

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 5th of July 2023.

Held at 7.30pm the Pavilion, Ford Lane, Alresford

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. F. Belgrove (Chairman), Cllr E. Osborne (Vice Chairman), Cllr L Belgrove, Cllr G Scott, Cllr J Housden, Cllr. A. Wiggins, Cllr A Broom, Cllr S Clark, Cllr V Dalzell.

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

Members of the public x3

Meeting opens: 19.30 hrs transacting the following business:

Minutes from the Published Agenda

07.23. 141 Announcements. Chairman made the following announcements.

- There will be no full scheduled Parish Council meeting in August. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday September 6th 2023 at 7.30pm.

07.23.142 Apologies for Absence. Cllr R Swash, Cllr J Claremont Brown.

07.23.143 Minutes of the last monthly meetings:

i: To approve the minutes of the meeting of the 7th of June 2023.

Proposed Cllr A Broom, Seconded Cllr V Dalzell, Carried

ii: To approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the 15th of June 2023.

Cllr L Belgrove requested a minor amend, which councillors agreed to.

Proposed Cllr L Belgrove, Seconded Cllr J Housden, Carried

07.23.144 Declarations of Interest. Councillors present to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in agenda items.

Cllr G Scott declared interest in items: 148, 151, 156 and would additionally declare interest as matters further arose.

Cllr V Dalzell declared an interest in item 150.

Cllr A Wiggins declared an interest in item 151 on her arrival from another meeting.

07.23.145 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. Council may 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 thanked the council and Cllrs E Osborne, F Belgrove & G Scott for their help and presence at the Picnic in the Park, which had over 1000 attendees, raising additional money above the groups costs, money which will be distributed by the Alresford Fete Organising Group (AFOG) to charitable groups as grants. They went on to raise the matter of a recently announced planning application on the B1027, which was not on the agenda. Council acknowledged the matter, explained why it could not be on this evening agenda, and assuring the resident that it would be looked at by the planning committee ahead of the deadline, especially with the August Recess and Annual leave of staff members.

Councillors also thanked the member of the public for their kind words in relation to the Picnic In The Park event.

A second member of the public spoke to update the fund raising for the School Swimming Pool Project. So far The Pool Parent Teacher Association group, have gone from £1,000 to £4,000 inside 6 weeks. They have been provided an opportunity to apply for a further £15,000.

Cllr G Scott raises a declaration of interest in this project as he passed on further funding applications through Tendring District Councils Grant Funding routes. Councillors also acknowledged the PTA Grant application which would likely add to those funds following a later agenda item.

The person broke down fund raising and the pools redevelopment into a 3-phase approach, and discussed a coffee morning on August 9th, learn to swim cash donations from various residents, and a quiz event, and treasure hunt. He also mentioned the 200 DVDS and Calendars to be published and sold.

Councillors thanked the resident and all the PTA Pool steering group for their hard work.

A third member of the public spoke on the issue with full bins on Station Road, and the two not being used. They asked if council could arrange a second collection each week. The clerk will liaise with the resident.

Councillors present wanted to thank the resident for all their hard work in their capacity as the Villages handman, and for the wonderful and diligent work undertaken on gardening and maintenance around the village on behalf of council. Cllr L Belgrove introduced the member of the public to those present as the Handyman to the council and all councillors joined in praising his high standards and diligence in his work.

07.23.146 Finance Matters. June Finance Report - Council to review and approve.

Cllr S Clark sought clarification on the \$106 income and asked if this had been previously spent out. Cllrs were also questioning of the VAT reclaim and when this was anticipated.

Proposed to accept by Cllr A Broom, seconded Cllr G Scott, carried unanimously.

07.23.147 Planning Matters:

Application number: [23/00849/FULHH](#) PROPOSAL: Proposed single storey rear extension and remodelling. Location: 105 Wivenhoe Road Alresford Colchester Essex

[23/00849/FULHH | Proposed single storey rear extension and remodelling. | 105 Wivenhoe Road Alresford Colchester Essex CO7 8AG \(tendringdc.gov.uk\)](#) Councillor F belgrove introduces the

planning item and hands over to planning chairman Cllr E Osborne. Cllr Osborne discusses the application and the improvement of detail. They proposed to support the application. Cllr G Scott seconds. Cllr F Belgrove reminds that the options are Support, Neutral or Object, and that support may set a precedent to other applications. Cllr G Scott suggests that each case is assessed on individual merit and need not set a precedent. Cllrs vote to support with a majority of 6:3 councillors would have voted to respond Neutrally. Cllr A Wiggins abstains due to her District Councillor role. **Action:** Clerk to upload the councils' decision to the Planning Authorities web portal.

Planning Appeal: Council to review and decide on amendments or additional response to the Appeal to the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspectorate to the objection lodged with the planning authority over the below reference.

