

# ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Parish Council Meeting

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting (held by Zoom) on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

**Cllrs. present (remote attendance):** Cllr. F. Belgrove (Chairman), Cllr. Osborne, Cllr. Swash, Cllr. Scott, Cllr. Wiggins Cllr. Clark, Cllr. L. Belgrove and Cllr. Housden.

**Also present (remote attendance):** Parish Clerk, Cty. Cllr. Goggin (arrived late due to attending another meeting) and 1 member of the public.

### Minutes

#### **Announcement(s):**

1. Office hours over the Christmas and New Year period; Closed from 2.30pm on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and reopens on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 9.30am.
2. The Clerk was now an Executive Member of the Society of Local Council Clerks for the Tendring area.
3. Thanks given to Cllr. Swash and others involved in getting the Christmas tree and for decorating it.

#### **12.20.1731 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr. Hammick gave apologies.

#### **12.20.1732 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Wiggins declared an interest in agenda item 12.20.1735(i) report item 15, and agenda item 12.20.1753. Cllr. Osborne declared an interest in agenda item 12.20.1735(i) report item 10. Cllr. F. Belgrove declared an interest in agenda item 12.20.1735.

#### **12.20.1733 Minutes of the last monthly meeting**

Minutes of the meeting from 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were agreed by those councillor's present, 2 abstentions.

**12.20.1734 Public Forum** (members of the public and guests can address the council or submit written questions/statements). Time limit 3 mins per person. Item limited to 10 minutes.

A resident was concerned about an increase in dog fouling and asked if the much-publicised DNA deterrent system brought in four years ago had been a waste of public money. The resident felt it was mainly elderly people that allowed their dogs to foul because they were unable to bend down to deal with the problem. The resident requested data on prosecutions and suggested a scheme where volunteers accompany elderly dog walkers and pick up the dog mess for them. The Chairman said the clerk would respond in writing regarding most questions and pointed out that the DNA deterrent scheme had been financed by donations.

#### **12.20.1735 Finance**

**i) Finance report for November 2020**

The report was agreed by those councillor's present.

**Action: RFO to process approved payments**

**ii) Internal Auditor report** – Report circulated to councilors for review. Fidelity cover required to be higher. Noted.

iii) Fidelity cover increase £30.59 – Council to consider and approve. Those councillor's present agreed the additional spend.

**Action: RFO to process approved payment**

iv) External Auditor report – INFORMATION ONLY. Noted.

v) Council to consider approving 2 new investment accounts; CCLA and National Savings & Investments.

Agreed by those councilors present to open an account with NS & I.

**Action: RFO to proceed with application.**

#### **12.20.1736 Planning:**

i) 20/01409/FUL Mr & Mrs K Pope Variation of condition 2 of application 19/01261/FUL (approved on appeal APP/P1560/W/19/3244048) for revisions to plot one and access road. Land adjacent 2 Wivenhoe Road Alresford Essex CO7 8AD

Comments: No objection. Query blue outline on drawing, what was it in regard to?

**Action: Clerk to update TDC planning portal, email Planning Officer regarding query of blue outline on drawings.**

#### **12.20.1737 Precept**

The agreed budget for 2021-22 was £87,002.10. The recommendation from the Finance Committee was that the precept for 2021-22 would be £86,500 (the remainder of the budget to be covered by drawing from the reserve).

Recommendation approved by those councillor's present.

**Action: RFO to proceed with budget approval and precept ready reckoner.**

#### **12.20.1738 Playing field safety surfacing maintenance required**

Option A £2,602.67 agreed by those councillor's present.

**Action: Clerk to contact Playquip to proceed with approved works.**

#### **12.20.1739 Staunton Gate**

Report on progress of completion of works to enable the Parish Council to take over the public spaces, allotments and play area. Taylor Wimpey had informed the Parish Council that residents would be required to pay a maintenance charge. The Parish Council had no intention to charge, but more information was needed before taking on the open space.

It was suggested to make sure planning conditions were also being met.

**Action: Clerk to contact Taylor Wimpey to get confirmation as to what needs to be put in place.**

#### **12.20.1740 Consider quotes from J's Garden Valet Services for the following:**

i) Grass cutting and vegetation maintenance – listed/ancient monument area of St Peters Churchyard at a cost of £190 (per visit) – Dist. Cllr. Scott declared an interest. Proposed amount approved by those councillor's present.

**Action: Clerk to inform J's Garden Valet Service that works had been approved.**

ii) Maintenance fee for seven hanging baskets (includes watering and plant/compost changes) £50 per month – Cllr. Swash declared interest as she was overseeing the project. Amount agreed.

**Action: Clerk to inform J's Garden Valet Services that works had been approved.**

iii) Height reduction of vegetation adjacent to the compound – deferred to another agenda

### **12.20.1741 COVID 19 report**

Cllr. F. Belgrove contacted by TDC for county wide vaccinations. Essex was now under tier 2 of the Government COVID-19 restrictions. More information can be found at [Tier 2: High alert - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/alerts/tier-2-high-alert)

### **12.20.1742 Updates**

i) Playing field works – the see-saw had now been relocated. Pictorial boards were up in the play area.

ii) Alresford Station House – An offer had been put in for the Station House. Cllr. F. Belgrove declared an interest. A website had also been set up. Negotiations with the railway company were under way. Villagers were expressing an interest in the project which was positive.

iii) Alresford Railway Station awards - A sculpture created by the community at Alresford rail station has won a national award for its contribution towards making the environment more bee-friendly.

