

# ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 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 S. Clark.

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

Members of the public x4

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

### Minutes from the Agenda:

**12.22.2273 Announcements.** Chairman, Cllr F Belgrove makes the following announcements:

Chairman invites the clerk to announce an extension to the deadline for the grants process and applications for local groups, due to the clerk being on annual leave for half of December.

In December there will be multiple roadworks potentially impacting local residents:

B1027 at Tenpenny Lodge and the Railway bridge from December 12<sup>th</sup>.

From 14<sup>th</sup> of December roadworks at Thorrington cross and Tenpenny Hill

19<sup>th</sup> of December from Heath Lodge. These disruptions may lead to additional travel time, and diverted traffic along the Wivenhoe road including heavy good vehicles.

Invited all attending to join the council after the meeting for Christmas

The chairman thanked the four members of staff for all their hard work throughout the year.

He also thanked Cllr E. Osborne, Cllr R. Swash and Mr M. Brumpton, for the selection and installation of the Christmas tree.

**12.22.2274 Apologies for Absence.** Councillors S. Hammick, L. Belgrove, R. Swash, J Claremont Brown.

**12.22.2275 Minutes of the last monthly meeting:** To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the 2nd of November 2022.

Proposed Cllr A. Broom, Seconded Cllr A. Wiggins, carried. **Action:** Clerk to upload minutes to website.

**12.22.2276 Declarations of Interest.** Councillors to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in agenda items.

Cllr G Scott declares a non-pecuniary interest in the District Councillors report, also declaring an interest in the local grant application process. Cllr A Wiggins declares a non-pecuniary interest in the District Councillors report, and a potential need to remove herself from discussion over planning matters. Cllr F Belgrove announces a dispensation in voting on the proposed budget as this includes allotment rent increases, and that he is an allotment holder.

**12.22.2277 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.

A member of the public spoke on the road closure on Keelers lane and the issues with transport to and from Brett aggregates. Cllrs agreed this was a temporary inconvenience. The MOP then asked about the speed watch deployment as mentioned in the chairman's report in the Alresford Advertiser and the infrequency of its use. This was clarified by the chairman as being an issue of fault with the tru-cam and that it was being repaired. The chairman also spoke about the imminent implementation of a SID sign on Wivenhoe Road, subject to ECC Highways approval. The speaker also mentioned that the issue of speeding was worse after dark, they were informed that the PCSO was aware and was seeking an after dark camera to use.

A second member of the public spoke over the cost of electricity and the cuts to budgets and asked if the item on improving the villages floral displays and hanging baskets was appropriate at a time of unprecedented cost of living increases. Cllrs agreed that it was an interesting perspective, that at a cost of pennies per household this was a way to spread some joy and pride in ones' surroundings at low cost in real terms. The person went on to ask about the reason behind the lack of lighting and pavement walkways on the new estate at the end of Saint Andrews Avenue. Cllr G Scott responded in relation to planning restrictions and the retention of wildlife habitat as part of TDC's planning restrictions. He stated he would raise the matter further at TDC. Cllr E Osborne reminded all attendees that the development site was a site of local environmental importance and the peripheral grass environment was protected to preserve vital wildlife and insect habitat. Currently the parish council were unable to address any matter to do with the estate as it remains an unadopted highway until the development is completed and the hand over is made to TDC and subsequently handed over to APC.

A third member of the public asked about the ECC Highways Condition of adequate hard standing for the development at Orchard View at the B1027 end of the Wivenhoe Road. The Clerk Clarified the requirement was 6m and that this can be raised with both Highways and TDC planning enforcement, the person commented "Such as it is". The speaker also commended the work of the councils' handyman in maintaining the public gardens and in the standard of work on the bus stop in repainting and cleaning. The public forum closed at 19.48 hrs.

### **12.22.2278 Finance Matters.**

i: Budget recommended by Finance Committee for 2023-2024 is £131,995. Proposed Cllr S Clark, Seconded Cllr G Scott, Carried unanimously.

ii: Precept: Recommendation from the Finance Committee is that for 2023-24 Council should approve a 0% increase of the Precept retaining it at: £88,230 (the remainder of the budget to be covered by drawing from the reserves). Proposed Cllr A Broom, Seconded Cllr S Clark, Carried unanimously.

iii: November Finance Report - Council to review and approve. Proposed Cllr E Osborne, Seconded Cllr G Scott, Carried unanimously.

