

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2022]

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Graham Stafford (GS) – Chairman
Cllr Jerry Butler (JB) – Vice Chairman
Cllr Di Smith (DS)
Cllr Joy Parks (JP)
Cllr Geoff Zeidler (GZ) (from item 5)

In attendance: Iain McLean; Parish Council Clerk (via remote means), Councillor Kristy Adams (MSDC), Councillor Joy Dennis (WSSC), and three members of the public.

- 1. (2022/079) - Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Suzanne Sawyer, and John Drew, and the reasons accepted.
- 2. (2022/80) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared on this occasion.
- 3. (2022/081) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** There were none raised, although GS took the opportunity of presenting an MSDC Applauds award to John Parks in gratitude for all the voluntary work he does on behalf of the Parish.
- 4. (2022/082) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st November 2022 were duly approved and will be signed off, as a true record, by the Chairman as soon as possible.
- 5. (2022/083) – Casual Vacancy on the Parish Council.** As no by-election had been called, the Parish Council was free to co-opt onto the Committee. Geoff Zeidler had indicated his willingness to serve, and so it was proposed by GS and seconded by JP that Geoff Zeidler be co-opted onto the Parish Council in order to fill the vacancy. On a following vote, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to co-opt Geoff onto the Parish Council to serve as its seventh member, and he duly took his place on the Council. GZ took the opportunity to update the Council on the two residents' meetings coming up on Thursday 8th December in Sayers Common Village Hall, and on Friday 9th December in Albourne Village Hall, regarding the District Plan review consultation. He will also firm up on the communication issues, and take forward the format of the meetings and how to handle

the question and answer sessions. It was noted that the local MP, Mims Davies, hopes to attend the Thursday meeting.

6. (2022/084) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis

(JD), and MSDC Councillor Kristy Adams (KA). JD Under JD's report, (i) Richard Speller is leaving WSCC in February. Recruitment to this important post is underway, (ii) the new WSCC highway speed policy is set to go, and this will impact on local schemes, including the Parish Council's own Traffic Management Scheme. This application will be reassessed on the light of the new policy, (iii) highway contractors can now be charged for overruns on highway works under a new scheme adopted by WSCC, (iv) the recent high rainfall across the County has highlighted quite a few flooding issues, and where current drainage systems are unable to cope, (v) it was noted that in terms of local flooding issues reported to WSCC, Tim Boxhall (Highways Officer) has responded well, and the PC wanted its thanks to be passed on to him, (vi) there is a new woodland creation initiative for the plantation of trees, (vii) Operation Watershed money is still available to fund local schemes. It was noted that Richard Speller has would prepare an application for Albourne in order to address the flooding issues on the B2116 (see previous minutes) and it was hoped that his departure from WSCC would not hold up the proposal, (viii) there is an urgent plea for foster parents to come forward across the County, (vix) it was reported that there is still a major flooding issue outside the Village Hall in heavy rain, and this needs looking into, as it seems that the drain is blocked, (x) here is still an issue with leaf blowing onto the highway from private land, which then blocks the gulleys, (xi) now that WSCC has accepted responsibility, it was noted that action to deal with the fence alongside the Village Hall is still awaited. **KA** Under KA's report, (i) the deadline for responses to the District Plan review is 19th December 2022, and are best submitted by email. It is hoped that the top down housing targets set by the Government will be abandoned, which should help inform and shape the Plan going forward, (ii) on financial planning, MSDC is hoping to minimise the proposed Council tax increase for next year, and the aim is to set the increase at 2.75%, (iii) there is a waiting list for the Garden waste collection service, and MSDC is looking to increase the capacity. In view of previous concerns expressed by the Parish Council, **Cllr GS** asked if the capacity for dog waste collection could also be increased, and KA said that she would try and find this out, (iv) KA has created a new Bolney face-book page for people to find out what is going on locally, and **Cllr JP** will advertise the details on the Albourne Connected forum.

