

# ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2020]

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## Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020, at 7.00 p.m.

*Present:* Cllr Graham Stafford (GS) – Chairman  
Cllr Nikki Ernest (NE)  
Cllr Jerry Butler (JB) – Vice Chairman  
Cllr Joy Parks (JP)  
Cllr Di Smith (DS)  
Cllr John Drew (JD)

*In attendance:* Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk), Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC), representatives from Croudace, and 11 members of the public (for all or parts of the meeting).

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- 1. (2020/011) – Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** An apology for absence was received from Parish Councillor Suzanne Sawyer, and the reason accepted. An apology for absence was also received from Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (MSDC).
- 2. (2020/012) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared on this occasion.
- 3. (2020/013) - Developer presentation.** A presentation on the proposal for 40 dwellings on land to the west of Albourne School, plus a school parking/ drop off and pick up area, was received. Croudace representatives (CR) circulated a hand out, which elaborated on the proposal, and a copy of the document is available from the Clerk.
- 4. (2020/014) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** It was noted with disappointment, that despite the Parish Council's objections, the telephone box in the Street has been removed. This was probably BT's intention all along, given the extremely low usage figures. There were some further comments on the development proposal above, which served to reiterate the concerns expressed about the plan.
- 5. (2020/015) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were duly approved and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman.

**6. (2020/016) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (JLB).** JD is pressing ahead with the quiet lanes project (see previous minutes), and there is also an initiative for better B roads throughout the County - potholes being a particular ongoing issue in West Sussex.

**7. (2020/017) – Planning matters.**

7.1 It was noted that there are no planning applications for discussion and response for this meeting.

7.2 Cllr JD clarified that there is about £21K of Unilateral Undertakings money (not s.106 monies as previously thought), which is available for traffic calming. The speed limit changes on the Albourne approved traffic scheme require a Traffic Regulation Order, which will cost about £7.5K. However, this will be less if the Parish Council carries out the statutory consultation itself (i.e. with the emergency services and others). Other cost estimates are awaited from Richard Speller (WSCC). Costs will also be reduced if the Parish Council does the commissioning and contracting out of the agreed work itself. On the Speed Indication Device (SID) purchase, two quotes have been received, and one is awaited. Quotes have also been sought for the Village Gateway signs, and also in respect of the installation costs. These returns (containing the specification, location, pictures and costs) will be circulated to Councillors as soon as possible. On the proposal to reduce the speed limit along as long a stretch of the B2116 as possible, Woodmancote Parish Council has said that they are happy to join in with the proposal in principle, and so further discussions will be taking place. The traffic sign near Holders is being dealt with and will be removed, and a request has been submitted to remove another redundant sign. On the Ombudsman complaints (the handling by WSCC of the planning applications concerning the waste recycling sites, etc.) WSCC must respond to the Ombudsman by 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 on the issues raised.

7.3 On current planning, planning enforcement, and other strategic planning matters, Cllr NE reported that the Horsham District Council revised District Plan had been to their Cabinet last week and had been approved. Public consultation will therefore start on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020. There is an Inter Parishes Group meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to discuss the Plan. It will be important to encourage people to have their say on the Plan, given its possible effects on villages in Mid Sussex. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would contribute towards the costs of producing banners and posters advertising the consultation, and the need for people to respond. Cllr NE confirmed that she had attended the conference call with the Inspector and the other parties, regarding the upcoming appeal on the former Hazelden's garden nursery site. As a formal rule 6 participant (the application having been accepted), the Parish Council will have a formal seat at the table for the hearing, which is scheduled to start on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Further discussion on how to resource this will be needed.

**8. (2020/018) – Finance report and matters.**

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

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 (January)                          | West Sussex County Council |
| £30-00      | Sign for Millennium Garden                                   | Joy Parks (reimbursement)  |
| £3,045-00** | Further works to the Millennium Garden (tree roots, etc.) ** | T S Landscapes **          |
| £14-35      | Wine for December 2019 (Christmas) Parish Council meeting    | SDC Wine Importers Limited |

\*\* Reported for the record, as already paid under delegated authority on the grounds of urgency (cheque cashed).

**9. (2020/019) - Future maintenance of the Millennium Garden.** It was noted that there has been a vast improvement in the state of the Garden thanks to the work recently done by T S Landscapes, and the efforts put in by Joy (Cllr) and John Parks. It will be important not to let the Garden deteriorate again. To that end, it was felt appropriate to make alternative arrangements for hedge trimming, and that there needs to be an early Spring tidy up. Subject therefore to the Clerk checking the current arrangements with Barcombe Landscapes Limited, it was proposed by Cllr JP, seconded by Cllr JB, and unanimously **RESOLVED** to commission TS Landscapes in future to undertake the hedge trimming work at the Garden twice a year (in the Spring and Autumn), at a cost of £95 per cut.

**10. (2020/020) – Current issues.** Cllr NE mentioned that the planning application (DM/19/4685 Barn at Truslers Hill Lane) for the erection of a 2 storey 4 bedroom dwelling for stud manager, with extension of existing stable building to include additional stables and creation of foaling unit, had been refused by MSDC.

**11. (2020/021) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters.** Cllr DS handed round the official Councillor and Clerk name badges as agreed at the last meeting. She also confirmed a different email address for notifying parish information and communications, and this is available from the Clerk. Cllr NE raised the issue of needing to be better at communicating and disseminating information on the Albourne Connected Facebook, and suggested the need for a designated Councillor who would be dedicated to this task. Cllr DS kindly offered to do this on behalf of the Parish Council (see also above). Cllr JP mentioned that still nothing has been done about the Church Lane issue of the dumping of the old reinforced concrete surround some metres down the footpath by the contractors, as well as the stopcock post not being replaced, and the Clerk will take this up once again with South East water. Cllr JB reported the eroded highway verges at Truslers Hill Lane/Shaves Wood Lane, due to traffic incursions, and issues of flood water flow, and will email the Clerk further, so that he can pursue this with WSCC highways. There is a Village Hall Management Committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Cllr JD (WSCC) mentioned that there is a South Downs National Park meeting coming up, and if there are any issues for Albourne (even though only a small area comes within the Park) please let her know. One issue will be the impact on the dark skies initiative of local development proposals. Cllr GS again raised the issue of the footpath changes (see the minutes of the last meeting), and

noted that there still seemed to be some confusion over the correctness of the signs. Cllr NE said that she would talk to the person who raised the issue in order to try and resolve things.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

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

***NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 3<sup>d</sup> MARCH 2020 @ 7.00 p.m.***