

Althorne Parish Council
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**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF ALTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL, HELD
7.30PM, 31st March 2021.**

Present:

Cllr Burgess, Cllr Noye, Cllr Inkpen, Cllr Davey, Cllr Bailey and Cllr Collins
Dist Cllr Bassenger and eight members of the public were in attendance.

21/050 Apologies for absence

To receive apologies for absence – Cllr Bardwell.

21/051 Minutes of Meetings

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 24th February 2021 and 23rd March 2021.

24th February 2021 Proposed by Cllr Noye, seconded by Cllr Inkpen.

23rd March 2021 Proposed by Cllr Noye, seconded by Cllr Bailey.

21/052 Declaration of Interests

To receive 'Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Pecuniary Interests or Non-Pecuniary Interests relating to items on the agenda.

21/055.05 For Transparency Cllr Burgess is a berth holder at Bridgemarsh Marina.

21/053 Public Forum with respect to items on the Agenda

21/061 A parishioner asked if Emergency Planning was in the Councillor Responsibilities, it was confirmed that Emergency Planning falls under the Community heading.

21/060 A parishioner expressed concerns over excessive speeding throughout the village, Cllr Burgess informed that this is a problem for the village with consistent complaints, Cllr Burgess informed that Cllr Inkpen and Mrs Benjafield have worked tirelessly for a speed reduction on Fambridge Road from 40mph to 30mph, which is ongoing. A speed indicator device was purchased by Althorne Parish Council for Burnham Road, this is currently awaiting repair from Essex Highways. Althorne Parish Council also pay for the services of the Community Engagement Team who offer support with Trucam, this is on Summerhill and Burnham Road, all speeding data is forwarded to Essex Police who then issue the speeding fines.

21/054 Finance

To advise members of receipts, automated payments and to approve cheques for payments and signing.

Direct payment authorisation information has been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Noye, seconded by Cllr Bailey.

21/054.01 Grass Cutting Contract

To discuss and agree price increase.

Cllr Bailey proposed the acceptance of the price increase of approx. 2%, seconded by Cllr Noye. Cllr Noye commented that the contractor's should be congratulated, the Recreation Ground looks very well kept.

21/055 Planning

21/055.01 Applications requiring response from Althorne Parish Council:

Week ending: 12th March 2021

FUL/MAL/21/00082

Proposed building housing horse box trailer and support equipment for equestrian use.

Buttons Hill Farm Southminster Road Althorne Essex

Defer to Extra Ordinary Meeting on 8th April 2021, Cllr Davey to draft a response for discussion and approval.

Week ending: 26th March 2021

21/00087/LDP PP-09468062

Claim for lawful development certificate for a proposed lowering of the roof so the eaves are no higher than those on the original house.

Calma Summerhill Althorne Essex

Defer to Extra Ordinary Meeting on 8th April 2021.

21/055.02 Decisions advised by Maldon District Council:

Week ending: 26th February 2021

FUL/MAL/20/01063

Erection of 1No. two bedroom bungalow

Land East of 1 Red Brick Cottages The Endway Althorne Essex

REFUSE

AGR/MAL/21/00002

Prior notification for the formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways for agricultural use.

Land adjacent Bridgemarsh Marina Bridgemarsh Lane Althorne Essex

PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED

21/055.03 Planning Appeal advised by Maldon District Council

Week ending: 19TH February 2021

Site Address: Land Adjacent The Old Forge and Thornley Cottage

Burnham Road Althorne Essex

Proposal: Construction of a dwelling and cartlodge

Application Ref: 20/00725/FUL PP-08865827

Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/W/20/3264169

Appeal start date: 11th February 2021

21/055.04 Planning Appeal decisions advised by Maldon District Council

Week ending:

21/055.05 FOR INFORMATION

Week ending: 29th January 2021

21/00002/AGR PP-09383363

Prior notification for the formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways for agricultural use.

Land Adjacent Bridgemarsh Marina Bridgemarsh Lane Althorne Essex

21/056 District Councillors' Report

Cllr Bassenger informed that Planning training has been given to all District Councillors. There is currently a call for sites from Maldon District Council. The National Planning Policy Framework is based on sustainability. Dist Cllr Bassenger commented that Althorne Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan needs to be progressed to give protection to Althorne.

Remote meetings will be removed from 7th May 2021, Maldon District Council have given delegated powers to three leaders and three officers for major decisions, until a decision can be made regarding meetings.

Cllr Burgess asked if the call for sites will be included in the Local Development Plan, Dist Cllr Bassenger informed he will direct this question to Matt Leigh at MDC. Cllr Collins asked the sizing of sites being called for, Dist Cllr Bassenger informed it is large sites for five or more properties.

Cllr Bailey commented that spaces for local children to attend local schools should be addressed before a call for sites. Dist Cllr Bassenger informed that the Local Development Plan will be revised.

Cllr Burgess asked if the proposed housing development of 1200 houses at South Woodham Ferrers would impact Maldon District Residents, Dist Cllr Bassenger replied that it would impact the Dengie residents massively. Dist Cllr Bassenger informed that when looking at housing supply figures, these are properties that are actually ready and finished.

