**ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Council Meeting**

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

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

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

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

Members of the public x5

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

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**11.22.2252 Announcements:** Cllr F Belgrove announces that Cllr J Housden has been very poorly, and council offers their best wishes for a speedy recovery, thanking Cllr Housdens neighbour and Cllr E Osborne for their help in calling an ambulance.

Avian Flu precautions are in place across the Tendring District and the public should notify DEFRA if they see any dead wild birds with no obvious injury. He goes on to announce that the council would be laying a wreath at the war memorial and if people wished to attend, they could assemble from 10.45am on the 11th at the St Peters Church memorial site.

Cllr Belgrove announces the wonderful news that the winners of Essex Playing Field of the Year is Alresford parish council winning six awards and two outright wins for the best playing field and the best kept football pitch, with a gold award for the Playing area. Thanks to all the councillors, staff and volunteers including all the ACRFC members, and sponsors Ernest Doe. As a consequence, the football club has won a treatment by awards sponsors Ernest Doe.

There are to be road closures along Keelers lane from the 14th-25th of November instigated by Essex Highways.

Finally, the chairman announces that there will be drinks and Mince Pies donated by ACRFC following the December meeting.

**11.22.2253 Apologies for Absence.** Cllr S Hammick, Cllr J Housden, Cllr L Belgrove.

**11.22.2254 Resolution:** It is resolved that the Proper Officer Mr Matt Cooke is given the power to grant dispensations (relating to declarations of interests) to Councillors when it is appropriate to do so.

Cllr S Clark seeks clarification. Cllr G Scott speaks regarding this matter as applied at TDC. Cllr F Belgrove continues to clarify. Proposed Cllr F Belgrove, seconded Cllr G Scott

**Action:** Code of Conduct to be amended. **Carried.**

**11.22.2255 Minutes of the last monthly meeting:** To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the 5th of October 2022.

Cllr G Scott

Cllr E Osborne

**Carried. 2 abstentions.**

**11.22.2256 Declarations of Interest.** Councillors to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in agenda items. Cllr G Scott declares interest in District Councillors report 2266.

**11.22.2257 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 speaks on the receipt of the awards and recognition of the councils work for the community of the playing fields. A final point is made about Alders residents suffering from noise of works in nearby woodland. Cllr F Belgrove advises the MOP on how to inform TDC. Cllr G Scott clarifies, Cllr S Clark also seeks further clarification.

Another member of the public speaks confirming additional adult noise from the woodland and additional light and speaks about mitigation suggestions that were offered during planning for Wyvernwood. Cllr S Clark also clarifies that the areas that planning permission was provided for- has the area been extended and are more areas than planning was provided for. Also speaks about the VAS survey for Wivenhoe Road. Clerk describes the process undertaken with support of County Councillor, and the site visit made by chairman and vice chairman. How ECC Officers have made a variety of suggestions of alternative locations and would object to our site proposal. We are in negotiation.

Another MOP speaks regarding the cost of electricity and how costs will be covered. Cllr F Belgrove clarifies how costs have gone up but also that we have a rebate from Charge My Street to come.

A final member of the public speaks in relation to the building to be discussed under planning item 2259, reference 22/01703, seeking to ascertain if the space had been considered for extended Doctors surgery facilities. Cllr E Osborne clarifies and how Taylor Wimpey provided circa £30,000 to the extension of the medical facilities at the site, but would not be used as the surgery is not owned by the doctors.  
Cllr S Clark clarifies that the Neighbourhood plan identifies the additional need for elderly residents, but that no provision is included to expand or provide a Medical Centre or facility further to what already exists in the village.  
  
Cllr F Belgrove concludes the public forum.

* + 1. **Finance Matters**: Cllr F Belgrove introduces the details of the finance meeting held on the 19th of October, but that the budget and precept could not be discussed due to a technical matter. During this meeting it was identified that there is a need for a second bank account to ensure our reserves are covered by the banking guarantee, it was also discussed that allotment rents may need to increase.

