

# ALBOURNE PARISH [2019]

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**Minutes of the meeting of the Annual meeting of  
the electors in the Parish of Albourne  
held on: Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019, at 7.30 p.m.**

*Present:* **Albourne Parish Councillors:** Cllr Graham Stafford – Chairman, Cllr Jerry Butler, Cllr Di Howard, Cllr Nikki Ernest, Cllr Joy Parks, Cllr Suzi Sawyer, Cllr John Drew.

Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk).

Cllr Joy Dennis (WSCC)

31 local residents (being electors of the Parish).

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## **1. Chairman's introduction and review of the previous year.**

The Chairman opened the meeting. Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (MSDC) had sent her apologies. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank all Parish Councillors, the Clerk, and District and County representatives for all their help and work throughout the past year.

## **2. Minutes of Annual Parish meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018.**

These were unanimously approved, and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

## **3. Reports from WSCC and MSDC Councillors.**

Cllr Joy Dennis (WSCC) gave her report on behalf of West Sussex County Council. She set out an overview of what the Council does and the services it provides. She mentioned the Operation Watershed funding from WSCC, of which Albourne Parish Council has been a particular beneficiary. She mentioned the potholes issue in the County, and urged everyone to report these on the Love Sussex website. The County continues to help with speeding issues, by making Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) available to Parishes, so that they can gather the appropriate data. This can help with traffic calming measures. The pressure on local schools continues to be an issue.

## **4. HGV and traffic issues.**

Cllr John Drew gave his report as follows: *Under the auspices of the Parish Council a group of residents has been working on options aimed at addressing concerns about the impact of HGVs (in particular volume, noise and vibration) and speeding traffic on the B2116. The working group has taken a number of actions including: - We have developed and submitted an application to WSCC for a **New Highways Scheme** for the B2116. The principal components of which are speed limit reductions to 20 mph in the village area, 40*

*mph at High Cross and 30 mph between the junctions with Twineham and Truslers Hill Lanes. Improvement to the junction with Truslers Hill Lane has also been included and we have also considered Village Gateways, more of which later. Unfortunately, and despite securing the support of the local head teacher and supplying additional road accident data, WSCC Highways failed to score the application high enough for it to progress to the next stage. However following a meeting with the Highways Manager and with the support of Joy Dennis our County Councillor, the scores are to be reviewed and preparatory work for the necessary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) undertaken. Underlying problem is that the criteria doesn't focus on the quality of life issues we are concerned with and takes into account, for example, only those accidents involving casualties which we know is only part of the story. Employment opportunities created are also scored but are not relevant in our case. Nevertheless our application is still under consideration but it will be important to keep the pressure up. One way you can do this is to record your comments/support on Albourne Connected website. Several residents have lodged **Complaints to WSCC** concerning the decision to approve the Planning Application for an increase in processing throughput at the Olus/Firland site which has resulted in increased HGV traffic. Principal concerns include WSCC transgression of its Waste Policy in terms of the location, capacity and purpose of the facility and the refusal to disclose details of daily HGV movements. These complaints are being progressed to the local authority Ombudsman who may not be able to overturn the decision of an elected body but can require the local authority to take action to mitigate the impact of decisions. We have held quarterly **Meetings with Olus Management** which have resulted in voluntary HGV speed restrictions to the Firland and Winterpick waste processing facilities of 20 mph through the village area and 30 mph for the remaining distance to the sites. These have proved effective but not long lasting so Olus have agreed to issue periodic reminders to their drivers and suppliers. Olus have also arranged some re-routing of HGVs to avoid approaching the sites from the east and through the village area. Next meeting with Olus will be in June. You may have noticed a **Speed Indication Device** has been installed at various times and locations for short periods. We share this with surrounding villages and anecdotal evidence suggests that they have had a traffic calming effect. Finally you may also have noticed that **Loops** in the village area and at High Cross have been installed to provide data on volume, speed and type of vehicle. This data will hopefully support our application for new speed restrictions.*

