

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the Wednesday 4th of October 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. A. Wiggins, Cllr A Broom, Cllr S Clark, Cllr R Swash, Cllr V Dalzell.

Also present: The Clerk, County Cllr. A. Goggin Members of the public x9

Meeting opens: 19.30 hrs transacting the following business:

Minutes from the Published Agenda

10.23.186 Announcements- The Chairman announces that the memorial service for Cllr John Housden will be held at St Andrews Church, Alresford, at a date to be confirmed in November. The chairman attended the small family funeral in London to represent Council.

Cllr Belgrove also announced that there was a generous donation from Alresford Colne Rangers FC of £500 to the costs incurred in the replacement of two kitchen appliances, and also towards the repair of the Floodlights which illuminate the hard court MUGA arena and the far side of the football pitch,

10.23.187 Apologies for Absence. Cllr Julia Claremont Brown hopes to attend but may have to miss the meeting due to waiting for a contractor to attend on site. Cllr G Scott will attend after the meeting in Thorrington.

10.23.188 Minutes of the last monthly meeting: To review and consider the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6th of September 2023.
Proposed to accept: Cllr V Dalzell, Seconded: Cllr A Wiggins, carried. 1 Abstention as not present at that meeting.

10.23.189 Declarations of Interest. Councillors present to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in agenda items. Cllr A Wiggins declares an interest in items: 192 and 198. Cllr Wiggins will leave the room for item 192. Cllr F Belgrove declares an interest in item 194, but as the matter does not materially impact his tenancy will not absent himself or abstain from the vote.

10.23.190 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 gentleman speaks about the safety issues that the overgrown verges of Cockaynes Lane have created. States that he has made representations to Cllr G Scott, and is concerned of the risk of fire in the dry moths we have had. Could the Parish Council approach the Essex County Council Highway department to get them cut. **Action:** Clerk to approach ECC.

A second member of the public speaks on the planning matter to come before council, suggesting that conditions are applied in the event that permission is granted by the principal planning authority. He then also comments on item 194 suggesting that the allocated budget is more than the rental income generated, and that the money would be better spent on community benefit projects.

A third member of the public asks about item 205, and the use of pet and child friendly weedkillers by the contractors. Cllr F Belgrove responds affirming that the weedkillers used are only used on weeds already grown and under the contractors public liability would be required to be legal, pet and child friendly.

Cllr F Belgrove **closes the public forum at 19.41hrs.**

10.23.191 Finance Matters.

September 2023 Finance Report - Council to review and consider.

Cllr B Swash asks about the SIM payment, Cllr F Belgrove clarifies the purpose of the sim to provide a CCTV camera. Cllr E Osborne requests a fuller breakdown of the recycling credits.

Proposed to accept: Cllr A Broom, seconded by Cllr L Belgrove, Carried.

10.23.192 Planning Matters : Cllr A Wiggins absents herself from the item and leaves the Pavilion Meeting Room.

Council to review [23/01277/OUT](#) (please click on link to view application)

Land at Tenpenny Farm, North of St Osyth Road, Alresford, Essex, CO7 8DH

Outline Planning Application (Access/Layout/Design/Scale/Landscaping to be considered or all matters reserved) for new commercial units (Use Class E, Part G). Applicant Mr N Sibbons.

Public objections have been received and forwarded to councillors for full consideration.

Cllr E Osborne introduces the item, recapping on the history of applications, approvals and denials. Recounts the financial benefits to the landowner of the developments that have been approved and built. Cllr Osborne discusses the impact on the residents of High Elms and the loss of amenity and the agricultural and natural views that would be denied if the development took place.

Cllr S Clark, cites policy from the Alresford Neighbourhood plan, that the application does not meet, as well as the policies in the Tendring District Council local plan that are not met.

Cllr F Belgrove also adds additional policy which is not met in the proposal.

Cllr F Belgrove reminds all councillors present that council may choose to support, remain neutral or object to the development proposal.

Cllr E Osborne proposes that council object to the application. Seconded by Cllr S Clark, Carried unanimously. **Action:** Clerk to upload councils objection to the planning portal.

10.23.193 Council to review Bus Shelter Lighting Quote: The two village bus shelters require the old installation removing and new low voltage solar powered equipment to be installed. Quote received from TTSS. Council to discuss cost and decide.

Cllr F Belgrove introduces the item, recounting the inability to obtain contractors to undertake the work. 3 companies refused to quote. TTSS have quoted at £3,405.98 Plus VAT to undertake both shelters removal of existing, installation of Solar charged lights and the intricacy contained therein in the metal shelter specifically.

Cllr L Belgrove supports the proposal and acceptance of the quote as it is an essential work required to provide a safer space for bus users, especially so as we head into the autumn and winter months.

Cllr G Scott also supports the motion stating that it is right and proper that bus stop shelters are adequately lit and safe for bus users.

Cllr E Osborne also supports the motion stating how important it is to provide a safe public transport network and lighting will encourage the use of the shelters and stops.

Cllr L Belgrove proposes, seconded by Cllr B Swash, Carried **Action:** Clerk to Instruct the contractor.

