**ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 7th of September 2022**

**At 7.30pm the Pavilion, Ford Lane, Alresford**

**Cllrs. Present:** Cllr. F. Belgrove (Chairman), Cllr E Osborne (Vice Chairman), Cllr. J. Housden, Cllr. A. Broom, Cllr. G. Scott, Cllr. A. Wiggins, Cllr R Swash, Cllr S Clark,

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

Members of the public x20

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

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**09.22.2204 Announcements:** Cllr. F. Belgrove announces the sad death of Dereck (Dick) Burling. Weds 21st of September pencilled in as the date of funeral. Essex County Council announced recently to council and the chairman as part of the highways panel, the cessation of the devolution scheme. Disappointing and our County Councillor was not informed in advance. The clerk makes a legal announcement over the process of petition validation.

**09.22.2205 Apologies for Absence.** Cllr. S. Hammick, Cllr. J Claremont Brown, Cllr L Belgrove.

**09.22.2206 Minutes of the last monthly meeting:** To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the 3rd of August 2022.

Cllr. S Clark proposes, Cllr G Scott seconds. Carried

**09.22.2207 Declarations of Interest.** Councillors to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in agenda items. Cllr G Scott declares interest in item 09.22.2216 and states that should other items occur he would declare interest at the time. Cllr A Wiggins also announces the same item number. Cllr G Scott then clarifies the format that would be required of Cllr A Wiggins in the event of planning issues. Cllr J Housden also clarifies the position.

**09.22.2208 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.

Cllr F Belgrove introduces the public forum seeking to divide the public forum into two parts. Cllr F Belgrove then invites commentary first on Planning matters. A Member of the public speaks about the extended hours of Wyvernwood. Making the point that the demographic of Wyvernwood park does not make 9pm opening appropriate.  
A second member of the public speaks about the disregard for the planning conditions and the use of Ford Lane. Rhetorically asks if enforcement team are not available or prepared to enforce what is the purpose of planning conditions? Speaks about the “salami effect” of adding music and extra time, stating it is unacceptable. The owner of Wyvernwood speaks, offers apologies for the distress caused, takes on board the critique and insists the organization will learn from the complaints raised. He then provides an update on the B1027 junction, which will be completed either by 16.09.22 or 19.09.22. He also clarifies that the events planning application is sought to provide consistent and secure work for the parks employees, with over 50% of employees living within three miles of the Wyvernwood postcode. He offered to stay behind after the meeting and take questions, and provide answers where he is able, He stated that as a young organization they can only learn from feedback from their neighbours and residents affected by their proposal. Cllr F Belgrove winds up the planning part of the forum.

Cllr F Belgrove then reports that a petition is to be handed in to the chairman and invites the organizer to speak. The organizer provides name and address and seeks to ask the council to consider a discussion on the playing field and its dog byelaw. She goes onto to suggest a revision or revocation of the dog byelaw. The organiser asks for council to consider a dog friendly space within the park. The petition flags up the social needs for dog owners, and that the provision of a dog enclosure would safeguard children who use the park. She went onto to state that she was sad that the petition had become so divisive and that that was not its intention, apologises for the causing of division, offering thanks to the other organisers.

Cllr F Belgrove asks the organsier to present the petition and acknowledges the counter petition. The organiser also highlighted the neighbourhood plan, and that Cockaynes lane woods and church land can only be accessed by unlit roads thus highlighting a need. Also provides clarification on the processes of byelaw revocation. Organiser also asks a question on who might be involved in the decision-making process relating to the petition. Cllr J Housden clarifies that the organiser referred to the ground as a park and states that it is not a park but is a sports ground.

A member of the public asks if the counter petition that was removed from social media will be reinstated? Another member of the public speaks clarifying that he has lived in a number of areas in his life including inner city areas and that this is the worst area he has ever lived in for dog fouling. A further member of the public speaks that having recently moved to the area he has really enjoyed using the children’s play area with his children and his children’s friends; and that the lack of dogs makes for a safe and stress-free play environment. Cllr Belgrove states that this is part of the reason for the dog byelaw.

