resolved to submit objection response referring to the neighbourhood plan and the councils desire to see anything that is built adding value through adhering to the neighbourhood plan and identified policies and need.

**03.22.2069 Minerals and Waste:** report from Cllr E Osborne from Essex County Council meeting February 25th, and news from the Minerals and Waste Working Party.

Cllr E Osborne presented.

No meeting of the Minerals and Waste Working Party this month.

Cllr S Clark and Cllr E Osborne attended meeting at ECC in Chelmsford on February 25th. Disappointment expressed at the decision taken on the Lufkins 1 extension and the challenges faced to the parish since Brett aggregates took over the site. Cllr Osborne verbally illustrated the meeting, and the routes which remain unaltered were approved for the next 3 years.

Cllr S Clark supported the manner in which Cllr Osborne had relayed the parish and councils views so eloquently. Cllr S Clark mentioned a further meeting to be arranged by the clerk with Planning Officer Mr T Sycamore following receipt of the minutes of the meeting at Chelmsford (as yet unpublished). Cllr S Clark relayed the fact that planning officer was keen to identify an alternative route.
Cllr J Claremont Brown offered her approbation to both councillors, and went onto to discuss the ‘haul road’ and the environmental damage caused by it. Cllr J Claremont Brown suggests an environmental survey quote sought. Clerk to action.

**03.22.2070 Public realm improvements:** Cllr Clark to report on quotations received from consultant landscape designers regarding proposals for a village tree planting and landscaping project. Council to consider quotations and choose a suitable contractor.

Cllr S Clark had hoped to make a recommendation, 2 close and one much more expensive. Sought further clarification from the two more reasonable quotes.

Cllr F Belgrove sought clarification that delay would not hinder grant applications for funding.

On hold until next month. Cllr Scott mentioned herb, bee, and sensory provision.

Cllr S Clark reminded council that provision is based on policy within the neighbourhood plan, and this specifically relates to Trees.

**03.22.2071 Weed suppression on paved areas:** Proposal: It is resolved that Alresford Parish Council arranges for a contractor to treat weeds in paved areas of Alresford, including Station Road shops, (using an appropriate environmentally friendly weedkiller) twice a year. Quote to be obtained from contractor and approved before work commences.

Cllrs discuss and agree that TDC are poor in weed suppression action. Cllr F Belgrove had a quote for £250 for weed spraying, using an environmentally friendly weedkiller. 14km of pavement and gutters to be sprayed. Cllr G Scott mentions narrow pavements. Cllr F Belgrove mentioned that TDC use Glyphosate.

Proposed Cllr Osborne
Seconded Cllr G Scott
Carried unanimously.

Resolved to spend £250on weed suppression.

**03.22.2072 Council to obtain quotes for gravel at war memorial and St Peters church car park**

Clerk to obtain quote

Proposed Cllr F Belgrove

Seconded Cllr JCBCarried
**Action: Clerk to obtain quotes.**

**03.22.2073 CCTV Update/upgrade:** Cllr F Belgrove to report on CCTV. Applications for grants and funding to contribute to costs.

**Action: Clerk to obtain quotes.**

**03.22.2074 Playing Equipment improvements.** Playquip have begun the process of repairs and maintenance. Half of maintenance budget spent. Council to review and to action second round of repairs. Report on our upgrades and repairs.

**Action** to continue spending the budget on maintenance

**03.22.2075 Members of Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club have requested the Council permits two small artificial turf strips to be installed adjacent to the field dugouts**, due to the constant erosion of grass. Council to discuss and decide on the matter. Item carried over from February meeting. Football club to fund this. Cllr E Osborne states it can be dangerous, but Cllr F Belgrove having consulted APC insurers assures council that the insurers are satisfied it is suitably safe. To be monitored.

Proposed Cllr F Belgrove

Seconded Cllr S Clark

Carried

1 abstention. Noted, that as a plastic surface it is environmentally unfriendly, and should not be in use.

**03.22.2076 Community Volunteer Awards report.** To be distributed by email to councillors. **Action:** Chairman

**03.22.2077 Electric Vehicle Charge points update.**Clerk reports on lack of cost-effective availability of a contractor. Resolved Clerk and Chairman to continue to seek a contractor.

**03.22.2078 Storm Damage Reports.** Images shared of storm damage. The Bretts jetty collapsed, the oak post at entrance from Wivenhoe road. Various trees cleared and money spent quickly to rectify the issues. Ongoing and increasing northwards of £1000. Cllr S Clark mentions the heritage asset of the jetty and safety concerns. Cllr G Scott suggested that TDC could pursue this to expedite repairs and would raise it with the heritage asset officer.

**03.22.2079 Parking in Ford Lane during term time:** Council to discuss the issue of inconsiderate and dangerous parking near Alresford Primary School during term time. Headteacher has written to parents. PCSO due to return to work and will prioritise it. Cllr J Housden sought clarification on times and incidence. Cllr Swash asked about road markings. We can seek additional marking through Highways. Cllr G Scott suggests there is difficulty in further pursuing markings. Cllr S Clark mentions that this may change with new developments. Cllr E Osborne mentions how media hysteria over child predation has exacerbated the volume of traffic.

**03.22.2080 PCSO/Police Report**.

January and February double report. See Appendix A

Comment sought. Cllr J Housden expands on crime locally and personal experience of outbuilding theft. Cllr G Scott mentions about dog fouling in report and new unauthorised signage on Staunton gate.

**03.22.2081 Clerks Report**.

Clerk gives verbal report. See Appendix C.

Cllr S Clark requests a new meeting be brokered between Mr T Sycamore, Cllr E Osborne and Cllr S Clark ahead of mooted meeting with Brett for 30.03.22.

**03.22.2082 District Councillor’s report (Written Report) and 3 min verbal report**

Cllr A Wiggins gives verbal report. See attached Appendix D.

**03.22.2083 Essex County Councillors Report (Written Report) and 3 min verbal report**

Cllr A Goggin gives verbal report. See attached Appendix E.

**03.22.2084 Meeting Ends** 21.15

**N.B.** Councillor J Housden seeks an in-camera meeting after PC meeting is closed with full council to clarify position over a dispute. Council agreed.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by the Clerk/Proper Officer: Matt Cooke 05.03.22