**ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the** Wednesday 1st of November 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 J Claremont Brown, Cllr A Broom, Cllr V Dalzell.

Also present: The Clerk, County Cllr. A. Goggin, PCSO Brandon, Sgt Moss, Members of the public x4

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

**Minutes from the Published Agenda**

**11.23.212 Announcements-**

The chairman welcomes PCSO J Brandon and Sergeant V Moss will speak about policing in the village.

The clerk will be making a governance announcement following the chairman’s announcements.

Chairman announces that Alresford has won for the second year on the trot the Essex Playing Fields Association, Class 2 Best Kept Playing Field Competition, along with Class 3 runner up for Best Play Area, and a Gold Award for the best kept Football Pitch. He thanks all the staff contractors and volunteers who maintain such high standards.

Reminds all present that there will be a wreath laying ceremony at the war memorial at 11am on 11.11.23 and a church remembrance service on the Sunday 12th.

Informs all present that there will be drinks after the December meeting.

Cllr Belgrove reminds all present that a severe weather warning has been issued.

The county councillor report will be slightly extended to discuss quiet lanes, and that although the planning item is not for debate, there is some additional information to add on another matter also not for debate.

Finally announcing that there will most likely be a memorial for Cllr J Housden in the village at some point in the new year, following a service on November 18th in London, and the obituary being published in the Brightlingsea and Wivenhoe chronicle.

The clerk reads a statement on social media commentary by councillors, about a formal complaint made about a post on Alresford Community Support page, and the policy already in place urging all councillors to exercise caution. Reading the LGA Code of Conduct Section 5 Disrepute.

19.36hrs Cllr L Belgrove arrives.

**11.23.213 Apologies for Absence.** Cllr R Swash, Cllr S Clark. Cllr Ann Wiggins will arrive from another meeting (Arriving at 19.43hrs)

**11.23.214 Minutes of the last monthly meeting:** To review and consider the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 4th of October 2023. Cllr L Belgrove asks for an adjustment in relation to minute 10.23.201 changing accreditation to member. Proposed Cllr A Broom, Seconded Cllr G Scott, Carried, one abstention Cllr J Claremont-Brown.

**11.23.215 Declarations of Interest.** Councillors present to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in agenda items. Cllr V Dalzell declares an interest in item 219. Cllr G Scott declares interest in item 226 and suggests that Cllr A Wiggins would if in attendance declare an interest in item 226 also.

**11.23.216 Guest Report:** Essex Police to report to Alresford Parish Council. 15 minutes.

PCSO J Brandon and Sergeat V Moss deliver a policing report and the crime report (item 228). Taking questions from residents and councillors. The report was as published, and reminds people of the change in law on Nov 8th in relation to N2O Nitrous oxide possession. They discuss fly tipping, anti social parking and general behaviour. Sgt V Moss explains how policing without a funded PCSO means that 2 PCSO cover 23 villages, whilst the two villages of Alresford and Great Bentley share a funded PCSO.

Cllr V Dalzell asks if he might speak to the officers outside of the meeting immediately following the item.

Cllr E Osborne asks if a focus could be placed on parking at the school. PCSO assures council that it will be addressed on her next rotation.

**11.23.217 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.

A member of the public speaks about the fete organising group and running an event for Christmas to raise funds and provide a prize for the best dressed house in Alresford. Cllr G Scott and Cllr A Wiggins will be judging. The event to be advertised in the advertiser.

Another member of the public thanks all concerned for the resurfacing work at the end of Ford Lane and the junction with the B1027. They ask if the flooding at the corner of Wivenhoe Road and Ford Lane was addressed at the same time. Cllr G Scott suggests that the improved new surface will aid drainage.

Cllr E Osborne responds that the two issues of drainage and surface are separate issues. Implying that ECC Highways do not talk to those responsible for drains, or about replacing the existing solid cover with a slotted grate to enable flood water to drain away.

Another member of the public asks if the item 224 (Christmas tree decorations) budget is too high at £400, suggesting that the local shops contribute. Cllrs respond that the Christmas tree and its decorations are put out for the communities benefit not the benefit of the shops. That council always seek best value for money, and that setting a budget does not mean the budget will be spent in total.

20:05 Cllr V Dalzell returns to the room.

Cllr A Goggin arrives 20:14 hrs.

**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.

* + 1. **Finance Matters.**

October 2023 Finance Report - Council to review and consider. Cllr F Belgrove announces some additions to the report and some adjustments.

Cllr L Belgrove asks why the portable toilet has not been added.

Also asks re cleaning materials, re COSSH, 20ltrs of Bleach. Cllr L Belgrove also reminds council that Bleach is not to be used, and we should be using environmentally friendly materials.

Proposed Cllr A Broom, seconded Cllr L Belgrove

* + 1. **Planning - Information Item:** T1 Reduce oak tree by 30% to below the crown break, Mr Jack Foweraker, 17 Heath Road, Alresford, Colchester, Essex, CO7 8DT. The matter being dealt with by the Tree Officer at TDC, Clive Dawson. Ref: [23/01452/WTPO](https://idox.tendringdc.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S2MC0QQB0RE00).