Dist Cllr Bassenger left the meeting at 20.38pm.

21/057 Transport Report

BUS NEWS

The Government published the National Bus Strategy which is applicable to all of England except Greater London. Objectives of the Bus Strategy will be cascaded to Local Transport Authorities for turning into proposals and measurable schemes for implementing these. Bus Users UK remark the strategy does not mention how the public will have their say on what improvements should have priority. I assume it will be through the ECC's Integrated Passenger Transport Unit (ITPU) though these meetings have been suspended during Covid Measures and ECC have been using the consultation process recently.

Short term aim is to increase bus usage to levels before Covid restrictions were put in place which reduced bus usage up to 90% of pre lockdown figures. Longer term aim is to increase bus usage further by better facilities, lower fares and greener buses.

As part of the initiative to improve rural services ECC has been allocated £2.5 million from the "Rural Mobility" fund for two projects to improve rural and suburban transport by Demand Responsive Transport. Whilst these do not cover the Dengie they may have spin off ideas for improvement.

Awaiting confirmation for start date of shopper bus resumption after non-essential shops opening on 12th April.

TRAIN NEWS.

Greater Anglia announce train service reverts to normal commencing 2nd April, though this is Easter Weekend and in reality service will be normal from Tuesday 6th April. Spot checks on Journey planner for next week show this to be the case. Slight doubt is raised as another Greater Anglia announcement web page reports Crouch Valley line to be a one hourly service but I will check for normal (40 minute off peak) service next week.

Bus replacement in operation over Easter Weekend of April 2nd to 5th and weekend of April 10th and 11th April.

My advice is to use my timetable as a guide but check with Greater Anglia if possible.

21/058 Health Report

In the absence of the health report, Cllr Burgess asked Cllr Bailey to give a update on the recreation ground.

Cllr Bailey informed that the recreation ground is seeing good use at the moment with many families using the park. The dog walk is still very muddy, however the trees have been felled and the bark has been mulched and placed in the dog walk. The ditch opposite Winterdale Manor needs to be cleared, this may help with play area drainage.

Cllr Bailey asked for picnic tables, litter bins and dog waste bins to be added to next agenda. Cllr Collins commented that when updating signage it should be clear for people with disabilities.

Cllr Bardwell and Garwoods will replace the sand as soon as it is practical to do so.

21/059 Clerk's Report

The Clerk informed that during one Trucam patrol there was seven captures in a half hour period, Cllr Davey commented that would be a higher number if the patrol was carried out during rush hour.

21/060 Highways

Sea Wall – To discuss issues and agree a way forward, Cllr Burgess asked Cllr Davey if he would prepare a discussion paper for a future meeting.

Speed Indicator Device/Camera – Burnham Road/Summerhill – to discuss and agree provision.

Cllr Bailey commented that a device of some kind needs to be positioned coming down Summerhill towards the Recreation Ground near Highfield Rise. Cllr Burgess will gather costings, the Clerk suggest approaching the Local Highways Panel.

Cllr Burgess asked the Clerk to write to the South Woodham group to offer support and inform that Althorne Parish Council would like to maintain a dialogue.

Cllr Inkpen informed that he will be attending a meeting with Highways and the Cabinet Member for Highways on 24th May 2021, to discuss Fambridge Road. Members agreed that Cllr Inkpen could represent Althorne Parish Council at the meeting.

21/061 Councillor Responsibilities

To discuss and agree Councillor Responsibilities

Proposed:

Finance – Cllr Burgess/TBA

Administration – Cllr Burgess/TBA

Recreation Ground – Cllr Bailey/Cllr Bardwell

Village Maintenance – Cllr Bardwell/Cllr Bailey

Planning – Cllr Noye/Cllr Inkpen/Cllr Davey/Cllr Burgess

Community – Cllr Collins/Cllr Bailey

Proposed by Cllr Burgess, seconded by Cllr Noye.

21/062 Community Engagement Team

To discuss and agree Request for Service, April 2021 – March 2022.

Members agreed that for the year 2021-2022, the request would be for the two hours contracted per month at a cost of £35.06 per hour to be split between Dog fouling, Trucam and Anti-Social behaviour.

21/063 Reports from Meetings and Events attended

Cllr Collins attended the virtual learning disabilities course, Cllr Collins commented that inclusive facilities are recommended for the future. Cllr Burgess suggested reviewing all signage and having regard when updating facilities.

Cllr Noye left the meeting at 9.27pm.

21/064 Public Forum with respect to matters of mutual interest

A parishioner congratulated Althorne Parish Council on the facilities at the Recreation Ground.

Althorne Parish Council was applauded for the work that is carried out by a parishioner who had attended the Parish Council meeting for the first time.

It was commented that there was growing support on social media for Crouch Ridge vineyard, the extension to hours would be good for the community and employment.

Cllr Burgess commented that licensing and planning are separate issues.

21/065 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.

EOM – Planning decisions and Sea Wall discussion paper.

21/066 Date of next meeting and closure

Parish Council meeting 28th April 2021 @ 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.27pm.