Local volunteers, children from Alresford Primary School and the Cobnuts Co-operative, came together with the Essex and South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership, the Bee Friendly Trust, the Community Rail Network and Greater Anglia to install a unique sculpture that doubles as a home for wildlife in the station's wildlife garden.

As a result, they have been named 'Bees' Needs Champions' by the government's Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The awards recognise organisations and groups that help protect pollinators in green spaces.

### **12.20.1743 District Councillor's report (Written Report) and 3 min verbal report**

See report.

### **12.20.1744 Essex County Councillor Report (Written Report) and 3 min verbal report**

See report.

### **12.20.1745 Council to consider reimbursement of conference call charges for 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 meeting – Approved.**

### **12.20.1746 Clerk's report**

i) Meeting dates for 2021 were agreed.

**Action: Clerk to update website with dates.**

### **12.20.1747 Play equipment inspections**

Council to consider frequent professional inspections of play equipment (documentation to be provided of the options available).

Another quote required to compare with, can a half inspection be carried out?

**Action: Clerk to source another quote and speak to Playquip about a half inspection.**

### **12.20.1748 Highways report**

Items had been discussed earlier in ECC report.

### **12.20.1749 PCSO report**

Report previously circulated to councillors.

**12.20.1750 Councillors' to raise any matters they feel should be brought to the attention of the Council (1 minute each councillor).**

Cllr. Wiggins – Gate in the fence on to the B1027 Elm Close, temporary fixture.

Cllr. Osborne - Sign on B1027 outside Ten Penny regarding not cutting as a wildflower area

Cllr. Clark – Call from Paul Woods at TDC, confirmed Ann Skipper to review the Alresford Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of TDC, likely to conclude before Christmas.

**12.20.1751 Meeting ended at 9.24pm**

Chairman/Vice Chairman signed:..... Date:.....

**District Councillor report – December 2020**

We attended a virtual Full Council Meeting and the following were discussed: Housing Strategy, Cllr Gina Placey put forward a motion about Council Housing sites and numbers. The Action Plan for Climate Change was approved with regard to recycling, waste and environmental issues including solar panels - Gary sits on this Committee.

A report was submitted by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on fireworks which was discussed and it was decided it would be sent to Community Leadership Committee for more scrutiny.

A number of Councillors have changed Groups which has meant that the Committees have had to be changed.

At a virtual Resources and Services Committee which Gary attended discussions were on the future work plan and the future two day finance meeting to discuss the budget for 2021-2022.

We attended a virtual All Members Briefing on Covid, Harwich and Felixstowe Ports were discussed due to TDC being the Port Health Authority and what will happen with Brexit.

Dan Land, Chairman of TDC did a charity skydive for CVST.

Alresford

We have calls about email and telephone scams.

We have given out recycling boxes

We have delivered medicines to residents.

We have received call from TW residents about general issues including parking, trees by the railway line, and the play area.

We have had complaints about the gas working in Coppice and Laxton Roads.

We have received complaint about speeding in Cockaynes Lane and Wivenhoe Road.

*Gary and Ann Councillors for Alresford – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020*

## Essex County Council report/notes – December 2020

1.	<b>B1027 speed review</b>	Presented to LHP meeting Nov 19	Circulated to councillors via Clerk, Never been presented in this manner before.	Some wins and some losses. AG pleased that ECC prepared to look at 11 miles of road as one whole.
2.	<b>B1027 speed review</b>	Ditto	60 MPH reduced to 40	Before Mitchells Farm.
3.	<b>B1027 speed review</b>	Ditto	Tenpenny Hill	No reduction but request for developer of theme park in discussion re funding reduction when nearer open.
4.	<b>B1027 speed review</b>	Ditto	Speed & volume surveys	Possibly back after December 3?
5.	<b>Local supermarket</b>	Contact made with National firm	They have COVID and community hunger departments who happy & keen to donate. Food, toys.	They are looking to support the smaller local charities. Anything for Alresford?
6.	<b>Full ECC Council</b>	8 December 20	Full agenda. Bound to be call re COVID level	
7.	<b>Member locality grant</b>	Submit	Mobile CCTV & pleased to chat seat	Awaiting acceptance.
8.	<b>Road repairs. Highways numbers.</b>	AG asked for numbers and locations in last 4 years – 1268 .Alresford = 104	2016 = 28 2017 = 16 2018 = 24 2019 = 23 2020 = 13 [to date]	AG to circulate data to Cllrs. Via Clerk. Interesting answer available to residents. Total = 104.
9.	<b>MP Briefing Bernard Jenkin</b>	Views from Whitehall	Exchanged ideas & resident reviews COVID mainly	26/11/20
10.	<b>Passenger Transport</b>	All members briefing	Trying to run services with 35/40% of passengers & thus revenues! Tough!	Huge subsidy from ECC.
11.	<b>Christmas &amp; half term holiday hunger initiative 30th</b>	Food for children normally on subsidized school meals.	ECC use Govt funds [£6.3M]to fund direct foodbanks and agencies. Not massive take up in our area	New round of funds available. Any Alresford groups?

<b>12.</b>	<b>Essential Living fund</b>	In conjunction TDALC	Clothing, furniture, food etc.	Funds available. Alresford projects?
<b>13.</b>	<b>Colne School</b>	Expansion	Extra 300 places. Expansion agreed at Cabinet – AG endorsed.	LHP part. Zebra crossing at last.