7. (2022/085) – Planning matters.

7.1 Three 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/21/4334 - April Cottage, Church Lane	Addition of a detached garage. Conversion of existing garage to living space. Extension to the rear. Erection of a chimney on the west side of the house. Amended plans received 31.10.2022 showing proposed garage in revised position.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections, or comments to make regarding this application.

AE/DM/22/2885 -10, Leyfield	Proposed detached garage in front of property with new drive/crossover.	Albourne Parish Council objects to this application, given the significantly adverse affect it will have on the street scene. The Council very much agrees with, and supports the comments of the Conservation Officer.
DM/22/2908 - Gunners Cottage, Henfield Road	Permanent retention and extension of existing temporary access and erection of new gate and fencing with associated landscaping (revised plans submitted 14/11/22; revised application description 22/11/22)	Albourne Parish Council maintains its previous objections to this application for the reasons which are set out in the previous response. It reiterates its concerns regarding the highway safety issues, as supported by the evidence, which we have already highlighted. We continue to note that there will be a permanent loss of agricultural land, and yet there is no application for a change of use. Further, we are of the view that the proposals for the closure of the existing access will detract from the look and setting of this historic cottage.

7.2 As Cllr JD was not present, these matters will be picked up at the next meeting in January. However, Cllr JP mentioned that following the article in Albourne Connected, there has been just one volunteer so far for the possible Speed-watch scheme, but as there needs to be at least four, it seems that the matter will have to be put on hold for the time being.

7.3 In terms of finalising the Parish Council's response to the Regulation 8 consultation on the revised District Plan, it was agreed to wait and see what comes out of the public meetings, which are arranged for the 8th and 9th December.

7.4. There were no appeals or enforcement matters to discuss at present, although some updates are still awaited from MSDC. The Clerk will report back in due course as appropriate.

8. (2022/086) – Finance report and matters.

8.1 The financial summary and the Bank reconciliation for the month, were received, noted, and approved. The 2023/24 budget and the precept request for the next financial year will come to the next meeting in January.

8.2 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 2022)	West Sussex County Council
£50-00	Poppies for Remembrance Sunday	Royal British Legion (reimbursement for Cllr Graham Stafford)
£774-93	Overhaul and repair of the Parish Council notice-board outside the Village Hall	George Hammond
£229-00	Leaflets for advertising public meetings re: the District Plan, and the proposals for Albourne	Action Press

9. (2022/087) – Current issues. There were no updates reported at the present time, although the Clerk expressed some frustration at the lack of response to issues raised with the higher Authorities. He will be pursuing this at a forthcoming Town and Parishes Communications meeting with MSDC.

10. (2022/088) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Cllr DS raised the ongoing issue of the gap in the hedge at Hunters Mead (opposite the Village Hall), which is now being used for deliveries by large vehicles. GS acknowledged that the proposal for the gap to be blocked off with appropriate posts, still need to be actioned, and he will take this forward and source the posts from Beacon Fencing. Cllr JP noted that now the Beech hedge has been trimmed down the fly-tipping at Barn Close is much more noticeable. This has been reported to MSDC, and the Clerk will chase up. Cllr JB reported on the Village Hall Management Committee meeting held on 29th November, and the draft minutes have been circulated. Main points include (i) the co-option of a new member, Shane Axtell, (ii) a discussion on the proposals to mark the King's Coronation in May (iii) the opening of the Village pub after the Carol concert on 21st December, (iv) an update on the replacement of some of the windows in the Village Hall, for which a quote has now been accepted. The Clerk apologised for omitting the usual, dedicated Agenda item for the report up from the Village Hall Management Committee, given that the meeting is always a week before the following Parish Council meeting. At this point, two further issues were raised. One is the fly-tipping on the B2116 near West house Farm, which MSDC will be advised of, and the other is a flooding issue at the entrance to the School. The School should be aware of this, but the Clerk will check.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 3rd JANUARY 2023 @ 7.00 p.m.