## **5. Planning issues/District Plan.**

Cllr Nikki Ernest gave her report. It was noted that the District Council now has an adopted District Plan and 5 year housing land supply. This should make the policies in that document and in the Neighbourhood Plan up to date and effective. The planning application for the retirement home on the former Hazeldens Garden nursery site has been refused by MSDC, but is now the subject of a fresh planning application. The planning process is underway, and the Parish Council will again be giving its input. The Parish Council continues to object to the application on a number of policy grounds. She reported that the Parish Council on average deals with about 4 to 5 individual planning applications a month as a statutory consultee. Most are usually non-contentious, but the Parish Council will always have regard to the District Plan, and Neighbourhood Plan policies in determining responses, and also those of the South Down National Park, particularly as regards the dark skies initiative/policy.

## **6. Village Gateway Signs.**

Cllr John Drew gave his report as follows: - *The HGV working Group, which I mentioned earlier, has been considering Village Gateways as a traffic calming measure and is supportive of their installation in the village area. There is some evidence (e.g. from the South Downs National Park Authority) that these can have a positive effect if appropriately located along with other road changes. Before considering this further we would like to take this opportunity to obtain some more residents' views. The Gateways could be similar in appearance to those recently installed in Hurst and Sayers Common. These have been installed mainly, I understand, for aesthetic reasons although I'm advised that they have experienced some traffic calming effects. The Working Group's idea is that they would be most effectively located on the B2116 at the junction with the B2118 and at the western approach to the village area. Hurst & Sayers Common used a specialist firm (Glasdon) to design and manufacture the Gateways, which are made of a maintenance free material called Everwood and a local builder for installation. Cost was approximately £1000 per gateway plus the cost of installation. They need to be made of material that wouldn't cause harm in the event of a collision and licensed by the Highways Authority. An alternative and most likely cheaper approach is to contract a local carpenter to construct and install the Gateways.* A discussion followed, and the meeting was asked by a show of hands to indicate their support for the proposal. The meeting voted 15 to 11 in favour.

## **7. Operation Watershed.**

Cllr Graham Stafford confirmed that a grant had been agreed from WSCC for the rectification of the flooding issues along Reeds Lane. The Parish Council has engaged a contractor to carry out the necessary work, and this should be starting shortly. The issue of the flooding at the corner along Church Lane is still very much on the radar, and although there are practical difficulties in getting this situation rectified (e.g. verge trees that would need to be removed), the discussions are ongoing.

## **8. Trees/hedges/footpaths.**

Cllr Suzanne Sawyer gave her report. This is available from the Clerk. The Parish Council continues to liaise with the Public Rights of Way (PROW) team at WSCC regarding the state of the public footpaths in the Parish, and bringing to their attention any work that needs to be done, in order to ensure that they are safe and navigable. It was noted that landowners also have a major part to play in this objective, as the principal responsibility rests with them.

## **9. Village Hall/Social Group/Pop up Pub report.**

Cllr Jerry Butler, as the Chairman of the VH Management Committee, gave his report. The pop-up-pub is operating as the Albourne Arms, and is proving very successful. It is to be combined with a number of other events in the Village Hall, e.g. film, and quiz nights. A new bar, much more tailored to the needs of the pub, has recently been provided. Security issues around the Hall continue to be a focus for discussion at VHMC meetings.

## **10. General session for the public.**

A concern was raised about an open manhole along the B2118. This is an accident waiting to happen. The Parish Council will therefore contact WSCC with a view to having the appropriate manhole cover replaced as soon as possible.

**11. Chairman's concluding remarks and close.**

Finally, the Chairman thanked all for attending, and invited everyone to stay on after the meeting for some refreshments. He also encouraged everyone to try and attend some Parish Council meetings over the next year to see the work of the Parish Council in action.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

SIGNED.....Graham Stafford (Chairman)