[23/00012/REFUSE | Proposed erection of 2no. single storey detached dwellings. | 151 and 153 Wivenhoe Road Alresford Colchester Essex CO7 8AQ \(tendringdc.gov.uk\)](#)

Councillor F Belgrove introduces. Cllr E Osborne reads a statement prepared in response to the appeal, laying out the Councils original objection and other material aspects which have since come to light. Cllr A Wiggins adds a concern over the safety of the proposed turning point. Cllrs unanimously agree to upload an edited version of the statement with material facts to the Planning Inspectorate website in additional commentary to the original objection.

Action: Clerk to respond to the Planning Inspectorate as per council instruction, using the statement as the basis for the response.

Council to review and make commentary or alternative proposal to:

New Development – Land at Former Sherbro House Boarding Kennels, Colchester, Essex.

The development company at the above site has requested that a name is allocated to the new road within the development, as shown on the attached plan. The following road name has been suggested:- **“Franceska Gardens”**

Reason – After the young girl who had previously lived at the property.

Franceska sadly passed away. It is therefore felt that to name the new road after her, would be a fitting tribute.

Nina Underwood, Street Naming & Numbering Officer, Engineering Services, Tendring District Council would be grateful for any comments you may have on this proposal by no later than 20th July 2023. Should she not receive a response within this timescale, she will assume that there are no objections.

Councillors agree that this is a wonderful response by the planning authority and unanimously support it. Cllr J Housden declares an interest as a former owner of the Kennels.

Proposed Cllr E Osborne, Seconded Cllr A Broom. Carried.

Action: Clerk to notify Nina Underwood at Tendring District Council.

07.23.148 Grants to village organisations: It is resolved that Alresford Parish Council will review and decide on grants to the following organisations: each item to be voted upon

separately. A maximum total of £5000. Cllr G Scott declares that they will remain in the room but will abstain on the Autumn Centre application.

A: The Alresford Beaver Scouts Group: Proposed Cllr L Belgrove Seconded Cllr S Clark. **Carried**

B: The Alresford Pre School: Proposed Cllr G Scott Seconded Cllr V Dalzell. **Carried**

C The PTA Swimming pool funding group: Proposed Cllr L Belgrove Seconded Cllr A Wiggins. **Carried**

D: The Autumn Centre: Proposed Cllr E Osborne Seconded Cllr V Dalzell. **Carried** 1 Abstention Cllr G Scott (who remained in the room).

The Clerk clarifies the additional aspects of donations made under separate minuted items in previous meetings.

07.23.149 Kerbstone Works Coppice and Chestnut Roads. It is resolved that council approve total expenditure of £9,988.55 +VAT, VAT To be reclaimed; to repair works through Essex County Council Highways approved Contractor Ringway Jacobs- Quotation to be discussed and considered. Council had approved and earmarked £5000 previously. Decision is subject to meeting the requirements of the statutory financial regulations.

Cllr F Belgrove reminds Council that they have pre-approved to undertake these works at a similar cost, but that Essex County Council Highways division have insisted that their Contractor Ringway Jacobs is utilised (at a similar cost). This follows the removal of the Highways devolution scheme under which Council previously addressed this matter. He reminded Council that to use another contractor would risk the Council being held liable for all and any issues arising.

Cllr G Scott asks if the contractor who did such an excellent job on Chestnut Grove was Ringway Jacobs. Advised it was not. He then makes an observation, that Ringway Jacobs frequently have to re-attend works for remedial action whereas the previous contractor did an excellent job. Cllr F Belgrove clarifies that whilst he can't disagree that the other contractor did do an excellent job, we are unable to utilise them due to constraints and the loss of devolution.

Cllr G Scott then asks why such a small area has been identified to be repaired. He then comments that the entire length requires attending to. He believes that Essex County Council should do the whole length and not these small sections. Cllr Osborne clarifies that the loss of devolution has meant that this is the situation as it is presented. He observes that Ringway Jacobs take the premium jobs leaving the scraps to their sub-contractors. Cllr S Clark, asks what obligation we have to use Essex's preferred contractor given that the funding is coming from the precept and not from Essex Highways repair budget. Cllr F Belgrove clarifies, and reads a highlighted section of email exchange from Mr P Massey head of Highways Works, with the reasons for using a contractor as specified by Essex County Council, and the liabilities covered which would otherwise be accepted by Alresford Parish Council.

Cllr A Wiggins seeks clarification on the difference in cost. Cllr L Belgrove clarifies that the standard of work by our previously quoted contractor is quantifiable, whereas Ringway Jacobs standards are unknown and questioned. Cllr F Belgrove clarifies that Ringway Jacobs state they will match the quality of the work previously undertaken. Cllr L Belgrove then asks how we hold Ringway Jacobs to account. Cllr F Belgrove clarifies that Ringway Jacobs inspect their own work. Cllr G Scott states that effectively Ringway Jacobs set the homework, do the homework

and mark the homework. He asks if this is not a conflict of interest? Suggesting residents will ask why the parish Council is spending precept money from their council tax on works which should be covered by the Essex County Council portion of their taxes. He asks if paying twice to get work done is appropriate?

Cllr J Housden clarifies that when he was in business using civil works engineers Ringway Jacobs were not regarded as acceptable by those employing them.