Cllr F Belgrove then asks for any additional comments for the public forum. A member of the public speaks about speeding and the pedestrian crossing. He states that he believes that the speed limit is 30mph and that the lorries and vehicles are doing more than 30mph along the Wivenhoe Road and through the pedestrian crossing. Cllr F Belgrove clarifies that the PCSO has stated that the tru-cam speed gun will be in regular deployment. Another member of the public asked about the crossing and stated that his wife wrote 13-14years ago and has never received a response. Cllr F Belgrove clarifies from whom the MOP believes a response was not forthcoming; recalling that there was a response from APC, and that ECC highways had most likely considered and refused the matter on the grounds that the crossing is on a bus route. The MOP refuted that. Cllr G Scott adds that there are raised crossings on the University campus and in other areas and that ECC and bus companies may have refused in the past, but the matter could and should be raised again. Cllr F Belgrove refers to Cllr E Osborne about the historical matter and both agree that they would need to refresh their memories. The MOP states that euro 6 engines would be in all new bus fleets by now, and that pollution is no longer an excuse. Cllr J Housden contributes stating that in many London boroughs the speed humps, and raised tables are being removed because of the particulate pollution associated with slowing down and speeding up. The clerk will research historical email exchanges and minutes on this matter.

Cllr F Belgrove concludes the public forum and offers those who wish to leave the opportunity to do so.

* + 1. **Finance Matters**

August Finance Report - Council to review and approve.

Proposed Cllr E Osborne

Seconded Cllr R Swash

Carried

See Appendix A

* + 1. **Planning Matters:** Review of applications (presented on screen)

**Proposal: 22/01239/FULHH** Proposed demolition of existing single storey addition and replace with new single storey extension. **Location:** Silver Birches 249 Wivenhoe Road Alresford Colchester Essex CO7 8AJ

Cllr F Belgrove introduces, handing out printed plans and highlights the lower ridge height and that the structure will be slightly larger in the extended plan. Cllr E Osborne speaks on the location and considers its impact on neighbouring amenity. Cllr Osborne suggests that there is no objection from his perspective.

Cllr G Scott seeks clarification on the location and Cllr S Clark also had difficulty locating the site. Cllr A Wiggins also clarifies who the owners are, and the location. Cllr S Clark also agrees that the application is suitable as submitted.

Cllr F Belgrove clarifies that council can support, remain neutral, and offer no commentary or a commentary encompassing no objection, or council may object. This is because the planning portal options have been changed and these are the councils only choices.

Cllr E Osborne proposes a neutral no objection response.  
Seconded Cllr G Scott.  
Carried.

**Proposal: 22/01306/VOC.** ProposedVariation of condition 23 of 19/01856/FUL to include the additional wording of "The seasonal events set out in the Schedule of Seasonal Events dated 27th July 2022", to allow for 4 additional seasonal events to take place within each calendar year. **Location:** Alresford Hall, Ford Lane, Alresford Colchester Essex CO7

Cllr A Wiggins leaves the room.

Cllr G Scott speaks to clarify why Cllr Wiggins leaves the discussion as a district council planning committee member.

Cllr F Belgrove introduces the application. Cllr E Osborne hands the lead over to Cllr S Clark, Cllr Osborne has nothing to add at this stage.  
Cllr S Clark explains that he has looked into the application in some detail. That the application seeks to add four additional seasonal events but cannot be looked at in isolation and must be reviewed from the context of the condition that was applied initially. He clarifies that conditions are frequently applied to allow for development to proceed where otherwise it would have been necessary to refuse permission. Conditions are placed to mitigate adverse effects. He then continues to clarify what condition 23 of the original application states: “The attraction will only open from 23rd March to 31st of March from 10am until 5pm seven days a week”, and the reason for the condition being put into place was to retain residential amenity. In planning terms there is a broad definition of residential amenity. The condition relates to the living conditions of exiting dwellings and their curtilage which might or will be affected by the proposed development. Cllr Clark asks council to consider: how the new operating times will affect any property affected on privacy levels, environmentally the impact of noise lighting effects on residential amenity, and has anything changed which makes the original condition 23 unnecessary? Cllr S Clark offers councillors to give their views and discuss it.

Cllr F Belgrove states that in his opinion it seeks to add an extra 12 weeks each year form the additional timetable, offering 3-9pm opening and 7 days during Halloween. Later opening times are of concern to some. Cllr F Belgrove also states that Wivenhoe Road residents have lobbied him to object. Cllr F Belgrove admits that he is minded to object. Cllr E Osborne also state that this is part of the original planning and was rejected with conditions applied on the grounds of residential amenity. Cllr Osborne speaks about living next to a school and how residents might hear noise at play time and lunch breaks 5 days a week, and that this would be the same kind of noise but 7 days a week and not sporadic as per play breaks with the addition of musical noise. He states that council went out of its way to support the application, and from the initial early opening using a route which was not agreed there has been discord created between village residents, the residents of the former estate of Alresford Hall, and disputes with neighbouring landowners. Cllr E Osborne states he would personally object.