September Finance Report - Council to review and approve. Cllr S Clark asks about the welcome to Alresford sign. Cllr F Belgrove responds that this relates to highways devolution scheme and took some time to be produced. Cllr S Clark suggests that all signs welcoming people to Alresford should be consistent and of the same standard and quality. Cllr R Swash agrees and Cllr G Scott expands on the location and quality. Cllrs request an agenda item to discuss signs.

Resolution to accept finance report.

Proposed Cllr A Broom. Seconded Cllr S Clark, Carried

* + 1. **Planning:** Council to consider the following planning applications:

**A: APPLICATION NO: 22/01073/DETAIL**

PROPOSAL: Reserved matters application for the erection of 1no. detached three bed bungalow with detached garage, considering details of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline planning consent 20/00365/OUT.

LOCATION: Land to rear of 1 Coach Road Alresford Colchester

Cllr E Osborne introduces. Images shown on screen. Council debate the amendments. The site has full planning permission. Council expresses an opinion on the amendments, with councillors continuing to be concerned over the siting of a bicycle shed, and the volume of parking and access to the road. Cllr G Scott is surprised that TDC have not made comment on the access to the road and the vehicular movement. Cllr S Clark clarifies that the surgery is still in use. Cars park on the roadway to the surgery, and that we cannot comment on parking or movements of vehicles in relation to the surgery. Cllr G Scott continues to ask if a payment can be sought form the developer for the roundabout and access. Cllr G Scott

Cllr E Osborne proposes to accept the amendments as proposed.

Seconded Cllr S Clark.

Neutral- commentary to be included re parking and shed/bin store.

Carried

**Action:** Clerk to upload councils’ decision and commentary to TDC Planning portal

**B: APPLICATION NO: 22/01306/VOC**

PROPOSAL: Variation of condition 23 of 19/01856/FUL to include the additional wording of 'The seasonal events set out in the Amended Schedule of Seasonal Events dated 28th September 2022', to allow for 4 additional seasonal events to take place within each calendar year.

LOCATION: Alresford Hall Ford Lane Alresford Colchester.

Council debate. Cllr F Belgrove announces the subtle changes. Cllr E Osborne introduces, and requests that Cllr G scott calls the matter in. Cllr G Scott seeks clarification from the clerk, re the extension for comments during the period of mourning. Clerk clarifies. Cllr G Scott sought an extension and the planning officer declined an extension to the District Councillor. Cllr G Scott sought further support from the TDC portfolio holder. Cllr E Osborne and Cllr F Belgrove clarify that ECC Highways have strongly objected to the extended operation hours. Cllr E Osborne discusses the extended hours, the breaches of planning conditions, constantly chipping away to hold the events they want and that the demographic does not support the extended opening hours. Cllr E Osborne suggests that the extensions are leading to the site becoming an events site. Cllr S Clark agrees with Cllr Osborne, and discusses the reduction of hours overall in the application against the application of July 28th, but that the late nights remain. Cllr S Clark agrees that council should continue to object.

Cllr F Belgrove seeks views from all other councillors. Cllr J Claremont Brown states that the owners are trying to contribute to the community and support local employment and that the owners don’t seem to be exploiting the site and its business opportunities. Cllr E Osborne states that the issues exist in late night opening, and the objections from the Woodland Trust, the Campaign For Rural England and Natural England should be considered.

Cllr F Belgrove seeks a proposal.

Cllr E Osborne proposes to object to the whole thing.

Cllr S Clark asks what we are voting for. Cllr F Belgrove clarifies that we are voting on the latest variation of conditions.

Seconded Cllr S Clark

4 Object.

3 Abstentions.  
  
Cllr G Scott asks if the councillors want Cllr G Scott to call it in. This is agreed and the clerk will email Cllr G Scott with dates and times of emails sent.

Cllr A Wiggins arrives 20:16 and retires to Clerks office as District Councillor who sits on the planning committee at TDC.

**Action:** Clerk to upload councils’ decision and commentary to TDC Planning portal.

Cllr A Wiggins is called back in.