10.23.194 Allotment Proposal re: communal sheds. It is resolved that materials are purchased, to repair the two communal allotment sheds (Wivenhoe Road). Estimated spend £250. The Parish Council handyman to be asked to carry out the works.

Cllr F Belgrove introduces the item. Asks the clerk to clarify the statutory requirement to provide allotment amenity where there is demand, explaining that council operates an extensive waiting list and that allotment use is laid down in law.

Cllr G Scott supports the motion.

Cllr F Belgrove suggests it would be nice to receive a parcel of land as a donation to the parish council for allotment use by one of the many land owners locally. Cllrs E Osborne and L Belgrove agree wholeheartedly. Cllr L Belgrove clarifies that the allotments on Wivenhoe road are a community and provide 17 tenants and their associated families an activity that is more than the mere growth of produce. That the council has provided community Poly Tunnels and Sheds as both areas to store tools, grow seedlings and meet or shelter when there is need.

Cllr S Clark agrees that the need is evidenced and asks that if a donation cannot be sought council might investigate the rent of a parcel of land. Cllr E Osborne reminds all present that there is a parcel next to the allotments that has been refused development planning before. Perhaps the owner could be approached.

Cllr F Belgrove puts the proposal to a vote. Cllr G Scott proposes, Cllr L Belgrove seconds the motion, Carried. **Action:** Clerk to Instruct the Handyman.

Cllr E Osborne **raises a point of order** on Cllrs raising their hands to speak. The chairman acknowledges the point of order and reminds all councillors to raise their hand to speak and await being called upon by the chairman.

10.23.195 Report on councillor training: information only item. Cllr F Belgrove introduces. He states that training may be free once a .gov.uk email and web site is implemented. Currently much is delivered by the EALC.

10.23.196 Residents Reporting issues to councillors. Information only item, processes and procedures. Cllr F Belgrove introduces.

10.23.197 Staff Work Allocation Protocol: information only item. Cllr F Belgrove introduces.

Cllr S Clark asks if this indicates a workload issue.

Cllr F Belgrove reminds Cllr Clark that this is a personnel issue and cannot be discussed in an open forum. The clerk asks to respond and clarifies the matter for all present.

10.23.198 District Councillor's report (Written Report) and 5 min verbal report. Cllr G Scott delivers the district councillors report to the parish council.

10.23.199 Essex County Councillor Report (Written Report) and 5 min verbal report. Suspended until later in the agenda, as the County Councillor is still at another meeting. Councillor Goggin arrives after item 202 and delivers his report congratulating Council for the installation of the VAS sign. He also discusses at length the process of Quiet Lane status and the application. Suggesting a teams meeting with himself, the County Council manager of Highways structural assets, councillors and the clerk in order to better understand the due process.

10.23.200 Public Spaces Protection Order: Council to consider and discuss the proposal of Tendring District Council to introduce PSPO's within our area.

Cllr F Belgrove introduces the item. The item at this time is a for information item, where there will be a future public consultation. Cllr Belgrove explains the wide and far-reaching ways in which PSPO's can be implemented, and the lack of substance currently on offer in how these may be implemented by TDC.

Cllr G Scott says it may fall under one of three portfolio holders, and that the matter may appear before one of three TDC meetings before being put to the local Parish Councils for further consultation.

Cllr L Belgrove provides further information on why PSPO's are being rolled out further. The incident of dog bites has been increasing year on year and the PSO allows a legal enforcement route to be taken.

Cllr F Belgrove suggests that it may be a way district council saves work and cuts jobs by passing the onus on to local councils to implement and more importantly fund.

Cllr S Clark suggests it implies that the matter is bigger than a single issue and that the consultation will be on the scope of PSPO's.

10.23.201 Council to discuss: The White Ribbon Campaign - Ending violence against women and girls starts when we **#ChangeTheStory** - White Ribbon Day, 25th November 2023. How Alresford Parish Council achieves 'White Ribbon membership' as supported by the National Association of Local Councils. **Cllr L Belgrove** to introduce.

Cllr Belgrove introduces the item explaining that Domestic Violence is in the main focused on male violence on females. She asks for an item to be on the November agenda as the date of the white ribbon day is November 25th. There are two routes to accreditation. One involving training, the other a fee paid to become a supporter. Either way literature is provided and afforded dissemination through the council and clerk. Cllr Belgrove to send the clerk more information to disseminate to councillors. **Action:** Cllr L Belgrove to send the Clerk information to share, the Clerk to undertake White Ribbon training.

10.23.202 Report: Essex Association of Local Councils AGM, chairman to deliver.

Cllr F Belgrove introduces and makes it clear that there were representations made on behalf of Alresford to the AGM and attendees. Specifically the matter of reduced speed was addressed by the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, as well as offering the Pavilion as a regional training hub especially as a disabled accessible building. **Action:** Clerk to chase EALC on use of the Pavilion.

10.23.203 Council to consider: Road Safety Proposal: It is resolved that Alresford Parish Council would support the implementation of 20mph speed limits for all minor roads in Alresford. Wivenhoe Road and the B1027 (through Alresford) both proposed as 30 mph limits.

Cllr E Osborne states that this limit is in place on the new estates and should be rolled out across the village and its residential roads, agreeing that the main Wivenhoe arterial road remains at 30mph and that a speed reduction to 30mph is sought for the B1027.

Cllr V Dalzell agrees that this is a great idea, however there is the matter of enforcement, especially so given that the 30mph limit is frequently exceeded.

Cllr G Scott agrees with Cllr Dalzell, that to really make this work enforcement is key.

Cllr L Belgrove disagrees, stating that police enforcement and presence is not a reason to delay the proposal. The majority of residents are law abiding and will adhere to the 20mph limit once applied. The law breakers are a minority and will do so regardless. Once limits are in place there is then something to enforce.

Cllr V Dalzell states that he would like to see a police officer on Cox Road just once.

Cllr F Belgrove states that only the week previously he had been on a foot patrol with the PCSO on Cox Road and around the whole village taking 2 hours to walk the beat.

Cllr L Belgrove reminds all present that policing is often un-noticed and one would need to be at ones' gate 24/7 to monitor police presence. Just because it is not seen does not mean that it is not happening.

Proposed to apply for a 20mph limit, by Cllr L Belgrove, seconded by Cllr V Dalzell, Carried.

Action: Clerk to apply to ECC for speed limit reduction on residential roads.

10.23.204 Remembrance Wreath. It is resolved that council purchases a remembrance wreath to lay at the war memorial on 11th of November.

Proposed Cllr A Wiggins, seconded by Cllr G Scott, carried. Cllr A Wiggins states that she has placed the order, and that it will be laid on Saturday November 11th at 11am by the chairman. Cllr G Scott confirms he will attend the remembrance memorial on the 11th.

10.23.205 Weed Clearing Proposal: It is resolved that weed clearance on paved areas is now included in the contract for our regular contractor (J's Garden Services) at a cost of £550 per treatment. Cllr A Wiggins asks if the weeds once sprayed are collected? Cllr S Clark agrees this should be part of the contract. Cllr G Scott also agrees and asks that it is written onto the contract.

Proposed Cllr L Belgrove, seconded by Cllr A Wiggins. Carried. **Action:** Clerk to instruct J's garden services.

10.23.206 Project Updates. Report

i) Pavilion Solar Panels

ii) Modular toilet Block for Playing Field

iii) Additional Picnic Tables and Benches for the playing field.

iv) Wivenhoe Road VAS installation.

Cllr F Belgrove updates council on projects.

Cllr V Dalzell asks if the VAS sign collects data, such as the graph Cllr A Goggin shared from Thorrington. Suggests that publicising the data within the advertiser might be useful in bringing the public up to date with the issue of speeding in the village.

10.23.207 Public Realm Improvement: **Cllr S Clark** to report on tree planting applications made. Cllr S Clark and the Clerk present images of the proposed. **Action:** Clerk to finalise the 11 applications.

10.23.208 Website and Email: It is resolved that quotations are sought for an improved accessibility website resolving to a .gov.uk unique resource location (URL).

In addition it will become necessary under Freedom Of Information and Subject Access Request Law that councillors are moved across to .gov.uk email addresses for their council work and all council communications.

Cllr F Belgrove calls on the Clerk to inform council of the importance to the protection of councillors and the Parish Council. Proposed Cllr G Scott, Seconded by Cllr V Dalzell, Carried.

10.23.209 PCSO/Police Report. Policing update and PCSO crime report. Cllr L Belgrove introduces and draws attention to the increase in anti- social behaviour, and the use of Nitrous Oxide N2O Gas. The report highlighting the dangers and health concerns nitrous oxide can create. Asking residents to report crime. It is noted that the government is set to make the possession and persistent use of this gas a criminal offence.

Cllr V Dalzell reminds all present that the report does not evidence the fact that we live in a very safe village. He also comments that the deaths from N2O use are 56 over ten years far fewer than those taking paracetamol for example.

Cllr L Belgrove responds, that the report is what has actually happened in the village, it is not about safety. That the N2O use leads to criminal damage from the inhibitions lost by inebriation from the gas, and that the damage on the playing field happens as a direct result of the use of N2O gas and other substances. It is an obligation for councillors to uphold the law and support law enforcement. It is not for us to wink the eye and carry on regardless.

Cllr R Swash also responds that the report highlights that council acknowledge the issue and face up to it and the seriousness of the crime happening. If council does not then council fails the community it is there to serve.

Cllr V Dalzell states that he is not condoning the use, he understands the seriousness of the issue and is not winking an eye to the matter, but that it is important to stress to residents the safe nature of the village as a response to the crime report.

Chairman Cllr F Belgrove states that Cllr Dalzell has said this, and it will be minuted.

10.23.210 Clerks Report. The clerk delivers his report for the month of September of actions undertaken on behalf of council.

10.23.211 Meeting Ends 21.27hrs

Prepared by the Clerk/Proper Officer: Matt Cooke. 05.10.23