Cllr F Belgrove introduces the item. Cllr E Osborne reminds all present that this is a maintenance issue, and the tree has been cut back before,

Cllr F Belgrove introduces ESS17/18TEN a legacy item on sand and gravel extraction, and an approval for an extension at Sunnymede Farm. Cllr E Osborne clarifies on the extraction and the routes for vehicular movements in regard to recently approved Sunnymede Farm extraction agreement with Esex Couty Council. Planning had lapsed and was re-applied for, with the traffic entrance and exit directly to the B1027 and with processing on site.

* + 1. **Council to consider options for:** Grass verge maintenance Cockaynes Lane, Council to consider options. Cllr F Belgrove introduces, Essex county council cut once a year, and does the Parish Council ask the contractor to quote for a cost for additional cuts, 1 cut, 2 cuts, 3 cuts . Cllr E Osborne asks for quotes. Cllr G Scott agrees.

**Action:** Clerk to seek quotes.

* + 1. **Saint Peter's Churchyard. For information**: An extra area of the Churchyard will be maintained by J's Garden Services at no extra cost to the Council – Grass and brush cutting to widen the pathways). Cllr G Scott declares an interest as members family are buried there. 25mx15m area is overgrown. J’s garden services are to add the extra area for maintenance at no extra cost to council.
		2. **Report on VAS Wivenhoe Road:** information only item. Council to note recorded data. Cllr F Belgrove introduces and refers to the data (councillors have data spread sheet in front of them to review).

Cllr Belgrove discusses the average speed 27mph, the 85th centile speed is 32mph and one vehicle went through at 70mph. Evidence is clear that the VAS reduces speed. Prior survey shows that the new VAS has cut speeding by 14%. Cllr E Osborne thanks the chairman for the data as it helps councillors remain informed when speaking with residents.

* + 1. **Section 106 Monies:** Council to consider applying for a deed of variation so that some money from the s106 agreement for the St Andrews Close development (destined for the playing field) can be provided for the school community swimming pool.

**Cllr F Belgrove introduces.** On discussion with the Clerk it may not be necessary to seek a deed of variation. The clerk reads out data from a spreadsheet and the covenants applied to the s106 gains. Cllr L Belgrove suggest that Plan A is to apply for the draw down as identified. Plan B would be to seek the deed of variance. Cllr G Scott clarifies the TDC aspect of approval. Cllr F Belgrove asks if the District Councillors would approve of the request to draw down.

Council resolves to seek to draw down the one sum of £8,924, and to seek a deed of variance for £10,000. Cllr G Scott requires that a response in writing is sought to clarify that the school is not LEA owned/maintained.

Proposed: Cllr L Belgrove, Seconded Cllr V Dalzell. Carried .

Cllrs G Scott and Cllrs A Wiggins declare an interest in the item, and abstain from voting on the matter.

* + 1. **Christmas Tree Decoration**:

A: Resolution: It is resolved that the Council budgets a sum of £400 for the Station Road tree/decorations/lights. Cllr V Dalzell asks for risk assessment and to share it with all councillors.

Proposed Cllr F Belgrove, Seconded Cllr A Wiggins. Carried

B: It is resolved that the Council requests the Primary School and local school children to be involved in the decoration of the Christmas tree at lower level.

Proposed Cllr F Belgrove, Seconded Cllr J Claremont-Brown. Carried.

**Action:** Clerk to approach the school.

* + 1. **Council resolves** to budget £80 for the purchase of flower bulbs for planting in various village locations. Proposed Cllr F Belgrove, seconded Cllr J Claremont-Brown. Carried
		2. **District Councillor’s report (Written Report)** and 5 min verbal report

Cllr A Wiggins delivers the District Councillors report.

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

Cllr A Goggin introduces the County Councillors report.

Additionally the County Councillor reports on the specifics of quiet lanes, pertinent to councils application and has brokered a meeting with the chairman, clerk, county councilor and highways officer.

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

Delivered earlier when the PCSO And Sergeant Moss were in attendance.

* + 1. **White Ribbon Initiative:** TheWhite Ribbon Campaign - Ending violence against women and girls. Council resolves to become a registered supporter at a cost of £150. Clerk to undertake training. Link to purchasing supporter badges and materials: [Shop — White Ribbon UK](https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/shop)

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

* + 1. **Council to consider:** the obtaining of two quotes for the repair and/or replacement of two junction warning signs on the B1027, between the junction of Coach Road and Station Road.

**Proposed to obtain quotes:** Proposed Cllr L Belgrove. Seconded by Cllr A Wiggins, Carried

Quotes for passive posts to be obtained**.**

* + 1. **Clerks Report.** The clerk delivers the report for Octobers actions.
		2. **Meeting Ends** 21:13hrs

Prepared by the Clerk/Proper Officer: Matt Cooke. 16.11.23

Signed: Chairman

Date: 7.12.2023