Cllr J Housden also states that the proposed times are running into each other and that single day events are extended in the proposal, stating that he would Object when put to a vote. Cllr R Swash asks that council can put restrictions onto ford lane once the B1027 access point has opened. Cllr E Osborne also states that the two weeks of Valentines is actually one day. Cllr G Scott also contributes that once the entrance on the B1027 is open restrictions should be proposed. Cllr G Scott also states that the dates seek to coincide the half term breaks. Cllr F Belgrove also clarifies that seasonal opening has been extended to the addition of q12 weeks. Cllr S Clark also clarifies that amenity is being challenged by the proposal, and that council have a duty to protect the environment and the other residents. Cllr R Swash suggests that there can be sound mitigation and restriction. She states that we need to celebrate and enjoy ourselves following the lack of facility over the last three years. Cllr G Scott agrees and does suggest that these conditions are put to TDC. Cllr S Clark asks how noise might be mitigated. Cllr G Scott suggests that this can be included as a condition. Cllr S Clark suggests that the time into the night is where the issue and impact arises. Cllr E Osborne asks for District Councillor to call this in. Cllr G Scott clarifies the process. Cllr S Clark clarifies that the proposal breaches Tendring District Council policy SP7 and the National Planning Policy Framework in terms of planning controls to mitigates this type of development and noise.

Proposed by Cllr E Osborne to object, Seconded Cllr S Clark. Carried by 5 votes

No Objection. Zero Votes

Abstention: Cllr G Scott, Cllr R Swash.  
  
Cllr G Scott requests an email from the clerk, why the district councillor should call in the application. He also suggests that the deadlines for District councillors may have passed.

**09.22. 2211 Second Screen for the Pavilion:** council to discuss the purchase of a second tv screen for the pavilion to enable on screen visual coverage for both sides of the room during meetings. Cllr F Belgrove mentioned at the last meeting that we add another screen to make more use of screens for presentation. Suggested £300 budget. Cllr G Scott, Cllr E Osborne and Cllr S Clark will all utilise the second screen.

Cllr G Scott, Proposes, Cllr S Clark seconds

Carried.

* + 1. **SLCC Membership**: Council to discuss and approve the renewal of SLCC membership - cost £171. Proposed Cllr F Belgrove, Seconded Cllr A Wiggins. Carried.

Cllr G Scott states that TDC as part of the LGA spends up to £200,000 per annum for membership and that such a resource as SLCC is a bargain. Cllr E Osborne suggests that the clerk should be asked, and the Clerk replies that it is the most valued membership to the clerk in enacting council business.

* + 1. **B1027 Speed survey**: Council to discuss and approve the location for the ECC Speed Survey, to be forwarded to County Councillor Alan Goggin. Cllr F Belgrove introduces and suggests that the speed survey be installed close to Cockaynes lane on the B1027. Cllr G Scott speaks in agreement highlighting the Great Bromley speed reductions.

Cllr F Belgrove suggests close to the milestone on the B1027.

Proposed Cllr F Belgrove

Seconded Cllr J Housden

Carried

* + 1. **Dogs and Community Safety.** Council to discuss. No resolution to be made.

A serious occurrence of dog attack recently, and increase of dog faeces; significantly close to the school. Cllr F Belgrove introduces, hands over to Cllr E Osborne, who discusses the good idea of creating a dog owners club as part of the community, and that 20% of local households have dogs as part of their households. Cllr F Belgrove relates this to the charities he is an active part of and is especially keen on dog training. Cllr G Scott suggests that encouraging chipping of dogs would be a good initiative, Cllr F Belgrove comments that this is a law already.

* + 1. **Security and safety of Councillors and Staff**. Council to approve additional measures. Cllr F Belgrove introduces the item and mentions that a nearby council clerk was threatened in their office and that there have been social media posts bullying both councillors and staff. Cllr F Belgrove then continues that in light of these behaviours it would be appropriate to introduce a booking system for visiting the Clerks Office, under a lone worker policy as part of councils’ health and safety responsibilities.

Cllrs agree, Cllr G Scott discusses the measures in place at TDC and discusses the abuse and poor behaviour that he has been the recipient of. Cllr E Osborne clarifies that councillors do not receive payment for their work on behalf of councillors.

* + 1. **District Councillor’s report (Written Report)** and 5 min verbal report. **See Appendix B**
    2. **Essex County Councillor Report (Written Report)** and 5 min verbal report. **See Appendix C**
    3. **Product recall of the two Parish Council owned defibrillators**. Update Cllr F Belgrove introduces the item. The two council defibrillators have a software repair as the battery shows full, when the battery is not fully charged. Temporary defibrillators have been ordered whilst the council owned ones are repaired.
    4. **Brett Aggregates/Haul Road on site meeting with councillors**. Report. Cllr F Belgrove introduces the item and alludes to Cllr A Goggin’s report and the success of the meeting/walk. At the walk it was agreed that the following matters would be investigated: White lines to be repainted for pedestrian crossing, additional signage for pedestrians, infill planting for gaps in the hedgerow, and resin repairs to the road surface. Sadly. Angela Watts is leaving Bretts, who has been the main driving force in progressing our requests with Bretts. Cllr S Clark asks if a programme has been scheduled for the works, and if the Essex County Council Planning officer had agreed works with us and Bretts. Cllr F Belgrove also mentions some works have begun and additional works on ECC Insistence are improved. Cllr S Clark seeks a more formal pursuit of the schedule of works. Council to pursue this further.
    5. **Staunton Gate**: Allotments, Play Area, and Public Spaces. Update on the progress of hand over to the Parish Council. Cllr F Belgrove introduces the item and congratulates Cllr G Scott for his engagement with this at TDC, and the fact that initial hand over will be to TDC and thus council will avoid the legal expenses associated with the initial hand over from TWEL. Cllr G Scott discusses the bins not being emptied, the play park being in a poor state, fencing around the play park is not attached to posts, trees which have been ripped up and are missing, the allotments not being ready. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Nourse (Chief Planning Officer) from TDC also inspected with Cllr G Scott. Mr. Taylor arranged for two further officers to become involved in inspecting and pursuing the matters. Cllr Scott stated that TWEL are missing in action as the clerk stated last month and that TDC senior officers will contact Taylor Wimpey and pursue this matter. Cllr F Belgrove thanked the district councillor again for their input.
    6. **Works.**

**A:** Works to parking area War Memorial/St Peters. Council to approve expenditure subject to quote on pot-hole filling, pea shingle surfacing and replacement of damaged concrete posts. £3700 inc. VAT, £3083.33 exc. VAT. Does council approve the works? Cllr E Osborne states that this is a matter of urgency due to the state of the car park. Clarifies how the repair will be made. Cllr S Clark seeks clarification over the single tender. The clerk clarifies that no other contractors would quote the council.  
Cllr F Belgrove proposes, Cllr J Housden seconds, Carried.

**B:** Litter/Dog Waste bin requested for Ford Lane at the end of Bridle Way. Expenditure estimated to be £450 with annual emptying fee of £90. Council to consider approval. Cllr G Scott proposes, Cllr A Wiggins seconds, Carried

**C:** Air quality in parts of Alresford. Discussion item requested by Cllr Hammick following complaints received regarding excessive air born particles in the area near to the Creek. Item delayed as environmental working party to be held where Cllr S Hammick will be in attendance.

**D:** Damage to Ford Lane, street name sign. Council to approve works to repair **if** TDC fail to make good within a reasonable time frame. Item also to be cut. Clerk explains that Cllr F Belgrove and the clerk between them straightened the sign with a 4x4 and a tow rope. Cllr G scott said that he would raise the replacement/repair with TDC.

* + 1. Energy prices and the general cost of living crisis. Council to consider new initiatives to assist residents. Cllr F Belgrove introduces the item. Rev Fordyce has a couple of schemes in mind to support residents and welcomes suggestions from Councillors. Cllr G Scott asks if we can put advice numbers and links to step change, national groups, food banks, Samaritans and CAB be added to the village notice boards.
    2. Council to form subcommittee to welcome residents to Alresford, event agreed in previous meeting. Cllr S Clark and Cllr A Wiggins suggested a sub-committee be involved, and Cllr E Osborne asks others to be involved. Cllr G Scott agrees to join the sub-committee.
    3. A payment to the Alresford Advertiser of £75 has been requested for the inclusion in the magazine of the PC report. Cllr R Swash seeks clarification of the cost- is it an increase of £75 per issue or a total cost of £75, Cllr F Belgrove clarifies it is the cost per issue. Cllr A Wiggins thinks we spend £75 already. Clerk is asked to clarify but this is a matter that is sent directly to the RFO. Cllr G Scott suggests we up the amount to £100. Cllr Wiggins asks if council can research taking over the funding of the Alresford Advertiser. Cllr E Osborne proposes we agree the item as per the agenda. Cllr A Wiggins seconds. Carried.
    4. **PCSO/Police Report**. Policing update and PCSO crime report. Cllr F Belgrove introduces; Speeding an issue and tru-cam speed gun will be redeployed on a regular basis, serious dog attacks, domestic incidents, nuisance neighbour x2, thefts, ABH x2 serious incidents, driving complaints.
    5. **Clerks Report: See appendix D**

Cllr S Clark asks for agenda item on the tree planting scheme for October meeting.

Cllr R Swash asks for agenda item about the Christmas tree for the October meeting.

* + 1. **Meeting Ends 21:27Hrs**

Prepared by the Clerk/Proper Officer: Matt Cooke 21.09.22