* + 1. **Alresford Parish Council participation in the Energy Saving Support Scheme**: Resolution: It is resolved that APC Accepts the invitation from Community Energy Colchester to be part of the energy savings support scheme. Cllr F Belgrove introduces the scheme. Up to 60 Homes can apply, offering a real help with no outlay other than a voluntary contribution if possible and is not compulsory. Cllr F Belgrove introduces. Cllr S Clark asks how this is funded. Cllr F Belgrove answers- by central government.

**Proposed**; Cllr E Osborne.

**Seconded**: Cllr G Scott.

Carried. 1 Abstention

Cllr A Goggin Arrives 20.37hrs.

* + 1. **TDALC report.** Report from Cllr Linda Belgrove, Chair of Tendring District association of Local Councils (TDALC). Cllr F Belgrove gives a brief overview as vice chairman of TDALC. 6 Objectives to TDALC under its changes. Section 106 agreements, pressing for improvement in the community infrastructure levy, lobby for diversification of use of S106 monies. A120 improvements, re-invoke devolution of highways to parish and town councils, reduce carbon footprint and improve insulation of buildings. Finally Planning and many councils are upset by the lack of enforcement, and the security of affordable housing in planning enforcement/building control. Speed limits and reduction/application. Cllr S Clark asks what the next steps are. TDALC have two MP’s involved, and the head of Tendring invited to review the TDALC concerns. TDALC concerns have 22 out of 27 councils in support.
    2. **Domestic Violence/Abuse:** Update from Cllr Linda Belgrove. Cllr F Belgrove provides a brief update from Cllr L Belgrove by proxy. To be added to the December agenda. Cllr F Belgrove introduces.

1. points: 20% of all female survivors in refuges had previously attempted suicide. 1 in 4 attendances in our own village are domestic violence and abuse. Tendring awarded £31,000 to tackle domestic violence.  
   ASK for ANI: Action Needed Immediately.
   * 1. **Notice Board for Wivenhoe Road Allotments.** It is resolved that APC Approves a replacement notice board to be installed at the allotment site. A budget of £ 200-400 to be approved. Proposed G Scott, Seconded Cllr A Broom. Carried. 2 Abstentions.
     2. **District Councillor’s report (Written Report, see appendix)** and 5 min verbal report. Cllr E Osborne asks for Councillors to vote on the report. Chairman overrules the point of order. Cllr A Wiggins also states that residents and public in attendance have not yet seen the report. Cllr A Wiggins delivers the District Councillors report.

Cllr S Clarks asks how TDC are addressing affordable housing and the cost of living crisis. **Action:** Cllr A Wiggins to research and respond to Cllr S Clark.

* + 1. **Essex County Councillor Report (Written Report, see appendix)** and 5 min verbal report. Cllr A Goggin offers congratulations to council on the playing field awards. Delivers verbal report.
    2. **Environment Working party.** Update.Cllr F Belgrove defers to December. Reports from S Hammick to come, and on other matters.
    3. **Council to discuss:** The pedestrian dropped kerb in Ford Lane for access to the village hall. Council to consider a sign or road markings to indicate the dropped kern should not be obstructed by vehicles. Councillors discuss and agree to action this matter. **Action:** Clerk to contact NEPP and apply for dropped kerb H bars.
    4. **Highways Devolution**. Grant funding for highways devolution projects is now no longer available from ECC. **Resolution:** It is resolved that APC Continue to carry put certain highway works subject to each task being approved by ECC Highways department. **Proposed**: Cllr F Belgrove. **Seconded** Cllr E. Osborne. Carried
    5. **Hedge and Vegetation Growth Clearance**: council to resolve that the contractor is instructed to cut back roadside hedging obstructing village gateways on the B1027.

**Proposed**: Cllr F Belgrove **Seconded**: Cllr R Swash. Carried.

**Action:** Clerk to instruct J’s garden services.

* + 1. **PCSO/Police Report (see Appendix)**. Policing update and PCSO crime report.
    2. **Clerks Report (Written Report, see appendix)**.
    3. **Meeting Ends. 21.17hrs**

Prepared by the Clerk/Proper Officer: Matt Cooke 22.11.22

Signed: Date: