

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2018]

Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 4th December 2018, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr Graham Stafford (GS) – Chairman
Cllr Nikki Ernest (NE)
Cllr Jerry Butler (JB) – Vice Chairman
Cllr Suzi Sawyer (SS)
Cllr Heather Jordan (HJ)
Cllr Di Smith (DS)

In attendance: Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk), Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC) and 6 members of the public (for all or parts of the meeting).

- 1. (2018/114) – Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** An apology for absence was received from Councillor John Drew, and the reason accepted.
- 2. (2018/115) – Declarations of interest.** There were none on this occasion.
- 3. (2018/116) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** (i) An issue of cold callers visiting the village trying to sell goods, and being quite intimidating, was raised. It was noted that there is not much the Parish Council can do about the problem, and that it was really a police matter. However, it was pointed out that East Dean has some village notices, which generally warn against such visits. The Clerk said that he would therefore contact the Clerk at East Dean PC to try and find out more. (ii) it was felt that it would be good idea to advertise Parish Council meetings on the Village face-book page, and Councillor DS said that she would pursue this with the relevant person, (iii) a footpath issue, which has recently been widened to take vehicles, has been reported to WSCC, (iv) some accident damage caused to a sign by a vehicle has also been reported to WSCC.
- 4. (2018/117) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th November 2018 were duly approved and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman.
- 5. (2018/118) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (JLB).** JD said that she would be meeting with Councillor John Drew in order to look at, and hopefully to price up the

highway and traffic mitigation measures, which had resulted from the recent survey work. She is also taking the matter up with Richard Speller (the lead officer at WSCC). The location of the Speed Indication Devices (SIDs), when it is Albourne's turn to have them again, needs to be decided. There are no major street works planned in the Albourne area at present, but there is new money for pothole repairs, and so further details are awaited. Twineham Lane is currently closed. The increased use of rumble strips across roads by developers looking to obtain traffic data, was noted. No permissions for these are required, provided health and safety rules are complied with. Issues to do with the A2300 and the Northern Arc development at Burgess Hill have been out to consultation, in terms of looking at mitigation measures, and these projects are ongoing. There is another Gatwick airport expansion consultation going on at present - WSCC will be responding in due course, but the response has not yet been decided. It was noted that in terms of proposed developments, the new MSDC District Plan seems to be being used quite effectively. There remain big WSCC budget pressures, particularly in the area of elderly and children's care. Councillor JB raised an issue of flooding in Truslers Hill Lane from when the road had been broken down. It is believed that WSCC Highways is aware of the issue, from when it was previously repaired, but there is still water seepage coming from somewhere. The Clerk will therefore report the matter further to WSCC. Police resourcing continues to be a major issue in West Sussex. There is also a flooding issue along the B2118 at Coombe Hill. A contracting firm, Clancy Docwra has been investigating this, but it needs some WSCC highways involvement. It was noted that some road marking has recently gone in around the Firland site, but it is not clear who commissioned, or undertook this work. It is something that JD will therefore look into. (No report from JLB).

6. (2018/119) – Planning matters.

6.1 Five planning applications were considered, and the plans and relevant policies presented and discussed. It was therefore **RESOLVED to comment to MSDC as follows:-**

PROPERTY	PROPOSAL	AGREED RESPONSE
AE/DM/18/4487 Albourne Farm, Shaves Wood Lane	Proposed new mezzanine level within the existing winery with a south facing balcony and a new car park with access paths.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.
AE/DM/18/4461 Q Leisure The Old Sand Pit, London Road	Amendments to proposed shooting range as approved under application DM/17/3002 to create a maintenance and services area to the rear, reception and control area to the front and amenity rooms to the west flank.	Albourne Parish Council objects to this application, because the proposed building now becomes too excessive in size and scale, and will be highly intrusive in a countryside area, to the detriment of Albourne's rural setting.
AE/DM/18/4593 Q Leisure The Old Sand Pit, London Road	Amendments to eco-pod as approved under application reference DM/18/1807.	Albourne Parish Council objects to this application, because the proposed eco-pods will now be much larger in size and scale, and the amendments change the

		whole ethos of the proposal in as much as the structures become more like holiday lodges. As a result, they will be highly visible from the surrounding countryside areas, and will particularly impact on the setting and views from the South Downs National Park. There is also a concern that lighting from the units will adversely impact the dark skies initiative of both the South Down National Park Authority, and the Parish Council. However, if MSDC is minded to grant permission, strict conditions must be attached limiting to a very short time the period the units can be occupied by any one person, so as to ensure that they do not simply become holiday let accommodation.
AE/DM/18/4558 Softech House, London Road	Application for determination as to whether prior approval is required for change of use from an Office (Class B1a Use) to 8no 2 bedroom dwellings (Class C3 Use).	Albourne Parish Council notes the proposed loss of an employment site, but as this is a legal decision, does not have any comments on the proposal.
AE/DM/18/4701 Bishops Place, London Road	Construction of 3 bay timber storage facility for smallholding machinery and work area; livestock shelter and livestock supplies. Revised application of permission DM/18/3418 to move the storage facility north.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.

