

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF ALTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL, HELD
7.30PM, 26th AUGUST 2020.**

Present:

Cllr. Burgess, Cllr Noye, Cllr Inkpen and Cllr Collins.

20/106 Apologies for absence

To receive apologies for absence – None.

20/107 Co-option

Co-option of three Councillors following the Notice of Casual Vacancies.

Cllr P Burgess proposed the co-option of Mr Clint Bardwell, seconded by Cllr C Collins.

Cllr P Burgess proposed the Co-option of Mrs Anne Bailey, seconded by Cllr C Collins.

Cllr P Burgess proposed the co-option of Mr Peter Davey, seconded by Cllr B Noye.

20/108 Minutes of Meetings

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 24th June 2020, deferred to next meeting.

20/109 Declaration of Interests

To receive 'Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Pecuniary Interests or Non-Pecuniary Interests relating to items on the agenda – None.

20/110 Public Forum with respect to items on the Agenda

None.

20/111 Finance

To advise members of receipts, automated payments and to approve the cheques or payment and signing Direct payment authorisation information has been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Proposed by Cllr C Collins, seconded by Cllr B Noye. A short discussion was had regarding the precept and finances. Cllr C Bardwell suggested members identify potential projects to be discussed at the October 2020 meeting.

20/112 Planning

20/112.01 Applications requiring response from Althorne Parish Council:

Week ending: 31st July 2020

20/00708/HOUSE PP-08890736

Two storey rear extension, garage conversion and internal modifications.

Pinewood House, Burnham Road, Althorne, Essex

Althorne Parish Council SUPPORT this planning application.

- 20/112.02 Decisions advised by Maldon District Council:
 Week ending: 10th July 2020
 HOUSE/MAL/20/00451
 Garden Wall, railings and gate. Enlargement of parking area
 Panorama, Fambridge Road, Althorne, Essex
 REFUSE
- Week ending: 7th August 2020
 FUL/MAL/20/00568
 Erection of 5No bungalows with revised access position (as previously approved – application 18/0014/FUL)
 Land adjacent Springwood Rectory Lane Latchingdon Essex
 REFUSE
- Week ending: 14th August 2020
 20/00421/FUL PP-08299365
 Diversion of part of length of access driveway
 Stokes Hall Burnham Road Althorne Essex
 Application WITHDRAWN

20/112.03 Planning Appeal advised by Maldon District Council
 Site Address: None

20/112.04 Planning Appeal decisions advised by Maldon District Council
 Week ending: None

20/112.05 FOR INFORMATION ONLY

20/112.06 Neighbourhood Plan:
 Althorne is a designated Neighbourhood Area.

A Steering Group has been formed and all new members are welcome to attend a short meeting after the Parish Council Meeting. Cllr T Inkpen informed that the village questionnaire is currently being edited by Mrs Sapsford from RCCE. Cllr C Collins suggested the use of Zoom virtual meetings going forward so as not to delay the project.

20/113 To discuss and adopt the following policies
 Project Process and Format
 Freedom of Information Act – Publication Scheme
 Health and Safety Policy
 Training Policy
 Corporate Equality Policy
 Complaints Procedure
 Transparency Code
 Press and Media Policy

Cllr P Burgess proposed acceptance of the adoption and revisions of all policies, seconded by Cllr C Collins.

20/114 District Councillors' Report

Comments submitted by District Councillor Mark Bassenger, who was unable to attend in person.

1 Cllr Bassenger sends his apologies for non-attendance as he feels it is more appropriate for him to attend a meeting of the Independent Group of Maldon District Councillors.

2 In part, this reflects the fact the Cllr. Bryan Harker (conservative) has resigned. This has implications for the balance of power on the council. The Independent Group needs to revise its strategy accordingly.

3 As a consequence the Conservative Group now have 12 councillors and the Independent Group has 12 councillors. There are 3 Non Aligned Conservative councillors; 2 Non Aligned councillors and 1 Non Specified councillor (who resigned the Conservative whip), 1 vacancy.

4 There will be changes in the composition of the MDC committees, which will be reformed to reflect the changed political composition.

5 Re issues relating to the Cllr. Fluker's admitted financial relationship with the former Section 151 officer; it was decided that they were of a personal nature, not a code of conduct violation.

6 Issues relating to the Joint Standards Committee (JSC). The referral of Cllr. Bassenger (an Althorne parish councillor at the time) and others (including the current chairman of Althorne pc) was deemed unconstitutional. The JSC has been reformed and Cllr. Bassenger is now a member. Old cases will not be revisited.

7 Cllr. John Anderson, Chairman of Southminster pc, who was appointed by the EALC to represent the Maldon parishes, is no longer a member of the JSC.

8 It is understood that Cllr. Elaine Bamford has been appointed Leader of the Conservative Group and Cllr. Penny Channer Chairman of the Council.

9 In relation to the planning meeting considering an application for exploratory excavations at the Bradwell B nuclear power station site, this was terminated following a dispute over advice given by the Monitoring Officer regarding commercial confidentiality. At a rescheduled meeting the application was rejected virtually unanimously, with only one member in favour.

20/115 Transport Report

BUS NEWS

ECC has agreed with bus operators that the times of operation for Essex concessionary bus passes will return to normal hours - 9am to midnight on weekdays and all times on weekends and public holidays from Tuesday, 1st September 2020.

Stephensons advise plans to run the 200/220 service shopper buses when schools resume so service starts Thursday 3rd September.
Fords are resuming Shopper Bus Service number 6. First date for Althorne is Friday 11th September

RAIL NEWS

September service alterations have minor revisions to timings on trains on Liverpool – Southend line late evenings on weekdays up to and including 10th September, Sunday 13th trains scheduled to arrive at Liverpool before 10.00 will terminate at Stratford,

No timetables are published so impact on Crouch Valley line cannot be reported on accurately, but thought to be running to timetable based on spot checks on National Rail journey planner.

20/116 Health Report – None.

20/117 Clerk’s Report – None.

20/118 Reports from Meetings and Events attended – None.

20/119 Public Forum with respect to matters of mutual interest – None.

20/120 Information Exchange/Next Agenda Items Only

No decisions can be made under this item.

Matters may be raised by members and requested to be itemised on the next meeting agenda.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Potential projects

Recreation Ground and Dog Walk.

20/121 Date of next meeting and closure

Parish Council meeting 30th September 2020 @ 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.35pm