**ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the** Wednesday 3rd of January 2024.

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

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

Also present: The Clerk, Members of the public x4

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

**Minutes from the Published Agenda**

**01.24.01 Announcements –**

Chairman wishes everyone a happy new year.

Announces the memorial service for Cllr J Housden at 4pm on January 21st 2024, at St Andrews Church.

He thanks the clerk and proper officer for breaking into his annual leave to produce the agenda and ensure that notices were posted in order for council to meet lawfully and address their obligations.

Chairman announces that the work standards that have been met in replacing kerb stones has matched those previously installed under devolution, by the contractor Ringway Jacobs. Essex highways had a senior officer on site to review the work, and all kerbstones, council are presented kerbstone faults as a visual. Cllr G Scott asks what guarantees the contract with Ringway Jacobs offers, and asks what the contracted team were paid for and why the work could not be further extended? He expresses concern over the report from the contracts team that evidences a large swathe of the village requiring kerbstone replacement and when this will be addressed. The chairman reminds council that the decision to replace the stretch undertaken was a collective decision and regardless of when the assessed poor condition kerbstones will be replaced under county council expenditure, this section was identified by council as a priority.

**01.24.02 Apologies for Absence.** Cllr S Clark, Cllr L Belgrove, County Cllr Alan Goggin likely to be detained by another meeting at Thorrington.

**01.24.03 Minutes of the last monthly meeting:** To review and consider the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6th of December 2023. One minor adjustment to capitalise a Surname. Proposed Cllr A Broom, Seconded Cllr G Scott, Carried with two abstentions.

**01.24.04 Declarations of Interest.** Councillors present to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in agenda items. Cllr G Scott declares interest in item 10 District Councillors report, and any others as they arise will be declared.

**01.24.05 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 speaks to positively comment on the replacement of the kerbstones, and commends councils decision. Also stating that the tankers mentioned in the previous months meeting have reduced in frequency. Cllr E Osborne also confirms that there are fewer heavy good vehicles using Coach Road.

* + 1. **Budget and Precept:**

Following Tendring District Councils announcement of the tax base increase in Alresford, and in line with the recommendation of the finance committee (meeting held in November) it is resolved that:

01: Council to review and approve the budget, as recommended by the finance committee and prepared by the RFO.

Chairman reads a statement from the finance committee to recommend a budget of £123,120 for the year ahead.

Cllr G Scott asks for additional time to review the budget, the Chairman suggests that the councillor has had time to review and adequately prepare for the meeting, that all documents were sent to all councillors with the summons and that no extra time will be provided before a vote is taken.

Cllr V Dalzell asks if there was a cost to benefit analysis performed in relation to the PCSO contract; but asks why are Alresford and Great Bentley, paying for policing twice? Cllr F Belgrove responds that Alresford pays a lot less than five other councils in band D Equivalent and that Alresford delivers a lot more for a lot less, representing good value for money.

Cllr V Dalzell re-states that it appears to be the village residents paying for policing twice. Cllr V Dalzell also states that as he has had no involvement in the preparation of the budget, or on the voracity of its basis he will abstain from voting for the budget. He states that in his professional life he is a significant budget holder and does not feel adequately informed to vote. Cllr Belgrove responds that the budget has been formed and agreed by a correctly constituted committee and comes as a recommendation to full council.

Proposed Cllr F Belgrove Seconded Cllr A Broom, Carried, 1 abstention.

02: Council to approve the increase of the precept by £4000.

This will result in an increase of 1.4% or £1.22 per annum for each Band D equivalent property.

Proposed Cllr F Belgrove Seconded Cllr A Broom, Carried, 1 abstention.

* + 1. **Finance Matters.**

December 2023 Finance Report - Council to review and consider.

Cllr F Belgrove comments on the high electricity bill and responds with a statement from the Responsible Financial Officer.

Cllr B Swash and Cllr G Scott both declare interests in items on the finance report. Cllr G Scott on the Grant received and Cllr B Swash on the Christmas decorations.

Proposed Cllr B Swash Seconded Cllr G Scott, Carried.

* + 1. **Planning –** Ref: [23/01732/FULHH](https://idox.tendringdc.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S5CD22QB0MT00)

Proposal: Erection of New Garage.

Location: Fairview, Colchester Main Road, Alresford, Essex CO78DD

Item introduced by Cllr F Belgrove, Cllr E Osborne takes over as chairman of planning committee, and further explores the proposal. Cllr V Dalzell asks if there is an upstairs area. Asking if the District council could clarify over the gable end windows and light proliferation?

Cllr E Osborne proposes a neutral response with no comment, Seconded by Cllr J Claremont-Brown.

Carried

**For information** Ref: [23/01700/DOVU5](https://idox.tendringdc.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage)

Proposal: Deed of variation, under Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 106A, of the terms of the legal agreement dated 20th March 2020, linked to outline planning permission 19/01858/OUT, to move the trigger for payment to the occupation of the 4th dwelling.

Location: Sherbro House Boarding kennels, Colchester Main Road, Alresford, Essex

Councillors present discuss the trigger point of Section 106 money and the fact that there are plots remaining which might have taken the development into another direction. The clerk reminds councillors that the decision on this matter lies with the principal planning authority (Tendring District Council).

* + - 1. **Coach Road Engine Off Sign:** Council to discuss whether to commission a sign to remind motorists to switch engines off at the Coach Road level crossing.

Cllr A Broom agrees there should be signs with a larger font.

Cllr G Scott suggests that council needs to review the stop lines on the south side of Coach Road, requiring Suggests relocation that before council approves stop engine signs are installed.

Cllr V Dalzell adds that he has prepared a paper at work on the difference between euro 3 and euro 6 tailpipe emissions and the reductions are measurably significant; asks if the school were involved in the signs on Station road and proposes that the school be involved again.

Cllr F Belgrove suggests that Greater Anglia and/or Network Rail may need to be consulted. It is also suggested that it may require Essex Highways consideration too. Cllr G Scott agrees.

It is proposed that for the Next Meeting signs are brought to council for review.

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

Cllr G Scott delivers the District councillors report and of meetings and committees attended. 20.15hrs Cllr A Wiggins arrives from another meeting.

* + 1. **Essex County Councillor Report (Written Report)** and 5 min verbal report.

The County Councillor was unable to attend due to the meeting at Thorrington.

* + 1. **PCSO/Police Report**. Policing update and PCSO crime report.

The Chairman delivers the PCSO report.

* + 1. **Utility Contracts:** Council to review received quote, discuss and approve action.

Held until next meeting, as quotes not received.

* + 1. **Clerks Report.** The clerk delivers his report on actions undertaken on behalf of council. Thanking his staff and specifically the efforts of Mrs Baxter the RFO for her exceptional efforts to deliver choice to council over the setting of the precept and the annual budget.

He also reminds council that there is a need to bring the council back to full strength and that the councillors present should consider suitable co-option candidates. Cllr G Scott suggests that the unsuccessful election candidate should be given first refusal on the post. Cllr E Osborne absolutely refutes this and suggests that all interested candidates should be given due consideration by council, as the process should be open to all with no preference or predetermination in place.

* + 1. **Meeting Ends 20.34hrs**

Prepared by the Clerk/Proper Officer: Matt Cooke. 10.01. 24

Chairman’s signature: