

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 5thth of October 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. L. Belgrove

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

Members of the public x3

Meeting opens: 19.30hrs transacting the following business:

AGENDA ITEMS

10.22.2228 Announcements: Cllr F Belgrove announces the one minutes silence to mark Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the seconds sad death. Following the one minutes silence, Cllr J Housden states "God Save The King".

Cllr F Belgrove announces the sad death of young ACRFC player Chayse West and sends Alresford Parish Councils condolences to his family.

Cllr G Scott announces the sad death of Vice Chairman of the Autumn Centre Eddie Brown whose funeral is to be held on October 26th.

Cllr F Belgrove asks for agenda item 2237 to be deferred as Cllr S Clark being unable to be present.

10.22.2229 Apologies for Absence. Cllr S Hammick, Cllr R Swash, Cllr S Clark, & Cllr J Claremont Brown. Cllr F Belgrove sends best wishes to Cllr R Swash for a swift recovery from another bout of COVID.

10.22.2230 Minutes of the last monthly meeting: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the 7th of September 2022. Cllr E Osborne requests clarification over noise of children in planning item 09.22.1306 from September meeting relating to play times. Cllr F Belgrove asks council to approve of the alteration. Small typographic error spotted by Cllr F Belgrove. Clerk agrees to amend.

Cllr G Scott

Cllr E Osborne

Carried

1 Abstention- Cllr L Belgrove

10.22.2231 Declarations of Interest. Councillors to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in agenda items. Cllr G Scott declares interest in District Councillors report.

10.22.2232 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 asks the clerk to make a statement relating to the September public forum where a MOP stated that they had not received a response to a matter raised relating to a raised zebra crossing. The Clerk reads out minutes of October 2nd, 2013, item 10.13.9 correspondence received. Item 7, plus appendix where the email exchange is recorded. Cllr F Belgrove also reads out the reasons for the rejection from Highways panel 2019. Cllr E Osborne also adds that the bus company could also have removed the service if a raised table had been installed.

A member of the public raises council's attention to a concrete plinth former base to a bin, close to the doctor's surgery. Cllr Scott seeks clarification on why bin was removed and if the base could be removed. Cllr L Belgrove proposes to resolve to have base removed, seconded by Cllr G Scott, and Cllr E Osborne agrees. All councillors support. MOP also highlights the memorial seat at the bus stop requires repainting. Councils handy man is already on to it.

Another member of the public reports that the new Alders estate has set up a new face-book residents' group to address issues. Neighbours find the covenants in place restrictive, and hope that Alresford Parish Council will take over from the current management company. Cllr F Belgrove suggests that the residents seek to address this with the arrangement of a public residents' group. Cllr L Belgrove suggests a meeting is held between council and the MOP at the parish office to discuss this further. Cllr G Scott suggests that after the sign off by TDC once the planning conditions are met for the whole estate, then the residents may be able to make changes as sought. Cllr E Osborne suggests that their frustration is temporary.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting between resident and councillors.

10.22.2233 Finance Matters: August Finance Report - Council to review and approve. Cllr F Belgrove explains the water tanks are to be part funded by ACRFC and council will reclaim VAT. Proposed: Cllr A Broom, Seconded Cllr E Osborne, Carried.

10.22.2234 Christmas: Council to approve a budget for the Station Road Christmas Tree, lights and decorations. Cllr E Osborne introduces suggesting a likely increase in Tree prices. Cllr Scott suggests an increased budget of £400. Cllr L Belgrove seeks clarification on how we will spend it and on what it will be spent, stating that no new decorations have been purchased in recent years, and £400 seems reasonable as a budget. Proposed budget of £400 by Cllr G Scott, Seconded Cllr A Broom, Carried.

10.22.2235 Remembrance Day Wreath: Council to approve the purchase of a Remembrance Day wreath. Cllr F Belgrove introduces and seeks council satisfaction with purchasing the Remembrance Day wreath. Proposed Cllr J Housden, Seconded Cllr A Broom, Carried.

10.22.2236 Environment working party. Resolution. The environment Working Party to be tasked with preparing reports on:

- i: Petitions regarding dogs. Cllr F Belgrove states that another petition is being collated in opposition to the petition to allow dogs on the playing field.
- ii: Plans to demolish the sand barge jetty at Alresford creek, and the responsibility of Brett Aggregates to maintain or remove.
- iii: Air Pollution (quarry dust) in parts of Alresford.

iv: Noise disturbance (mainly industrial) to residents and how best to address the issue. Proposed to put all the above items to the environment working party. Proposed Cllr L Belgrove, Seconded Cllr J Housden, carried.

- 10.22.2237 Public realm Improvements.** Councillor Clark to present and report on the findings of the appointed consultants. Deferred until next meeting.
- 10.22.2238 District Councillor's report (Written Report)** and 5 min verbal report from Cllr G Scott. Cllr F Belgrove asks for questions from councillors. Cllrs seek clarification over wheelie bins and where they come from. Cllr E Osborne asks whether Cllr G Scott called in a planning agenda item as requested. That if it was called in, we as a council were not informed. If the Cllr doesn't respond to the request from a fellow councillor to at least inform the clerk. Cllr G Scott states that he called the application in and e-mailed the acting planning director Graham Nourse to act, and to date awaits a response from the planning officers. He resolves to chase it up further.
- 10.22.2239 Essex County Councillor Report (Written Report)** and 5 min verbal report. Cllr A Goggin arrives 20.09hrs and begins his report, after Cllr F Belgrove's introduction. Following the report Cllr F Belgrove asks for questions. Cllr L Belgrove asks a question referencing County Hall being mothballed, suggesting that EALC might occupy space within County Hall, as Dunmow is inaccessible to most as there is no public transport access and is a 2 hr each way trip by car. Cllr Goggin is in favour of ideas to utilise the mothballed rooms.
- 10.22.2240 Playing Field.** Updates:
- i: Play Equipment: Cllr F Belgrove announces the use of section 106 money to obtain new play equipment, quotations ongoing.
 - ii: Council to authorize expenditure for concrete base to site memorial bench for Jane Lee. Cllr F Belgrove seeks a budget for a concrete base. Proposed £250 by Cllr L Belgrove, seconded Cllr G Scot, Carried
 - iii: Multiple Games Area Use- updates and resolution to obtain three quotes for independent survey of site. Clerk updates on quotations received.
 - iv: Modular Toilets update.
- 10.22.2241 Brett Aggregates/Haul road.** Update on safety improvements. Cllr F Belgrove reports with councillors' attendance on safety matters and the measures now in place. Many good things done. However, things have not been done; Cllr Broom updates with regular excess speeding, and works that have deteriorated in a short space of time. Cllr Osborne also states that the vehicles are still coming through un-sheeted. Resolved for council to write to Bretts.
- 10.22.2242 Additional Bin/Double Bin- Staunton Gate at Junction with Station Road:** council to discuss additional bin at Staunton gate pedestrian walkway and/or siting of Double bin in main shopping area of Station Road. Cllr F Belgrove announces item. Cllr G Scott is incredulous at the speed with which the bin at the shops fills and TDC's emptying. The clerk is asked for a cost, and states that the last quotation was circa £550 plus VAT. He also suggests that if we move the existing bin to the end of Staunton Gate Walk through and seek a larger bin for the shop area, we save money. Councillors agree, if the existing bin is easily re-sited. Cllr L Belgrove proposes a budget of £550 +VAT for a new bin, seconded by Cllr G scott, Carried.
- 10.22.2243 New Residents Welcome Working Party report.** Working party to present report on first meeting and to seek a resolution to provide a budget for the Welcome Event. Cllr F Belgrove invites Cllr E Osborne to speak as the lead of the working party. Cllr E Osborne states that a meeting was held but was disappointed that Cllr G Scott as a

member of the working party, included in all e-mails and correspondence, that neither the group nor the clerk had heard a single thing from Cllr G Scott in attending the meeting. Therefore, Cllr E Osborne asks Cllr G Scott to step down. Cllr G Scott agrees to step down, as he is exceptionally busy with TDC.

Proposed Cllr G Scott, seconded Cllr F Belgrove, Carried. Cllr Osborne continues that the meeting had been proposed for November and after the committee sat the target for November was unrealistic and that the event takes place in February of 2023. The committee will meet again to decide on either the 11th 18th or 25th, and acknowledges gratefully the dates offered by the village hall. It is hoped all clubs, businesses and committees will take part and show new residents the scope of Alresfords' offer as a village and community. Cllr F Belgrove thanks Cllr Osborne for the working parties work on the matter.

