

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2025]

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 4th February, 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr John Drew (JD) – Chairman
Cllr Joy Parks (JP) – Vice Chairman
Cllr Di Smith (DS)
Cllr Suzanne Sawyer (SS)
Cllr John Spencer (JS)
Cllr Imelda Spencer (IS)
Cllr Shane Axtell (SA)

In attendance: Iain McLean; Parish Council Clerk (attending remotely via Zoom); Councillor Geoff Zeidler (MSDC); Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC) (both from 8.05 p.m.), and 3 members of the public.

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- 1. (2025/011) - Councillor JD formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** There were none, although Councillor Zeidler had indicated that he may be late to the meeting, as he is attending another Parish Council meeting this evening.
 - 2. (2025/012) – Declarations of interest.** There were no such declarations received.
 - 3. (2025/013) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** (i) WILD (Watchdog for Intrusive Local Development) started a discussion on the progress of the District Plan. There is still no word on when stage 2 of the examination will proceed. It was noted that Southern Water has changed its policy on surface water, and will not allow discharge of such water into the sewer network. There will have to be natural drainage, or properly engineered solutions, and so developers will have to bear this in mind for the future as regards planning applications. Under this item. It was also noted that the meeting between the three Parishes and their respective advisers (where applicable) affected by the Sayers Common Village proposal in the Plan, is still in the process of being arranged, and if there is no response from relevant parties by next week, the meeting will be arranged in any event. The need for this meeting is particularly relevant in terms of being involved in the Master planning and any pre-planning application discussions should these take place, (ii) an issue of constant flooding to a residents' garage on the B2116 was raised, and it was noted that the problem is being caused by a blocked drain. It has been reported to WSCC, but there has been no response. It was agreed that the Parish Council would also take the matter

up in support of the residents' concerns, and it will be added to the list of issues that the parties discuss at the monthly meetings with relevant WSCC officers.

4. (2025/014) – Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th January 2025 were duly approved and will be signed off, as a true record, by the Chairman as soon as possible.

5. (2025/015) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Geoff Zeidler (GZ). Cllr GZ has circulated his latest all-Parishes report, and this had been forwarded to Councillors. It reflects very much the planning discussion at item 3 above. A number of issues were raised with him, including (i) street cleaning responsibility, where mud is left on the roads and washed into the gullies. This needs to be looked into. (ii) Whether MSDC has any plans for the re-wilding area. It was reported however, that the intention is to leave these areas very much alone, and let nature take its course, (iii) there was a brief discussion on the possibility of opening up the Pop-up-Pub to wider community events, but it was noted that the matter is due to be discussed at the next Village Hall Management Committee on 25th February. Cllr JD mentioned a misleading leaflet that had been going around regarding the County Council's budget for next year, and which had been causing concern among some residents about the performance of WSCC's services for the year ahead. It was pointed out that a number of the comments were completely untrue, and had been based on a misunderstanding of the facts. There was then a discussion on the devolution plans for West Sussex, and the fact that the Government had selected West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove as one of the priority areas for creating a unitary Authority with a strategic Mayor (to be implemented in 2026). There will be consultation about the process taking place in due course. JD mentioned a Riparian Parishes Toolkit that would be coming out soon from WSCC, which will help Parishes deal with riparian and local flooding issues, and particularly guidance on the enforcement of land owners' responsibilities. Finally, it was reported that there continues to be good interaction and communication with the Police over various policing matters in West Sussex.

6. (2025/016) – 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 Mid Sussex District Council as follows**, with Cllr JS proposing and Cllr SS seconding -

PROPERTY	PROPOSAL	AGREED RESPONSE
DM/25/0203 - Gessings, Henfield Road	New double garage to front of property. Replace existing garage and workshop on side of property with annex accommodation for elderly relative. Ground and first floor extension to house to create an additional bedroom and study.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.

6.2 On traffic and highway matters, the Chair and Vice Chair had met on 14th January with WSCC officers in order to discuss all the outstanding traffic and highway issues. These are

the B2116 Traffic Regulation Order for a reductions in the speed limit, school parking, overgrown hedges, blocked an dropped gullies, debris in the Street, pot holes, the need to improve traffic slow at the B2118 traffic lights with more clear road markings, and the need to improve the pavement demarcation on a part of the B2116. Some progress has been made, and action points were agreed. These will be reviewed at the next monthly meeting.

6.3. On planning, the issues had been discussed in the context of Agenda item 3 above.

7. (2025/017) – Finance report and matters.

7.1 The financial summary and the Bank reconciliation for the month, were received, noted, and approved, with Cllr SA proposing, and Cllr JP seconding.

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

AMOUNT	PROCUREMENT	PAYEE
£577-45	Clerk's salary + on costs (January)	West Sussex County Council
£48-00	Planning course attended by Cllr John Spencer	West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC)
£142-03	Establishing the new .gov.uk domain address and setting up the 7 email accounts	Vision ICT Limited

8. (2025/018) – Current issues. Cllr JD went through the rolling list of actions, and updated the document as necessary. This will be published separately. The main points were (i) the final rota for the delivery of the leaflets regarding the petition to support the review of WSCC's decision not to grant the Traffic Regulation Order for the speed reduction on the B2116, was agreed. Cllr SA has done the printing and is ready to go. The aim is to make the deliveries and to do any door knocking at the end of next week (the 14th February), (ii) Cllr IS has progressed the need to re-furbish the bus shelter on the B2118, and is seeking further quotes. It was accepted that the shelter is the Parish Council's responsibility as it was originally provided by the Council, (iii) WSCC is dealing with the reports by both individuals and the Parish Council of the overgrown hedges coming from land or properties off Church Lane, (iv) the Clerk will chase up MSDC about the need to audit the condition of the trees on the boundaries of the Recreation Ground, and also the issue of the springs on the gates into the children's' playground, (v) it was noted that the transition to dedicated .gov.uk email addresses for the Clerk and Councillors has now been implemented.

9. (2025/019) – Allotments. (i) The vacancy for the one plot has still not been taken up, and in fact there is now a further vacancy, as another plot has recently been relinquished; (ii) the Clerk is chasing up Adie Rowe about helping to clear up the accumulated rubbish from the boundaries of the land; (iii) the remaining items, and the rubbish on the adjoining Housing Association land is being looked at, and a response has been received from Clarion Housing. It may be that they could also help with the clearance of the allotment land itself and the Clerk will investigate this; (iv) Cllr SS has had a response regarding the possibility of providing a water supply to the site, and will forward the information on to the Clerk. However, it was recognised that it will be an expensive project. In the meantime, it may be possible to look at installing a new, and better water butt at the premises.

10. (2025/020) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Cllr DS updated the meeting on the latest situation regarding the agreed demolition of the garage at the Village Hall, and that the final quotes have been obtained both in regard to the work itself, and the asbestos removal. It is hoped that this long awaited project will be completed soon.

The meeting closed at 8.58 p.m.

SIGNED.....John Drew/Joy Parks
Chairman/Vice Chairman

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 4th MARCH 2025 @ 7.00 p.m.