**ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Annual Parish Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 11th of May 2023.**

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

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

Also present: The Clerk, The Responsible Financial Officer, County Cllr. A. Goggin

Members of the public x3

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

**Minutes from the Published Agenda**

**Announcements:** Chairman congratulates the councillors on their re-election and welcome new councillor V Dalzell, then also congratulates the District Councillors on being returned to office. The chairman also announces that the order of items will be changed due to the need of some members present needing to attend elsewhere.

**05.23.88 Election of Chairman.** Councillors present to elect a chairman. Cllr F Belgrove stands, Proposed Cllr J Housden, Seconded Cllr B Swash, Carried unanimously.

**Item moved:**

**05.23.93 Election of Vice- Chairman.** Councillors present to elect a vice-chairman. Cllr E Osborne stands. Proposed Cllr G Scott, seconded Cllr L Belgrove, Carried unanimously.

**05.23.89 Acceptance of office of chairman:** Signed in front of and witnessed by the Clerk and Proper officer.

**05.23.90 This council resolves** that it is no longer eligible as defined under the Localism Act 2011 to utilise General Power of Competence**.**

Cllr F Belgrove moves the above motion, seconded by Cllr G Scott, Carried.

**05.23.91 Resolution:** Council resolves to defer acceptance of office of elected councillors in order for absent councillors to sign their documents.

Proposed Cllr F Belgrove, Seconded Cllr A Wiggins, Carried unanimously.

**05.23.105** **Essex County Councillors** report delivered early as County Councillor has to attend another meeting. Verbal report given. Questions fielded by council chairman to the County Councillor. County Councillor invites councillors to a briefing session to be held at Brightlingsea Library on May 31st, 2023.

**05.23.92 Committees**: Council to appoint /re-appoint members of three standing committees. Item held over to June Meeting and full council attendance.

1: Finance Committee - Currently: Cllr F Belgrove Cllr E Osborne Cllr A Broom Cllr A Wiggins, Cllr L Belgrove, Cllr R Swash.

2: Planning Committee – Currently: Cllr E Osborne Cllr A Broom Cllr A Wiggins, Cllr S Clark, Cllr J Housden.

3: Personnel Committee – Currently: Cllr F Belgrove Cllr A Wiggins, Cllr L Belgrove, Cllr J Claremont Brown.

Chairman asks for councils view on deferring to the next meeting. Cllr L Belgrove, Cllr G Scott and Cllr V Dalzell concur that deferring until the next meeting is appropriate.

**05.23.93 Election of Vice- Chairman.** Councillors present to elect a vice-chairman. ***Moved up the agenda to second item.***

**05.23.94 Announcements.** Chairman to make announcements.

Clerk issues a reminder to all councillors to fill out their Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Other Registerable Interest forms to be returned by the end of May to the Parish Office.

Announces serious accident at work suffered by the PCSO Julia Brandon, and that the chairman has sent councils best wishes for a swift recovery.

A reminder to councillors to check their e-mail more frequently and respond promptly to the clerk.

The annual Parish Meeting of the Electorate will be held next Thursday May 18th at 7.30pm in the same space.

The Fete Organising Group has organised an event on Saturday June 10th.
Grateful thanks for the volunteers who turned up to the station house, for the Kings Coronation clearing litter and gardening.

A written confirmation has been received by Bretts of the cessation of processing other than concrete at Alresford Quarry.

Finally, a reminder for councillors to raise their hands prior to speaking and waiting to be called upon at meetings.

Cllr R Swash, Cllr J Claremont-Brown, and County Councillor A Goggin leave the meeting.

**05.23.95 Apologies for Absence.** Cllr A Broom, Cllr S Clark.

**05.23.96 Minutes of the last monthly meeting:** To approve the minutes of the meeting of the 5th of April 2023. Changes requested by Cllr L Belgrove for item 66 and clarification of a comment from Cllr L Belgrove under item 80, also requests for acronyms to be spelled out.

Proposed Cllr G Scott, 2nd Cllr A Wiggins. Carried.

**05.23.97 Declarations of Interest.** Councillors present to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in agenda items. Cllr G Scott declares interest in agenda item 104. Cllr A Wiggins also declares an interest in agenda item 104, Cllr L Belgrove declares an interest in the Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC).

**05.23.98 Public Forum** under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1 (1) 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. The Council can only take decisions on agenda items. Matters raised and 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 raises a matter on the B1027 bridge closure and the period for which it will be closed. Councillors respond with clarification that it may be in place for 4 years. Cllr G Scott requests that the clerk writes to Essex County Council and Network Rail on behalf of council to seek clarification on the period the closure will be in place for. Cllr E Osborne also agrees that this is addressed. Cllr L Belgrove also suggests that the local MP should be involved, and will also take it to the TDALC next meeting. Cllr G Scott raises the issue of the lack of consultation.

**05.23.99 Finance Matters.** April Finance Report - Council to review and approve. Responsible Finance Officer is in attendance to field questions.

Cllr V Dalzell speaks about the need to provide value for money and public accountability against the set precept; and asks if we as a council should publish more information. Chairman states that the finance report is published online. Cllr Dalzell asks what our web page hit count is, asks if we cannot engage the community more widely through social media and utilizing government toolkits to provide data? Cllr L Belgrove states that the council monitor complaints carefully to ensure that aspects of public concern are engaged with. Reminds councillors present that majority demographic is of elderly residents who do not utilise social media, and that council has a duty not to exclude or discriminate in its engagement policy. Suggesting that the only way to engage the community fully is through survey and that the costs are significant.

Cllr V Dalzell states that the government website offers routes of addressing the matter without spending thousands at that this form of engagement is about change management. Cllr L Belgrove replies that Alresford Parish Council is always engaged with community, that how we spend money is the biggest concern of residents, and that the Parish Council is ahead of the game in reducing the precept when most have increased their precept. We must be inclusive of all members of the community.

Cllr V Dalzell asks a question on how the PCSO is funded as it is not in the finance report. The Chairman replies that we do not currently pay as the PCSO is off work sick.

Cllr V Dalzell asks if it would usually appear on the finance report, is the PCSO funded from the precept and if so at what cost annually. Cllr F Belgrove is not sure of the exact figure but that it is circa £18-20,000 per annum. RFO A Baxter replies that she will need to get back to council with an exact figure. Cllr E Osborne asks when we last paid. Chairman replies it was circa 2 years since we last paid for the PCSO. Cllr G Scott agrees and suggests this fact is minuted and footnotes provided to Finance Report. Cllr L Belgrove replies that such matters and questions arising should be emailed to the clerk ahead of a meeting so that facts can be established to better answer queries in a meeting. Cllr L Belgrove also adds that Anti-Social Behaviour and criminal damage has cost the village thousands of pounds annually, and that the PCSO’s intelligence and local knowledge has proved invaluable in reducing crime, ASB and in addressing the elderly residents concerns over the criminal behaviours experienced by the village.

Cllr F Belgrove asks if there are any further questions on the finance report. Cllr E Osborne proposes it accepted, Cllr J Housden seconds the proposal, carried.

**05.23.100 Planning Matters:**

**Application number: 23/00459/FUL** PROPOSAL: Proposed construction of new self-build, single storey house and garage together with new access

Location: Land adjacent to Myrtle Villa Colchester Main Road Alresford Essex

[23/00459/FUL | Proposed construction of new self-build, single storey house and garage together with new access. | Land adjacent to Myrtle Villa Colchester Main Road Alresford Essex (tendringdc.gov.uk)](https://idox.tendringdc.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=RS6RV0QB0OT00)

Cllr F Belgrove introduces the application, Cllr E Osborne expands in relation to the Neighbourhood plan. The clerk displays the documents to the council.

Councillors debate the matter and frame councils’ response in relation to the Neighbourhood plan. Cllr G Scott asks for the dates the matter was submitted; and explains the time frame to call in the application to District Council.