**12.22.2279 Planning** Council to consider the following planning application:

#### **APPLICATION NO: 22/01681/FUL**

PROPOSAL: Proposed removal and replacement of derelict Landing Stage providing waterway access across land owned and leading up to Alresford Lodge, Ford Lane, Alresford CO7 8BE

LOCATION: shore land at Alresford Lodge Ford Lane Alresford Colchester CO7 8BE  
Cllrs discussed the issues with the site being a RAMSAR and SSSI, the archaeological reports and the environment agency report and suggestions. Council agrees to observe a neutral response with the condition that all reports and advice are adopted as planning conditions. Cllrs raised a concern over the widening access through ancient hedgerow to access the proposal and its walkway, and this would be referred to in the planning portal commentary. Proposed Cllr E Osborne, Seconded Cllr S Clark, 4 for the proposal, 1 against and 1 abstention. Carried.  
**Action:** Clerk to upload council decision to the planning portal.

County councillor A Goggin arrives 20.05hrs.

**12.22.2280 Appointment of Internal Auditors.** Council previously charged the clerk to seek an alternative to Heelis and Lodge for the annual internal audit. Responsible Financial Officer Recommends Jan Stobart as she has worked with her at her other. Clerk proposes that council work with an internal auditor whose work is known and recommended by our well respected RFO. Proposed Cllr F Belgrove, Seconded Cllr A Wiggins. Carried. **Action:** Clerk to notify the auditor.

**12.22.2281 Update Environment Working Party Reports:** Council to approve the following reports.

- Dog exercise areas
- Solar Power in the community
- Air quality report
- Public Realm report recommendations

Cllr F Belgrove introduces and reads reports on dog exercising areas, Solar Power and Air Quality. Cllr F Belgrove introduces Cllr S Clark who asks the clerk to present from the power point presentation. Cllr S Clark recommends to council to pursue the proposal for an initial response from ECC Highways and TDC. **Action:** Clerk to notify the stakeholders of the plans and intentions.

**12.22.2282 St Peters church yard maintenance.** It is resolved that APC approves the continuation of a £600 contribution to the upkeep and maintenance of St Peters Church yard.

Councillors ask for an additional agenda item re the purchase of bulbs for the one side of the parking area.

**12.22.2283 Additional Hanging baskets.** Council to discuss Cllr R Swash's proposal for additional hanging baskets. Cllr Swash unable to deliver the proposal. Cllr F Belgrove introduces. Cllr Scott mentions the forthcoming coronation year and suggests that an increase in hanging baskets would be appropriate. Cllr E Osborne agrees that cheering the village up in a coronation year is a positive. Cllr G Scott suggests that local businesses could sponsor hanging baskets. Cllr Belgrove states that we have a budget for it, Proposed by Cllr A Broom to spend the budget (quotes to be obtained), Seconded Cllr G Scott, Carried. **Action:** Clerk to obtain hanging basket quotes up to a specified budget (as per the agreed annual budget).

**12.22.2284 Road Signs:** Parish Boundary B1027 and Wivenhoe Road. Cllr F Belgrove introduces, councillors discuss the matter and resolve to obtain 2 further signs to be situated at the boundaries. A difference of opinion was expressed over back-to-back signs and suggested that a green gap is left appropriately. A proposal is made to acquire and situate two further Alresford signs with the clerk liaising with the ECC

Highways department. Proposed Cllr F Belgrove, Seconded Cllr G Scott, Carried.  
**Action:** Clerk to liaise with ECC

**Domestic Violence:** Report from Linda Belgrove (Item held over). Cllr L Belgrove unable to attend and Cllr F Belgrove postpones to the January 2023 meeting. Cllr J Housden arrives 20:40hrs