6.2 On the traffic issue, Councillor JD was not present, but the matter is referred to in Councillor Dennis's report above. On the Industrial sites issue, Councillor NE mentioned that in terms of the complaint about WSCC's handling of previous planning applications, the Local Government Ombudsman has said that he could not accept referrals from Parrish Councils, only individuals, as there needs to be an element of personal loss. Councillor JD will be asked to progress this, along with other individuals on the Traffic Group. It was noted that the Parish Council has made the initial application to establish the Operation Speedwatch Group, and George Hammond is now taking forward this initiative along with his good sized group of volunteers.

6.3 On current planning and planning enforcement matters, Councillor NE reported that the retrospective application for the floodlighting at the Equestrian Academy had still not been decided, and the time for a decision has been extended, due to the need for the applicant to

provide an Impact Assessment. However, there is some uncertainty about the future of the Academy. The issue of the proposal for a retirement village at former Hazeldens site was discussed, and it was noted that the public exhibitions for the latest proposals, have now taken place. Councillors and residents had attended, and views had been expressed. It was agreed that Councillors would not wish to take up the applicant's offer to visit similar developments. The Clerk will reply accordingly.

7. (2018/120) – Finance report and matters.

7.1. The financial summary and the Bank reconciliation for the month, were received, noted, and approved.

7.2. The invoices were presented for payment, and it **was RESOLVED to agree and to make the following payments:-**

AMOUNT	PROCUREMENT	PAYEE
£427-83	Clerk's salary + on costs (November 2018)	West Sussex County Council

8. (2018/121) – Current issues. On the need to repair the Medieval Village Pound (see previous minutes), the Parish Council (through Councillor GS) has now been in touch with three companies, and the quotes received. The best quote in terms of price and work is the one received from The Flintman Company Limited. On the recommendation of GS therefore, and subject to satisfactory clarification about how one aspect of the fixing work would be done, it was **AGREED** by Council to accept the quote from Flintman Co. Limited, and to proceed accordingly.

9. (2018/122) – Operation Watershed (OW). Further to the issue raised by Councillor NE at the last meeting (see the minutes), Councillor GS said that he has been back to Landbuild to investigate the concern. As a result, the plan of proposed works and has been amended to take account of the ditch/drain capacity issue, and a bigger replacement pipe will be installed across the Equestrian Academy land. This adds £3k to the previously quoted price, and so it was noted that in terms of accessing the next tranche of OW monies in April 2019 year, the Clerk will need to amend the application accordingly (previously submitted), for further approval by WSCC. The position was duly noted and understood by Councillors.

10. (2018/123) – Calendar of Parish Council meetings for 2019. The proposed calendar of meetings for 2019, generally maintaining the tradition of the first Tuesday in each month had been circulated. It was noted however, that the meeting in January will be on the 8th, due to New Year being on the first Tuesday, and that the meetings in May for the Annual Parish Council meeting, and the Annual meeting of Electors, had been delayed slightly because of the Parish Council elections, which take place on the 2nd May 2019. Noting these matters, the calendar was duly **AGREED.**

11. (2018/124) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. HJ referred to the fact that the overgrown hedge had at last been trimmed back at the Twitten, and a letter of thanks had been received from a resident. DS asked about the broken footpath bridge (see previous minutes) and that this still needed some repair. It therefore needs to be added to WSCC's list of footpath issues held by the Footpaths Ranger. The need to roll out and flatten

the Recreation Ground, when it was rutted by some MSDC ground work earlier in the year, still needs progressing, but it was noted that it may now be the wrong time of year. The Clerk will pursue this (copied to Cllr JLB). SS asked about the dog bin issue near Church Lane, and the Clerk confirmed that this project is ongoing. She raised the possibility of a tree planting scheme to improve the look of the Village, but it was noted that the exact locations need to be assessed and agreed. SS said that she would therefore look further into this. JB said that the Village Hall had passed the Food Health and Safety inspection. The electrical PAT testing had also been done, and the kettle replaced. He reminded the meeting that the next Village Hall Management Committee meeting is to be held on 18th December 2018.

(The Chairman invited those present to join him for some celebratory pre-Christmas refreshments).

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

SIGNED.....Graham Stafford/Jerry Butler
Chairman/Vice Chairman

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 8th JANUARY 2019 @ 7.00 p.m.