Cllr E Osborne agrees with Cllr Scott, but asks what alternative Council has? We know who should be doing the work, but it is low priority at County Authority level and meanwhile residents suffer for years with poor pavements and amenity.

Cllr V Dalzell seeks clarification on the risks assumed from our contractor against those of the Essex approved contractor, which seem similar. Cllr F Belgrove clarifies that the Essex approved contractor and Essex County council will assume liability and this is clarified in the email from Mr Massey.

Cllr L Belgrove asks for clarification, that under the devolution scheme we had the authority to use anyone under the approved Essex contractors list. We are held to ransom under the current scheme. We should write to the leader of Essex County Council.

Cllr E Osborne agrees that council writes to Essex County Council first before we commit to spending the money with their contractor.

Cllr F Belgrove proposes that council commit the money £9988.55 for the works to repair the kerbstones. This will be subject to raising concerns in writing to Essex County council before council commits to their contractor.

Seconded Cllr J Housden

Carried.

07.23.150 Parking Issues. It is resolved that council will review and consider options to reduce parking issues in Ford Lane, Station Road, and Cox Road.

Resolved to put the matter to a highways working party, for recommendations to be brought to council.

07.23.151 District Councillor's report (Written Report) and 5 min verbal report

07.23.152 Essex County Councillor Report (Written Report) and 5 min verbal report

07.23.153 Pavilion Lease: it is resolved that Council will form a working party to review the Pavilion Lease and instigate renegotiation through their legal advisors, Ellisons Solicitors as highlighted in the Internal Auditors report.

Proposed to progress this matter: Cllr F Belgrove, Seconded Cllr E Osborne, Carried.

07.23.154 Council to approve the drafting of a community information booklet. To be distributed to all households. Information booklet, and Cllr L Belgrove agrees to draft an initial brochure. Cllrs Clark Osborne and Scott discuss their support. Cllr L Belgrove clarifies that there are changes to groups frequently and that the draft will focus on councils and functions and should guide residents to websites and resources.

Proposed: Cllr V Dalzell Seconded: Cllr G Scott. Carried.

07.23.155 Council to approve the issuing of a Parish Council Credit Card (Barclaycard - Master Card) to the Clerk and Proper Officer. Cllr G Scott comments on how Elmstead manages it with pre-loaded cards. The clerk clarifies for Cllr G Scott that we already have a credit card, how the card is managed and how the balance is maintained, conforming to Councils Financial Regulations administered by the RFO, who is also the Clerk at Elmstead Market; following similar principles.

Proposed Cllr F Belgrove, seconded Cllr J Housden, Carried.

07.23.156 Replacement Road Sign: It is resolved that council will renew the direction sign indicating the Village Centre/Station (existing is faded). Sign located on the B1027 opposite Station Road. Estimated Cost £250.

Proposed Cllr L Belgrove, Seconded Cllr G Scott, Carried.

07.23.157 Litter Bins at the Station Road Shopping area. Council to discuss the issue of litter bin capacity/collection frequency, and to decide upon action as complaints have been received on how often the bins are overflowing.

Cllr E Osborne suggests we consider bigger bins, or the bins are emptied more frequently.

Cllr V Dalzell makes a comment that not every bin is full to overflowing. Suggesting that we move them to increase capacity, and that Cllr Dalzell would monitor the situation.

Cllr G Scott comments that this is an ongoing issue, and states that dog bins are emptied more frequently than normal waste bins, and that the infrequency is creating a health hazard.

Cllr V Dalzell also mentions that once the social media policy is implemented this is an issue that can be addressed.

No resolution taken.

07.23.158 Approved Projects Updates:

A: Wivenhoe Road, Welcome to Alresford District Council sign. Currently with ECC Highways, awaiting a decision.

B: Bus Shelter Lighting; Awaiting a second quote.

C: Hanging Baskets: Thanks Cllr B Swash and mentions the approbation of residents.

D: History Information Boards: Cllr E Osborne Announces that Community Reach has agreed to grant £1500 to the history boards. Funds to be released on completion. They would like also to be present at the unveiling and a logo for community reach on the boards. Thanks also made to County Councillor Goggin and mentions other stalwarts of Community Reach group.

E: Vehicle Activated Sign: The sign has arrived, and the permission is in place to install the sign. The clerk clarifies the next steps.

F: Tree Planting (Public realm): New forms are now in place and the forms have restrictions. We have next to instruct the County Council Arbor-culturalist to survey our intentions. Cllr S Clark to liaise with Cllr F Belgrove.

G: Two bus stop flag signs for Wivenhoe road (Nr Marsh Farm Junction):

H: Playing Field Toilets. To be ordered for the school summer holidays.

07.23.159 PCSO/Police Report. Cllr F Belgrove introduces and discusses the return of PCSO to work has been delayed requiring more physiotherapy. Cllr F Belgrove mentions the use of Nitrous Oxide Gas by local youths on the playing field.

07.23.160 Clerks Report. Delivers a verbal report of their typed report.

07.23.161 Meeting Ends 21.30hrs

Prepared by the Clerk/Proper Officer: **Matt Cooke 11.07.23**

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