**ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the** Wednesday 6th of March 2024.

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

**Cllrs. Present:** Cllr. F. Belgrove (Chairman), Cllr E. Osborne (Vice Chairman), Cllr L Belgrove, Cllr A Broom, Cllr J Claremont-Brown, Cllr. A. Wiggins, Cllr. G. Scott, Cllr. R. Swash.

Also present: The Clerk, County Councillor A Goggin, Members of the public x8

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

**Minutes from the Published Agenda**

**03.24.043 Announcements -** Chairman to introduce.

Cllr F Belgrove extends the Parish Councils grateful thanks to all the volunteer residents involved in the distribution of leaflets and forms, advising, and researching, as well as speaking with the media.

He mentions the councillors involved in the surgery attended by Cllr F Belgrove, Cllr E Osborne, Cllr L Belgrove, Cllr A Wiggins, Cllr G Scott, Cllr J Claremont-Brown, Cllr A Broom, in February and the importance that the matter has been given locally, with how residents have galvanised to respond, and speaking with the residents over their concerns.

Cllr L Belgrove arrives 19.32hrs.

**03.24.044 Apologies for Absence.** Cllr S Clark, Cllr V Dalzell.

Cllr G Scott to arrive from another meeting.

**03.24.045 Minutes of the last monthly meeting:** To review and consider the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 7th of February 2024.

Two adjustments sought, by Cllr L Belgrove. Agreed by all in attendance.

Proposed Cllr J Claremont-Brown, Seconded, Cllr A Wiggins, Carried.

**03.24.046 Declarations of Interest.** Councillors present to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in agenda items.

Cllr A Wiggins declares interest in items 055 and 061.

Cllr J Claremont Brown and Cllr A Broom register interest in items 049 and 050, and declare a granted dispensation to vote on quarrying matters.

**03.24.047 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 that are not on the agenda can be carried forward for a response later. Any questions not presented to the 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 mentions that there is a shortfall recently announced in the newspaper Colchester Borough Councils finances to service a debt of two million pounds or more need to be covered. He asks if the District Council or Parish Council have any such skeletons in their collective cupboards? Cllr F Belgrove states that the Parish Council does not have any such issues, and offers the District Councillor Cllr A Wiggins an opportunity to respond Cllr A Wiggins states that she would need to enquire of officers, but suspects that due diligence will have occurred in the District Councils financial management plans, and that were such sums an issue it would have been publicly scrutinised through the press already.

Cllr G Scott arrives 19.37hrs.

Another member of the public asks for Clarification on the PCSO report on what the theft from numbers are and what they were stolen from? Cars, Sheds, Homes? Cllr F Belgrove will ask the PCSO for greater clarity. Cllr L Belgrove also clarifies that there may not be information to add.

A third member of the public asks about speeding on the main road, and asks what the Trucam is? This is clarified by Cllr F Belgrove as being an accurate device for measuring speed and that the PCSO and Traffic officers are trained in its use and that they are regularly deployed in the village to pursue the reduction of speeding.

The questioner also asks about the VAS Signs and if they can be deployed elsewhere.

Cllr F Belgrove clarifies that siting of signs requires Police Authority, approval by Essex County Council Highways department. Cllr G Scott adds that the Parish Council have been trying to reduce speeding and speed limits on the B1027 for years.

Cllr L Belgrove reminds all present that limits being in place mean that enforcement can be pursued and this creates action on unwanted and anti-social behaviors, such as speeding.

The resident then asks about litter picking and Cllr F Belgrove highlights item 60 on the agenda, welcoming peoples involvement.

The Public Forum is drawn to a close.

* + 1. **Finance Matters.**

February 2024 Finance Report - Council to review and consider.

Cllr F Belgrove announces the full finance committee meeting to be held March 21st 2024 at 10

Cllr R Swash seeks clarification on item 19, the ACRFC Bar bill, from the Christmas Meeting.

Proposed to accept finance report Cllr R Swash, Seconded Cllr A Broom, Carried.

* + 1. **Essex County Council Minerals Local Plan Review Consultation**

Council to consider its’ formal response to the proposals put forward for new quarries in Alresford at Church Farm (A 67) and Lodge Farm (A71).

Cllrs debate the matter in depth, following the delegation to the sub-committee, and their findings. Cllrs make general comments on both sites, and present objections to those present.

Proposed to submit the response drafted by the sub-committee by Cllr F Belgrove, Seconded Cllr E Osborne, Carried unanimously.

* + 1. **Essex County Council Minerals Local Plan Review**

Report from Minerals and Quarrying Sub-Committee. Council to consider options on the proposals received in the Essex County Council review for sites.

This council resolves to submit the response drafted by the sub-committee consisting of Cllr S Clark, Cllr E Osborne, Mr C Sanderson, with attendees including Mr R Butcher, Mrs R King, Cllr J Claremont Brown and Cllr A Broom.

Proposed by Cllr F Belgrove, Seconded Cllr E Osborne, Carried unanimously.

* + 1. **Hawthorn Trees x2 (Wivenhoe Road)** – It is proposed that council approve the pruning back of the trees. Council to discuss and decide.

Cllr G Scott highlights the Mistletoe growing within the trees and that care should be taken in the management of the pruning.

Proposed Cllr L Belgrove, Seconded Cllr A Wiggins, Carried.  
**Action:** Clerk to instruct Contractor

* + 1. **Road Signs,** finger posting signs to the station and several other locations. Council resolves to consider a survey of signs, and instruct either cleaning, repair or replacement.

Proposed Cllr G Scott, Seconded Cllr B Swash, Carried.

* + 1. **Council to discuss contribution to Alresford Fete Organising Group**

**A:** contribution to “Picnic in the Park”: It is proposed that £150 is donated to the Fete Group.

Proposed Cllr L Belgrove, Seconded Cllr G Scott, Carried.

**B:** contribution to “Picnic in the Park”: Request for provision of wheeled refuse container x2 for the event, as provided by CSH to the Pavilion. Councillors to discuss and approve and decide.

**Action:** The clerk to seek illustrative costs for the provision of a wheeled bin.

Proposed Cllr A Wiggins, Seconded Cllr J Claremont-Brown, Carried.

* + 1. **Parish Councillor Co-Option:** notices posted, applications pending.

It is advised by the clerk that selection from applications received will be held in camera.

This to be added as an agenda item to the next meeting.

* + 1. **Update:** Playing Filed Toilet Block- Grant Received. Application for Cockaynes Quiet Lane, Progress report.

Cllr F Belgrove states that Grants for the toilet block received total £17,000 in the form of £15,000 from Tendring and £2000 from Brett Aggregates.

He also states the next steps in the Cockaynes Lane Quiet Lane Application and calls on the clerk to clarify the process.

**Action:** Clerk and Cllr F Belgrove to follow up and involve County Councillor A Goggin.

* + 1. **Pavilion Solar Panel Project.** Council to discuss funding streams in order to complete the project.

**Update:** Cllr F Belgrove announces the cost of £13,000 for approved contractor Sunlite Group to install, that council has £5,000 of budgeted reserves and requires £8,000 to raise funds for. Councillors discuss options for fund raising and grant applications.

* + 1. **Marsh Farm Bus Stop Wivenhoe Road** update, and consideration of further action.

Cllr E Osborne States that the stop is still marked on Google. Cllr J Claremont Brown raised the issue originally and that Essex County Council would appear to not want to reinstate the stop. We continue to await the stops reinstatement.

* + 1. **Street Name Plates:**

**A:** Council to consider approaching Tendring District Council to fit a street name plate for Wivenhoe Road, opposite the junction with Station Road.

Cllr L Belgrove agrees that this is important and is a request received from Residents. Cllr G Scott agrees and states that there is a need to consult with Essex Conty Council, but will also raise it with Tendring District Council. Proposed Cllr L Belgrove, Seconded Cllr G Scott, Carried. Referred to District Councillors.

**B:** Council to consider and decide refurbishment or replacement of Saint Andrews Close name plates.

Cllr L Belgrove states that the name plate for Saint Andrews Close and De Staunton Gate are in need of refurbishment and /or replacement. Any legacy plates with Alresford Parish Council name on them should be refurbished as being of historical importance. Cllr G Scott agrees adding Worcester Crescent and suggests using the North Borne Depot to have signs refurbished at Tendring District Council.

**C:** Council to consider audit and survey of village street name plates, with a view to replacement/refurbishment.

Proposed Cllr F Belgrove, Seconded Cllr E Osborne, Carried. Cllr G Scott asks that the result of the survey be shared with District Councillors, G Scott and A Wiggins.

**Action:** Clerk to instruct Handyman Mr J Spurgeon to compile a list of signs needing refurbishment, and those signs requiring replacement.

* + 1. **Switch of Engine Posters:** Council to decide siting locations for approved posters in Coach Road.

Councillors discuss where it should be sited, and the permissions required.

Cllr G Scott suggests that Network rail need to relocate a “keep clear” line further back from the crossing so that residents can still access their driveways even when the railway crossing is closed. Cllrs agree that Network Rail Approvals will be required.

**Next steps:** Enquiries to be made with Network Rail on poster siting.

* + 1. **Big Bag Challenge:** Council to discuss a community litter pick for later in March.

Cllr F Belgrove introduces and asks those present to share with their networks.

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

Cllr G Scott reads the report from District Councillors, highlighting the various committees and events attended by himself and Cllr A Wiggins

* + 1. **Essex County Councillor Report (Written Report)** and 5 min verbal report.  
       Cllr A Goggin delivers his report highlighting the responses by Alresford and Thorrington to the quarrying planning matters. Commending both parishes for their efforts but reminding all present of Essex’s need for building materials, and that some sites will have to be approved. He goes on to discuss the B1027 project and the extensive work that is still taking place to get it over the line and the changes to speed limits and signage that will be implemented.
    2. **PCSO/Police Report**. Policing update and PCSO crime report. Cllr L Belgrove delivers the PCSO report highlighting the illegal use of e-scooters, licence plate visibility and cleanliness being a legal requirement, and that speeding and inconsiderate parking remain issues within the village.
    3. **Clerks Report.** The clerk delivers his report for actions undertaken in February on behalf of council.
    4. **Meeting Ends** Cllr F Belgrove calls the meeting to an end 21.13hrs

Prepared by the Clerk/Proper Officer: Matt Cooke. 27.02.24