

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 5th January 2022

at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Ford Lane, Alresford

Cllrs. present:

Cllr. F Belgrove (Chairman),

Cllr. E. Osborne (Vice Chairman),

Cllr. A. Broom

Cllr. J. Claremont-Brown

Cllr. S. Clark.

Cllr. S. Hammick,

Cllr. G. Scott,

Cllr. A. Wiggins

Also present:

Parish Clerk/Proper Officer M Cooke

County. Cllr. A. Goggin

Members of the public x4

Meeting Opens 19.33 hrs

Announcements:

Chairman Cllr F Belgrove announced:

Best wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year.

2 announcements and an emergency resolution to make.

COVID guidelines to be followed, due to rising numbers locally- noting that councillors and members of public adhering to best advice.

At the last meeting the annual budget and precept was agreed, and this results in a 4% reduction in precept across the Parish to band D equivalent properties due to building and development that has taken place. Noting that a 2% overall increase is deferred across a broader tax base,

Resolution is made to reduce the agenda to exclude non-decision-making items.

Resolution under rule 367 section 10A of the Standing Orders. Due to COVID infection rates remaining very high in our area, it is resolved that non-decision-making items are deferred to another meeting,

The Items concerned are 32 33 35 36 37 38 39, update and report items on the agenda, although it would be appreciated if both District and County councillors could provide an abridged report.

Proposed Cllr F Belgrove

Second Cllr G Scott

Carried unanimously.

Cllr G Scott sought clarification from the chairman, over report items being carried forward. As they were not decision-making items these reports could take place in any format or at a later date.

01.22. 2022 Apologies for Absence

Cllr. J. Housden.

Cllr. L. Belgrove

Cllr. R. Swash

01.22. 2023 Declarations of Interest

Cllr G Scott declared interest to item 2038, indicating Cllr A Wiggins might also declare an interest on her arrival from another meeting.

01.22. 2024 Minutes of the last monthly meeting

Proposed by Cllr A Broom,

Seconded by Cllr S Clark,

Carried Unanimously.

01.22. 2025 Public Forum (members of the public and guests can address the council – social distancing restrictions apply).

A member of the public spoke: Living in Alresford for the last 2 years, and expressing concern of heavy goods vehicle movements at a frequency of 3-4minutes throughout the day. Concerns over safety, and pedestrian risk. MOP has canvassed neighbours along the Wivenhoe road, to ask about traffic movement. Everyone bar a single neighbour who believed she had already signed a petition on this matter was of the same opinion: Unhappy, Sick and Tired, wanting something to be done. MOP garnered Petition signatures: Comments include- walls shake, cracks in walls and various other responses. Sent petition to County Council planner Tom Sycamore, being invited to speak at the forthcoming meeting at county (Shcedued for February 25th tentatively)

Cllr F Belgrove mentions agenda item coming on this matter.

Cllr E Osborne spoke and agreed with MOP and also mentions agenda item.

A second member of the public spoke wanting to add to the debate. Wanted APC to re-enforce in councils commentary. Vehicle movements should be 30 movements each way, each day. It should be 30 a day, and not an average across the year including bank holidays when there are no movements.

MOP asked through the chairman, to send a positive comment of support through Cllr G Scott to Tendring District Council (TDC) thanking them for collecting excess Christmas waste outside of the wheelie bins. Cllr G Scott responded to acknowledge the comment and assured the MOP he would forward the comments.

01.22. 2026 Finance Matters: See Appendix A

December Finance Report - Council to review and approve.

Cllr F Belgrove sought to clarify that updated version was received by all councillors

Item clarified, over £1000, reimbursed for pitch drainage from the football club.

Question: Cllr S Clark sought further clarification, and provided by the chairman.

Cllr G Scott declares an interest as chairman of the autumn centre.

Members of the public may not know that the Autumn Centre is Alresford Lunch Club.

Cllr A Wiggins and County Cllr A Goggin arrive from another meeting (19.48hrs).

Proposed Cllr E Osborne
Seconded Cllr J Claremont-Brown
Carried. 1 Abstention due to recent arrival.

01.22.2027 Planning Matters: Review application x (presented on screen)

i: 21/02066/FUL Alresford Hall Ford Lane Alresford Colchester Essex CO7 8AY

Proposal: Proposed erection of signage, gates and stock proof fence
Cllr F Belgrove Introduces
Clerk presents the documents and speaks to clarify the items.

Cllr E Osborne states that having studied the documents he cannot see why we would oppose this.

Cllr G Scott seeks further documentary clarification. Mentions splay, and that Essex Highways might still have a further opinion or input.

Cllr S Clark suggests that a contextual elevation perspective would be useful.
Cllr G Scott agrees and suggests that it is likely to go to TDC Planning.
Cllr F Belgrove notes that the signs will not be illuminated.

Proposed:
Cllr G Scott proposes that council approve subject to Cllr S Clarks commentary.
Seconded Cllr E Osborne.

Cllr S Clark comments further to clarify the format of the planning response from the Clerk.
Cllr Osborne comments that he is concerned that Cllr S Clark is seeking a caveat.
Cllr S Clark states that without the views he cannot support the application as it is.

Cllr F Belgrove seeks to propose the application is approved subject to Planning officers reviewing our concerns, combining the two applications under the same response.

Cllrs Approve
7 votes for
1 abstention

ii: 21/02067/ADV Alresford Hall Ford Lane Alresford Colchester Essex CO7 8AY

Proposal: Erection of two non-illuminated signs

Cllrs Approve
1 Abstention

Clerk interjects that planning documents have not been reviewed by councillors. Clerk reads from covering letter to clarify and ensures that council is clear that the two applications have been combined.

Action: Clerk to upload response incorporating Cllr S Clark's commentary

01.22.2028 Minerals and Waste Planning Application:

ESS/99/21/TEN Brett Aggregates Lufkins Farm, site extension of operations.

ESS/99/21/TEN/SO

Extensive debate led by Cllr F Belgrove.

Cllr Belgrove outlines the context; original permission granted for extraction in 2010, an update in 2016, with work to begin 14th January 2019, but held up through the COVID pandemic, the permission will lapse 14.01.2022.

Brett's seek an extension for "Lufkins 1" to continue the extraction which would be brought to Alresford, creating additional traffic movements.

Cllr F Belgrove further quotes from a letter from the planning application ESS/99/21/TEN of the 12th of Nov from A Watts of Bretts to Mr. T Sycamore, Essex County Council Planning Officer referring to drawing numbers 0318/R/1a dated 06/10/10 , which the Chairman shows to council, that fails to cite the relevant planning reference (ESS/101/21/TEN - not on the agenda) conjoining that application and further development with ESS/99/21/TEN. Cllr F Belgrove went on - However there is a second application for a second extraction site over a 9-year duration. On-site processing would form part of that application, however 30% of the extract could still be processed elsewhere further impacting Alresford.

Cllr F Belgrove spoke to Claire Tomlin head of planning at Essex County Council who has assured Cllr F Belgrove that these applications will go to committee at ECC.

Cllr F Belgrove passes over to the Minerals and Waste Working Party.

Cllr E Osborne comments that Alresford as a village was left out of the loop.

Cllr F Belgrove clarifies that in law the applicant only had to contact residents within 250m of the site, and the neighbouring parishes.

Cllr J Claremont-Brown spoke on the matter and Cllr F Belgrove clarified that we had an extension until Friday 7th January for commentary.

Cllr F Belgrove asked members of the public not to talk whilst councilors were speaking.

Cllr J Claremont-Brown continues, explaining the lack of compliance with existing planning conditions, specifically the working hours, volume of vehicular movements, and routes utilised.

Cllr F Belgrove clarifies that planning conditions cannot be used as a reason to object.

Cllr Clark insists that the conditions of an existing planning matter which is to be extended is material to this planning decision. Cllr G Scott agrees.

Cllr F Belgrove clarifies that the current ROMP which has been mentioned is agreed with 55 attached conditions, the ROMP will next be reviewed in 2025.

