

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2021]

Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 2nd February 2021, at 7.00 p.m.

held via zoom in view of the current restrictions on meetings in person.

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 Suzanne Sawyer (SS)
Cllr John Drew (JD)

In attendance: Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk), Councillor Joy Dennis (West Sussex County Council), Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (Mid Sussex District Council)

-
- 1. (2021/010) – Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** There were no apologies for absence.
 - 2. (2021/011) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared on this occasion.
 - 3. (2021/012) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** None had been raised prior to the meeting, and no member of the public attended the meeting via zoom.
 - 4. (2021/013) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th January 2021 were duly approved and will be signed, as a true record, by the Chairman, as soon as possible.
 - 5. (2021/014) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (JLB).** JD has sent a comprehensive report, which has been circulated to all Councillors for sharing, as appropriate. Councillors advised JD of their experiences in receiving the virus vaccine jab, and this seems to be very well organised in West Sussex. JLB referred to the fact that there is a new grant to businesses scheme coming through, and the details will be on the MSDC website. There is a general anti-social behaviour issue at the moment, and

any concerns need to be reported to the police, or to the unit at MSDC who can help deal with any such problems. It was noted that Leisure Centres are closed but playgrounds are still open. The Equestrian Centre floodlighting planning issue is still with officers, but this has been the case now for some time. It needs to be chased up. A response is still awaited on the issue of the emptying of the new dog waste bin in Church Lane (see item 8 below). The Development Plan document (allocation of sites) has now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, following the public consultation period. The Clerk and Councillor NE raised the issue about the reasons for the lack of a Community Infrastructure Levy policy by MSDC to replace the s106 scheme. These concerns were raised recently at a meeting of the Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils. JLB asked that the Parish Council write to her with these concerns, and the Clerk and NE will action accordingly.

6. (2021/015) – Planning matters.

6.1 One planning application was 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/21/0038 - Land At Grid Reference 526650 116489 London Road (Kings Head Stud)	Variation to condition 3 of planning application DM/17/4824 (Drainage details that were previously submitted to discharge condition 3 have been revised)	Albourne Parish Council has no comments on this application.

6.2 On Cllr JD's report, JD has spoken to Richard Speller (RS) at WSCC about the progress of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), which has been with WSCC since September 2020. Councillor JD (WSCC) said that she would chase up the relevant officer. On other aspects of the proposals, he said that WSCC would issue a formal letter to the Parish Council granting permission to remove the four redundant road traffic signs, but the design work on the replacements needs to be concluded. There is believed to be the funding in place, but a budget needs to be allocated. However, there is some urgency because one of the signs is in a dangerous state. Cllr JD (WSCC) said that she would speak with RS to clarify the issues. It was noted that WSCC carried out some road re-lining work just before Christmas. JD reported that the contractor (PHB) was fine about the delay in installing the Village Gateways (see minutes of the last meeting.) It was noted that Twineham Lane is closed due to a water mains problem, with work scheduled to finish by the 5th February. JD noted that the Hurstpierpoint Village Gateway signs are quite stained now, and this may be an issue for Albourne's signs in the future. It was confirmed that the intention is still to put the road hatchings in when the Gateways are installed, and it would be sensible for everything to be done at the same time, so hopefully WSCC will come on board with this..

6.3 On current planning applications, planning enforcement, and other strategic planning matters, Cllr NE asked that via JLB, the Senior Planning Officer send a report on progress regarding the other planning enforcement matters which are currently outstanding. This is the issue of the cars at the Equestrian Centre and the nature and use of a stable block on

the premises. Regarding the application at The Barn, land north of Lanehurst Cottage, Twineham Lane, relating to the garage structure, and the possibility of commercial activities, the appeal against the issue of the Enforcement Notices last year is ongoing, and there is to be a hearing in early April.

7. (2021/016) – Finance report and matters.

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

7.2 The invoice(s) 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 2021)	West Sussex County Council

8. (2021/017) – Current issues. (i) Cllr JP reported on the issues with regard to the new dog waste bin in Church Lane. It has been placed in the wrong place and needs to be relocated. This requires a new fixing post, as the existing one cannot be removed. It was therefore **RESOLVED to agree further expenditure of £74-11 in order to purchase a more secure and appropriate fixing pole for the bin.** The existing post will be cut off at ground level. It was noted that the bin is being well used and is full. The issue of MSDC not agreeing to empty it (even at the Parish Council's expense) is with Councillor JLB and officers, but in the meantime the Clerk is waiting for a response from Sussex Waste regarding an alternative collection arrangement. Some interim solutions may need to be found, and Councillors DS and JP agreed to look into the matter further, and to review the situation.

9. (2021/018) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Cllr JP said that on the issue of the footpaths (see previous minutes) it was not worth chasing this up until the early spring, given the current weather, etc. Cllr JD (WSSC) said that the Parish's previous footpaths officer has still not been replaced, and this hasn't helped. JD said that she will try and find out what is happening. Cllr DS raised the issue of the state of the fence by the Village Hall (see previous minutes), and this is still with WSSC's Legal Department. JD (WSSC) said that she will keep the pressure on them for a response. As a separate point, JD (WSSC) mentioned that there had been meetings with the Water Companies about the water supply issue experienced by some West Sussex areas in the summer. A lot of infrastructure in order to address this has been planned, but it needs to be brought forward. This should increase the capacity, but it was also noted that there is an issue with capacity of the pumping station at Sayers Common, which equally needs to be upgraded. JD (WSSC) also mentioned at this point that quotes are being obtained regarding the improvement of the Broadband issues along Truslers Hill Lane, and that this matter is still very much on WSSC's radar. Cllr GS said that the new road surfacing along the B2118, carried out in the spring of 2020, was not done properly, and got badly damaged during the hot summer weather. It is especially bad near Ernest Doe. Under the works guarantee, the contractor is supposed to be making good, and this needs to be chased up. The flooding issues reported at the last meeting are still outstanding, and there is an accident hazard near the junction of the B2116/B2118 as drivers are going into the opposite lane (rounding the traffic island) to avoid the worse of the flooding. JD (WSSC) was asked to chase this up. It was reported that the

fencing round the Common Copse land in the Street has finally now been done, but that the brambles needed to be dug out, so that the new planting scheme for the area can proceed. It was **AGREED** that for this purpose, GS obtain some quotes for the work. Finally, the Clerk briefed the Council on the issues concerning the West Sussex Association of Local Councils (of which APC is a member), and the surprising actions they have taken regarding the relationship with the Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils, which provides valuable support services to West Sussex Towns and Parishes. This has caused deep unease and consternation amongst very many West Sussex Town and Parish Councils. Depending on the outcome of the WSALC AGM, which is due to take place on 25th February 2021, the Clerk will bring a further report to the next meeting in March.

The meeting closed at 8.07 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 2nd MARCH 2021 @ 7.00 p.m.