**ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 1st of March 2023.**

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

**Cllrs. Present:** Cllr. F. Belgrove (Chairman), Cllr E. Osborne (Vice Chairman), Cllr A. Broom, Cllr J Claremont-Brown, Cllr. J Housden, Cllr. A. Wiggins, Cllr S. Clark. Cllr G Scott (arrives 20.05hrs from another meeting).

Also present: The Clerk, County Cllr. A. Goggin

Members of the public x2

**Meeting opens:** 19.30hrs transacting the following business:

**Minutes from the Agenda**

**03.23.40 Announcements:** Cllr F Belgrove makes the following announcements:

Tea and coffee will be available at the welcome to Alresford event on 11th of March all residents and particularly new residents are invited to the Welcome to Alresford coffee morning event between 10am and 12 noon to be held at the Village Hall. Bacon rolls and Sausage Rolls will be available to purchase. Circa 20 organisations will be involved. Thanks all the volunteers for helping to hold the event. Cllr Belgrove makes a point that the event is not a Parish Council Meeting and does not constitute a summons.

Cllr Belgrove also announces a revision of dates for the May Annual Parish Council Meeting, to now be held on May 11th, and the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on the 18th of May.

**03.23.41 Apologies for Absence.** Cllr G Scott delayed at another meeting arriving at 20.05hrs, Cllr L Belgrove, Cllr R Swash send their apologies.

**03.23.42 Minutes of the last monthly meeting:**

To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the 1st of February 2023.

Proposed: Cllr E. Osborne, Seconded Cllr J Housden, 4 votes- Carried. 2 Abstentions.

**Action:** Clerk to upload approved minutes to website.

**03.23.43 Declarations of Interest.** Councillors to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in agenda items. No declarations from councillors present.

**03.23.44 Public Forum** This council is committed to community engagement and welcomes members of the public to contribute in this part of the meeting. Time limit 3 mins per person. Item limited to 10 minutes.

**During the public forum:** Members of the public and guests can address the Council on matters presented on the publicised agenda. Council can only take decisions on agenda items. Matters raised not on the agenda can be carried forward for a response later. Any questions not presented to council far enough in advance may be noted and responded to at another time.

**After the public forum:** Members of the public are asked to respect that this is a meeting to conduct council business and interruptions during the remainder of the meeting are not permitted.

A member of the public spoke on two matters:

They stated that the planning portal issues mentioned at the previous meeting had been resolved and the search for new planning matters or decisions had been rectified on the portal by Tendring District Council. They also spoke about the proliferation of signage over the weak Bridge at Alresford Viaduct and the fact that the signage should state B1029 and A 133 not the B1027. This was agreed by councillors that the signs are wrong and have been raised.

**03.23.45 Finance Matters.**

February 2023 Finance Report - Council to review. Cllr Belgrove highlights that late invoices had brought new items and the totals would be adjusted by the RFO. Once Cllr F Belgrove informed council of the additions and the new totals. Cllr E Osborne asks a question over income from the charge my street income. Cllr F Belgrove explains the process and that the income is a not for profit. The clerk clarifies the councils position. Cllr S Clark asks a question over the public works loan. Cllr E Osborne clarifies the purpose of the Public Works Loan in building the pavilion. This was then voted upon by council.

Proposed Cllr A. Broom, Seconded Cllr A. Wiggins, Carried.

**Action:** Clerk to inform RFO of councils’ approval, subject to revised totals.

**03.23.46 Planning** Council to consider the following planning application: Cllr F Belgrove introduces the single item.

**APPLICATION NO: 23/00195/FULHH.**

PROPOSAL: proposed landscape and hard standing to Annexe.

LOCATION: Alresford Lodge, Ford Lane, Alresford Colchester CO7.

Cllr E Osborne introduces, council discusses the plans. Proposed no comment on a Neutral Response: Proposed Cllr F Belgrove, seconded Cllr S Clark. Carried.

**Action:** Clerk to upload council decision to planning portal.

* + 1. **District Councillor’s report (Written Report)** and 5 min verbal report.

Cllr. A.Wiggins delivers the district councillors report in Cllr G Scotts absence (attending another meeting). Cllr S Clark and Cllr E Osborne ask questions of Cllr A Wiggins on the revisions, and loss of the full access road at the Colchester Garden Community project, linking the A133 to the A120.

* + 1. **Essex County Councillor Report (Written Report)** and 5 min verbal report.

Cllr A Goggin delivers the county councillors report out of the agenda sync due to being at another meeting. Delayed until after item 52, whilst County Councillor is at another meeting.

* + 1. **Council to consider** Purchase and installation of Solar Panels for the pavilion roof. Proposal: It is proposed APC investigates options for providing solar energy to the pavilion. Cllr F Belgrove introduces item. Mentions that the Village Hall Management committee have also raised this and that a joint venture might be a way forwards.

Cllr A Wiggins agrees and suggests that TDC may also be worth contacting re the procurement of equipment through collective bargaining. Cllr E Osborne suggests that if it Grant Funded and has no or low cost attached it may ultimately pay the council a small income, and certainly represents a circa £6,000 saving annually once costs are recouped. **Action:** councillors to explore available grants further.

* + 1. **Council to consider:** 20's Plenty for Essex : Advisory speed campaign for Essex Villages. Council to discuss this initiative put forward by several Parish Councillors from other Councils. Cllr F Belgrove introduces the item. 49 Essex Parish Councils have signed up but it is only an advisory limit. Cllr J Housden mentions that in London it is borough wide and that the limits are compulsory. Cllr F belgrove reminds those present of the issue with enforcement of an advisory limit.

**Action:** council to review the campaign and take a decision on joining.

* + 1. **Council to discuss:** Weak Bridge B1027. Diversion and signage issues. Council to decide on possible actions to alleviate problems. **Action**: Council to approach Network Rail to discuss the Alresford Viaduct and the potential to prop the Viaduct. Approach Essex County Council for signage on Coach road warning of low power lines. Cllr Belgrove to speak with chief engineer Peter Massey.
		2. **Council to consider**. Dog Fouling - problems on Staunton Gate estate and approach alleyway from Station Road. Cllr E Osborne proposes use of TDC mobile CCTV to be deployed. Seconded Cllr J Claremont-Brown, Carried.

 **Action:** Clerk to contact TDC Re CCTV Deployment and rental.

Cllr G Scott arrives at 20.05hrs from another meeting.

* + 1. **Coronation Decorations for the investiture of King Charles III**. Council to decide on specific sites to be decorated (approval decision already taken by Council to purchase some decorations with bunting/flags). The chairman introduces the locations as identified and eligible without permits, or where permits already exist.

**Action**: Chairman to further review locations where existing permissions exist to hang bunting and/or flags as well as the centre of the village**.**

Cllr A Goggin arrives at 20.09hrs from another meeting.

Item 03.23.48 is re-scheduled and taken next.

* + 1. **Council to consider:** communication issues with Essex Highways and Tendring District Council. Councillors to consider problems encountered, to seek and propose solutions. Cllr F Belgrove introduces the item and council discusses the impact on the Parish Councils operation, the limited and untimely responses, the removal of devolved powers. Cllr G Scott mentions the members enquiries fast track service available to district councillors.

**Action:** Councillors present urge district councillors to make representation to TDC to roll this out to parish councils too. Clerk to write on councils behalf to TDC.

* + 1. **Council to consider:** Grass cutting grant from ECC Highways. Council to consider requesting an increase in payment contribution. Cllr F Belgrove introduces the item stating that the supplementary grant has not increased over a number of years from £766.64. Cllr F Belgrove proposes, seconded Cllr E Osborne, Carried. Council approves a letter to request an increase of the grant to £1000**.**Carried**. Action:** Clerk to write on councils behalf to ECC.
		2. **Council to consider:** Toilet facilities - playing field. Council to consider approval of a quotation received and to seek external funding for most of the cost - from S106 and grants. Suggested that of the three quotes received, the toilet bock for £17,725 inc. delivery and installation is accepted by council, and that council review grants and S106 monies. Proposed Cllr F. Belgrove, Seconded Cllr G Scott, Carried. **Action:** Chairman and Clerk to apply to draw down S106 money and find grant funding.
		3. **PCSO/Police Report**. Policing update and PCSO crime report. Cllr F Belgrove introduces and updates on crime within the month.
		4. **Updates:**
* Litter Bins x4.
* Flagpole installation x1.
* Allotment Notice Board x1.
* Playing field- additional seating purchased.
	+ 1. **Clerks Report.** Clerk delivers his monthly report.

**Action:** Network rail to be contacted by the Clerk re the Coach road railway crossing and dangers to infrastructure.

* + 1. **Meeting Ends** 20.55 hrs.

Prepared by the Clerk/Proper Officer: Matt Cooke 20.03.23.