Cllr G Scott discusses the routes in and out, and the lack of compliance both with routes and the other conditions, and that these material conditions are a planning issue.

Cllr S Clark interjects that the finer points require greater understanding.

General belief is that Brett aggregates do not comply with conditions which were applied to the permissions granted on working hours and routes, so the question remains do we object to the extension of planning permission on the grounds that existing conditions are not being complied with.

Cllr S Clark seeks clarification from Chairman that we cannot object to the extension on the grounds of a failure to comply with existing planning conditions?

The chairman agrees that this should be an aspect of our objections but should not form the main basis.

The chairman had sought further clarification both with Bretts, and Essex Planning.

A significant and main point of the Lufkins 2 (ESS/101/21/TEN - not on agenda) application, that has been raised; is that Bretts had not made it clear to Essex County Council that even with on-site processing there would still be 30% or more of extract and thus vehicles coming to Alresford.

Cllrs agree there is so much information to consider, and to filter on what grounds we make our representation. Cllr J Claremont-Brown continues that there are significant issues which require to be addressed and that council should be quite careful and specific in their objection.

Cllr F Belgrove shows council a set of images of the Lufkins 2 (ESS/101/21/TEN - not on agenda) site application.

Cllr E Osborne clarifies that onsite processing instigated prior to Lufkins 2 would mitigate the bulk of the issues over the extension. He also went on to explain that vehicle loads are not sheeted/covered, and the environment is further impacted as consequence.

Cllr F Belgrove goes back to Cllr J Claremont-Brown and Cllr Claremont-Brown instructs the Clerk to play the YouTube Videos and vehicles moving at 6.41 am. Ahead of the 7am agreements Video plays for 3mins 28 Seconds.

Cllr E Osborne notes that not all vehicular movements are Bretts vehicles and may be their contractors. Noise, speed, lack of sheeting and volume of traffic is commented upon. All vehicles are noted as being 20 Tons.

Cllr S Clark comments, clarifying that we have until Friday January 7th to make comments, and that we need to separate planning matters on the current extension request, the environmental and health and safety issues, from the commercial operations of Bretts.

The Clerk clarifies that the two planning applications being discussed on the agenda are ESS/99/21/TEN/SO and ESS/99/21/TEN.

Cllr S Clark states that we need to be careful in the framing of our collective council response.

Cllr F Belgrove reads the notes he had made, framing the objection.

Cllr F Belgrove was prompted by Essex that the key objection would be regarding vehicular movements, along with environmental damage.

Cllr G Scott clarifies his understanding, reflecting on routes and traffic.

Cllr F Belgrove seeks a resolution to separate out Lufkins 1 and Lufkins 2 for councillors to vote upon, and councillors present agree to two votes.

Resolution: Cllr E Osborne proposes

Council object to the extension of the current Lufkins 1 ESS 99/21/TEN/SO and ESS 99/21/TEN seconded by Cllr G Scott

Carried unanimously

Lufkins 2 Objections proposed by Cllr A Broom, Seconded by Cllr S Clark, Carried unanimously.

(As ESS 101/21/TEN was not an agenda item this had to go to the planning committee meeting held on 17.01.22)

Cllr G Scott clarifies that Tendring District Council are a consultee and that Tendring District Council have no say in the decision made.

Cllr F Belgrove clarifies that Lufkins 1 is unlikely to be refused, and councilors should prepare themselves for that.

Action: Clerk to upload councillors objections as collectively prepared by Friday January 7th no later than 12 noon.

01.22.2029 VAS purchase: Council to decide on which VAS to purchase, and to vote on increase of budget to £3850 if version as recommended by County Councillor A Goggin is decided upon.

Cllr F Belgrove as a member of Community Speed Watch updates Council over the approval to use ANPR device. Community speed Watch has the authority to process data.

Cllr G Scott asks questions over data extraction and prosecution action to be taken.

Cllr E Osborne insightfully comments that it is not exclusively pursuant to speed information, tax and insurance data can also be pursued.

Cllr F Belgrove further clarifies that a Public Body – potentially Essex Fire and Rescue would likely be the third party.

It is minuted that Cllr G Scott would rather it was the Police processing such data, and not an external organisation.

Cllr G Scott seeks clarification of location.

Cllr F Belgrove clarifies it will be sited on Wivenhoe Road.

County Cllr A Goggin is invited by the chairman to speak, and clarifies that the device is movable and can collate data to further support

Cllr G Scott seeks clarification over locations.

Cllr Belgrove clarifies it can be sited on private land.

Resolution: Council to increase budget to £3850 an increase of £850.

Proposed Cllr F Belgrove

Seconded Cllr J Claremont-Brown

Carried unanimously

County Cllr A Goggin celebratorily whoops.

Action: Clerk to await a letter from Westcotec and to further action councils decision and begin the purchase process.

01.22.2030 Staunton Gate Dog Waste and Littering:

Council to Consider provision of two combined dog waste/litter bins as requested by residents.

Cost of circa £250 each bin.

Cllr G Scott seeks clarification over locations.

Cllr E Osborne indicates that the decision over siting is for a later date and that the decision and purchase should be set underway.

Proposed: Cllr S Hammick

Seconded; Cllr G Scott

Carried Unanimously.

Action: Clerk to liaise with suppliers of combined waste bins

01.22.2031 Playing Field Boundary with woodland (Crestlands Wood part of the Alresford Hall Estate): Council to discuss request from owner of woods for council to contribute towards an adequate boundary fence.

Cllr F Belgrove: States boundary will need to go to legal advice

Cllr S Clark: Asks if this has come up before.

Cllr E Osborne sates that it has been before council previously, and the council put up the fence originally.

Action:

Resolved for Clerk to write to the Owner of the land to seek the request in writing.

01.22.2032 Grant Applications Update:

Postponed.

01.22.2033 Volunteer awards: Process update: Nominations received so far from council.

Postponed

01.22.2034 Pay Scale Adjustment for RFO

Council to authorise increase in pay scale following annual review and reassessment of position on spinal column point system. Cllr Belgrove explained following annual review the movement upwards of RFO and Assistant Clerk to reflect qualifications and experience, the effective increase per hour. To comply with spinal column system and reflect her qualification. From point 12 to point 17

Proposed: Cllr F BELgrove

Seconded: Cllr J Claremont Brown

Unanimously agreed.

01.22.2035 Tree Planting Update: Postponed

01.22.2036 Staunton Gate Open Space: Postponed

01.22.2037 Clerks Report. Not given/Postponed

01.22.2038 District Councillor's report (Written Report) and 3 min verbal report

Cllr A Wiggins wishes all a Very Happy New Year.

Cllr G Scott notes that the following week would have the TDC Local Plan and recommendations and the following day would be involved in the budget set for the District Council.

Cllr G Scott seeks agenda item for next month.

Council to debate warning signs for deer.

Noted by the Clerk.

Action: Add as agenda item for Februarys meeting.

See appendix B

01.22.2039 Essex County Councillor Report (Written Report) and 3 min verbal report

Cllr Goggin gives a brief report from handwritten notes. To be incorporated into his January notes for Februarys meeting.

Cllr Goggin mentions COVID impact on ECC services and staffing levels. Asks Councillors and MOPS to bare with County Council.

Mentions VAS signs and commends our preparedness to move forward.

Mentions Budgets.

Accident at Lufkins rail crossing.

Discusses Rangers and access via website to Rangers to report environmental issues requiring attention.

Impact of new management at Brightlingsea Sports Centre, across the borough and its residents.

Cllr Goggins' Community Reach initiative, comments on honesty and probity of community group in Alresford in returning unspent funds.

Cllr F Belgrove thanks Cllr Goggin for his report and closes the meeting

01.22.2040 Meeting Ends 20.55 hrs

Minutes prepared by M. Cooke Clerk and Proper Officer

Signed: Chairman

Dated:

Appendices

Appendix A: Finance report

Appendix B: District Councilors report