It is resolved that council objects to the proposal.

Proposed by Cllr E Osborne, Seconded by Cllr J Housden. Chairman asks for a recorded vote. 4 councillors vote to object: Cllr F Belgrove, Cllr E Osborne, Cllr J Housden, Cllr L Belgrove, and 3 councillors abstain, Cllr G Scott, Cllr A Wiggins, Cllr V Dalzell. Cllr L Belgrove requests that safeguarding is put into place when emailing District Councillors to call planning items in by including the director of planning in communications.

**05.23.101 Village History Boards x2** council to discuss, consider and decide on funding for two history sign boards providing historical information on Alresford. Cllr A Wiggins states her support for the proposal, as does Cllr G Scott. Cllr L Belgrove asks that the history board involve the school and engages the children with the project. We received a quote of £349 per board plus £120 installation. But that council will need to seek three quotes. Potential for grant funding. Cllr E Osborne mentions Community Reach funding of £1200 could be applied for, to cover this. Cllr G Scott adds a comment on the design of the board and that the board is agreed by council. Chairman combines the next item with this item. Cllr G Scott suggests locations. Cllr E Osborne will liaise with the Clerk in writing to the fund.

**Proposal:** Cllr L Belgrove proposes that history boards x3 potential are obtained utilizing the Community Reach funds. Seconded Cllr E Osborne, Carried

**05.23.102 Community Reach**. Council to decide on how the community reach donation be spent for the good of the community. Council included this item in the above item.

**05.23.103 Council to discuss and decide under public realm improvement policy Alres 5** Council to decideon species and location for planting a “Coronation Tree” to be donated by Alresford Womens Institute. It is agreed in principle that we accept the offer and that the environment working party members are present to discuss a location.

* + 1. **District Councillor’s report (Written Report)** and 5 min verbal report. Cllr G scott introduces the report and explains that Tendring District Council is under new overall control and that there will be a new Chairman and Vice Chairman announced imminently. Ex-plains that there will be change in the makeup of committees. Cllr G Scott also brings to councils’ attention the refuse on the B1027 and is seeking a way of addressing the collection of waste plastics and refuse from an un-sheeted vehicle.
		2. **Essex County Councillor Report (Written Report)** and 5 min verbal report: Moved up the agenda.
		3. **Council to discuss** speeding at the Wivenhoe end of the Wivenhoe Road, Alresford. Council to consider means of speed reduction, and/or approach Essex Police for advice and/or enforcement.

The chairman shares with councillors only the report from the police on speeding and the inconsiderate parking on the bend just before the speed de-restriction on the way to Wivenhoe. Councillors agree that the council needs to be involved with Essex Police.

Cllr V Dalzell asks about speed limits on Ford Lane and the history of speed limits on that road as it is an equal length to the Wivenhoe Road (although not as significant a main arterial road).

Cllr Dalzell, asks if we can successfully reduce Ford Lane speed limit, can we seek the same for Wivenhoe Road reducing to a 40mph limit between the 30mph and national derestriction?

Councillors agree this would be ideal, but that we need to engage with Essex County Council.

Council agree that they will work with Essex Police to reduce speeding in the village.

* + 1. **Council to discuss** request from ACRFC to tile the wall below the bar. Council to decide for or against. No Cost to the council.

Councillors request Samples to be provided to them in order for a decision to be made. It is reminded that the building is a civic building and requires an appropriate decoration to reflect the community not the football club. Councillors discuss the aesthetics of the idea.

* + 1. **PCSO/Police Report**. The chairman invites Cllr Linda Belgrove to deliver the letter from the District Commander, and the report from Essex Police. Cllr Belgrove reads the report.
		2. **Clerks Report**. The clerk delivers a verbal report of actions undertaken on behalf of council.
		3. **Meeting Ends.** 21:13hrs

Prepared by the Clerk/Proper Officer: *Matt Cooke* Date: 31.05.23.

Signed: Frank Belgrove, Chairman Date: 08.06.23