- 12.22.2285 District Councillor's report (Written Report)** and 5 min verbal report. Councillors raised questions over the latest briefing on the Garden Community, asking the district councilors to ensure that Alresford Parish Councils objection to development on land to the east and south of Clingoe Hill at the junction with Wivenhoe Road is not overlooked.
- 12.22.2286 Essex County Councillor Report (Written Report)** and 5 min verbal report. Cllr G Scott leaves the meeting 20:50 hrs.
- 12.22.2287 Tendring Community Safety Team.** Council to discuss hosting Alan McGoldrick perhaps with the PCSO for a one-day drop-in surgery at the pavilion, for residents to discuss their local issues. Council to consider this as either a standalone option, or for the February meet and greet of local residents. Council discusses and suggests that the coffee morning at the church may be the best option. **Action:** Clerk to inform PCSO & Mr McGoldrick that council consider the best option is to piggyback the event, suggesting the surgery is held at the church with the PCSO.
- 12.22.2288 Council to discuss:** The requisition of the Rapid Deployment CCTV camera from TDC which would run 24/7 for two months at a time. To combat anti-social behaviour and/or cover the unlit and unmonitored area of the St Peters Church Yard. **Action:** Council to instruct TDC to deploy at an appropriate time subject to the anti-social behaviour.
- 12.22.2289 Cleaning contractor.** Council to review and decide on a cleaning contractor. Clerk has obtained three quotations. Cllr F Belgrove introduces and hand to clerk to offer the three options and prices, two at £13 per hour and one at £20 per hour. Clerk recommends a six-month reviewable/renewable contract for the existing temporary cleaner at £13 per hour. Proposed Cllr E Osborne, Seconded Cllr A Broom, Carried. **Action:** Clerk to inform all parties and appoint Jenny Hogan Kidd, in accordance with councils decision.
- 12.22.2290 Pavilion Re-decoration:** The clerk recommends to council that under Pg14 of the finance regulations Paragraph D, council waive the requirement to seek three quotes for the pavilion redecoration on the basis that utilising the handyman would enable us to negotiate a favourable deal below the threshold of works and utilise some of his contracted hours in the preparation of the spaces, making further savings. The clerk introduces the matter and the quotation. Based on 14 x 8 hour days, at £1960.

Councillors ask a question on comparison or judging value. Under councils standing orders and finance regulations this matter is compliant. Council to decide. Proposed Cllr E Osborne, Seconded Cllr S Clark, Carried.

Cllr A Wiggins leaves the meeting: 21.05hrs.

- 12.22.2291 CCTV Upgrades.** Council to review TTSS quotation. Recommended to upgrade in stages. Council to discuss and take decision. Cllr F Belgrove introduces, and suggests

that we seek grants, across a period of time, to phase the implementation of an upgraded system. Cllrs discuss and support the idea. Proposed Cllr F Belgrove, Seconded Cllr S Clark, Carried

**12.22.2292 PCSO/Police Report.** Policing update and PCSO crime report. Cllr F Belgrove introduces. Stating that he has been on knife sweeps with PCSO And Policing operations discovered a large quantity of drugs was found on a local search. The Clerk also adds that the PCSO is investigating the recent spate of aggressive anti-social behaviour, that the PCSO is very aware and investigating all the events with knowledge of the two main suspected culprits. Cllr E Osborne adds that it is copycat behaviour from across the district. Cllr J Housden agrees.

**12.22.2293 Clerks Report:** The clerk reads his report of the actions since Novembers meeting, focusing on planning enforcements closure of matters in reference to two local developments. Play equipment and MUGA quotations have been received and will be brought to council in January's meeting. The clerk reads out two email notifications in relation to planning for Lufkins aggregates extraction and the traffic management plan. Cllr E Osborne has spoken to Planning Officer T Sycamore and states that Cllr S Clark and he are aware of the decision and the extension of three years to the existing extraction. Cllr S Clark also mentions the call for sites for minerals extraction and the call for sites is now shut.

Councillors are invited to submit items for January 2023's Agenda by the 16<sup>th</sup> of December due to annual leave dates.

**12.22.2294 Meeting Ends 21.21hrs**

Prepared by the Clerk/Proper Officer: Matt Cooke 20.11.22