10.22.2244 Domestic Violence: Council to consider publicising various new schemes. Cllr F Belgrove introduces the item stating that 25% of the police calls to the village are in relation to Domestic Violence. Cllr L Belgrove continues, describing the CPS definition and the behaviours that form domestic violence. 177 women are murdered in the UK every year through domestic violence. 1.6million are victims of domestic abuse. CPS state that prosecution is not dependent on the victim pressing charges and can be prosecuted by evidence as the CPS works on behalf of the Crown, in order to benefit the wider community. Cllr L Belgrove states that if neighbours or residents come to her with information, she will forward it the police. The council must also act as an intermediary. Cllr Belgrove states she will forward the Police information leaflets with all the council. Cllr G Scott states that there are variety of agencies. Cllr L Belgrove states that the police posters and electronic media have all the information contained in one place. Cllr E Osborne supports all Cllr L Belgrove has said. **Action:** Cllr L Belgrove to forward Police Poster to the clerk.

10.22.2245 Cessation of cleaning contract. Resolution for clerk to obtain three quotations for new cleaning services. Clerk to appoint temporary cleaning service in the interim. Cllr F Belgrove expresses councils thanks to Elysia Thompson for all her efforts for and on behalf of the council. It is resolved to seek three cleaning quotations for the Pavilion by the clerk, Proposed by Cllr E Osborne, Cllr L Belgrove. Carried. **Action:** Clerk to minute councils thanks to Elysia Thompson.

10.22.2246 The Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and the accession of King Charles III.
i: Operation London Bridge: brief report. Cllr F Belgrove described the protocols and how well council and the clerk had instigated them. Cllr E Osborne also thanked the chairman for his action and stepping in.
ii: Council to consider the suggestion that a flagpole is erected close to the Pavilion. Cllr G Scott reminds council that planning permission may be required, but he is in full support. Cllr Broom suggests it might make the Pavilion a more focal point. Proposed by Cllr A Broom, Seconded Cllr G Scott Carried. Cllr G Scott suggests a planning application is made as soon as possible. **Action:** Council to apply for a flagpole.

10.22.2247 AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return): PKF Littlejohn report and findings. Cllr F Belgrove explains the PKF Littlejohn comments and the slightly delayed submission. He reads the PKF Littlejohn report and explains that the clerk was ill with COVID at the agreed appointment, the auditor could not attend at that time, and this led to a late submission. The chairman reads out the RFO's statement. He also reads the AGAR statement by PKF Littlejohn that the accounts are accepted, and it is a procedural commentary on filing dates. Cllr J Housden and Cllr L Belgrove both state that the commentary is unfair and unreasonable, and that COVID was and is a serious issue.

10.22.2248 Council to authorise expenditure of £150. Soil improver and compost for public realm flower beds. Cllr F Belgrove asks for council to authorise the above including bulbs. Cllr G Scott proposes, Cllr J Housden seconds, Carried. Council expresses thanks to the volunteers for their work. Minuted.

10.22.2249 PCSO/Police Report. Policing update and PCSO crime report. Cllr F Belgrove introduces focussing on the terrible arson attack on Wyvernwood and that the person responsible to be caught. Cllr L Belgrove states how good it is to have the PCSO back and the need for PCSO not to be in work was a procedural issue. 7 incidents reported. 2 abandoned 999, 2 domestics, Arson, Stalking (part of domestic abuse) and theft of lead. Advice about Scams, Fly Tipping and Darker evenings. That walkers need to carry torches and reflective items after dark in a rural non lit area. Cllr E Osborne comments on vehicles with one light only and the early winter risk for pedestrians in dark clothing. Cllr A Wiggins arrives 20:48Hrs from TDC meeting. Cllr J Housden mentions a notice of "At Night Wear White", and Cllr L Belgrove suggests council include night-time walking for residents in the new handbook, and the need for new residents to take personal responsibility for personal safety. Be seen be safe. Cllr L Belgrove states that residents are often community minded, reporting incidents. Council needs to remind residents to take registration numbers down and times as this aids policing. Cllr F Belgrove adds that there has been a significant arrest in the village at the railway station with Essex Police and British Transport Police of a county lines drug dealer.

10.22.2250 Clerks Report: The clerk reads the report for Septembers actions.

Cllr F Belgrove asks for agenda items for the next meeting. None are forthcoming.

10.22.2251 Meeting Ends: 20.59hrs

Prepared by the Clerk/Proper Officer: Matt Cooke 25.10.22

Signed: Date: