

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2019]

Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 2nd July 2019, at 7.00 p.m.

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

In attendance: Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk), Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (Mid Sussex District Council), and 7 members of the public (for all or parts of the meeting).

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- 1. (2019/070) – Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Councillor Joy Dennis (WSSC) had sent her apologies.
 - 2. (2019/071) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared on this occasion.
 - 3. (2019/072) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** It was asked if there was any update on the upkeep of the Millennium Garden. This is on the Agenda later, but it was noted that an estimate for tidying up the garden is still awaited from Barcombe Landscapes Limited. However, the protruding bench spike has been removed. In answer to a query, JB said that the Village Hall accounts have not been delayed, and were in fact signed off at the last VHMC meeting held on 25th June 2019. In essence, the hiring fees are up, and the costs are down.
 - 4. (2019/073) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th June 2019 were duly approved and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman.
 - 5. (2019/074) – To receive reports (if any) from WSSC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (JLB).** Cllr JLB advised that grants were available of up to £250 from MSDC, towards arranging community events for the elderly. Also, grants of up to £100,000 for local businesses. Further details are available on the website. A number of hedge and tree issues, as previously reported, are

on the radar. A planning application for the activities at the Barn (see previous minute) has been made, but this has not been validated. The application for the floodlighting at the Equestrian Centre is still awaited, and the planning file says that it is still “pending consideration”. However, this is out of date, and enforcement proceedings are underway. In the absence of Cllr JD, GS reported on the proposed road-works at the Stone Pound crossroads, and the closure of the Hurst Road over the summer period. This is likely to cause significant disruption, and it was agreed to post the details on the website. The Clerk will arrange this accordingly.

6. (2019/075) – Planning matters.

6.1 Four 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
DM/19/1902 Maples, 5A Leyfield	Erection of a single storey garage to the western side of the existing house.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this fresh application, but notes that the new access arrangements are unclear. The Planning Authority needs to be satisfied on this point.
DM/19/1993 2 Oak Cottages, Truslers Hill Lane	Remove two Oaks (Oak T1 and Oak T3) from row of 4 Oaks.	Albourne Parish Council fully endorses the comments of the owners of the adjoining property, 1 Oak Cottages, in their letter to the Planning Authority of 27th June 2019. There is no evidence to support the application, in terms of any expert tree advice, or investigation as to the reasons for the application. The onus on providing this should be with the applicant rather than any third party. Given the lack of information and detail therefore, the Council is unable to determine the application. Also, the Parish Council notes that there is no replanting proposal, and if the application is to succeed, this should certainly be made a suitable condition.
DM/19/2016 The Old School, Church Lane	Variation of condition 2 relating to planning permission DM/17/2463 - To amend the approved plans to allow changes to the proposed roof, doors and windows in size and position.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application, given that the amendments are considered to be minor in nature.

DM/19/1361 The Old Sand Pit, London Road	Proposed two storey, partially buried dwelling (warden accommodation for the wellbeing of overnight occupants of 9 eco pods as approved under ref DM/18/1807). New driveway access and associated hard and soft landscaping.	Albourne Parish Council questions the need for an on-site manager for the proposed eco-huts, and does not accept that this is an essential requirement for running the business. In any event, the Parish Council objects to the proposal for the same reasons, as are set out in respect of previous applications for a dwelling on this site, i.e. it is against relevant District Plan and Albourne Neighbourhood Plan policies. These reasons have previously been accepted by the Planning Authority in rejecting previous proposals, and this stance has been supported on appeal, by a Government Planning Inspector. Further, the property is considered to be oversized, and excessive for the purposes for which it is claimed it is needed. It is also noted in commenting, that the eco-pods do not appear to have been built yet, and any use of such a property should be tied in by condition.
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6.2 Cllr JD said that the meeting with Olus had taken place on 20th June 2019. A number of issues were discussed including the 30 mph voluntary speed limit along Truslers Hill Lane, speeding along the B2116, the re-routing of the green waste vehicles, and making sure that empty lorries are not used, so as to lessen the noise. Clarification is being sought on the diversion routes. Olus is prepared to support the Parish Council's Highways scheme submitted to WSCC, and may even be able to contribute some funds towards any agreed mitigation measures. On the Ombudsmen complaints (WSCC's handling of the Firland planning applications) two have gone through to the Ombudsman, and two have been acknowledged. Indications are that the Ombudsmen does think they are worth pursuing. The Speed Indication Device has been on the B2118 near Butts Cottages for our weeks, but is now moving on. The data from the speed loops is now in, and is currently being analysed, but it looks like it will support an application for a 40 mph speed restriction on the B2116 at the High Cross junction. There is a new grab lorry firm operating from a farm in Cowfold, which is adding to the traffic problems along local roads, and the Clerk will write to the Clerk at the relevant Parish Council regarding the need to look into the planning and "operators licensing" issues. The Village Gateway signs matter is ongoing, in terms of what was agreed in June (see previous minutes).

6.3 On current planning, and planning enforcement matters, the latter had been discussed above, but on the former, it was noted that the applications at Wellington Cottage

(DM/19/0048 and 0050) had been approved, as had the application at Kings Head Stud (DM/19/0259). See previous minutes for further details. The open LAMBS meeting regarding the Mayfield Market Town (MMT) proposal for the site at Henfield had taken place on 14th June 2019. It had been a good meeting, and very well attended. There is a fund raising aim to raise £30K. A proposal had also come out of the Inter Parishes Group for the Parishes to raise funds to commission planning reports to help evaluate the MMT plan, and the aim was for £7.5K. This would be done on a pro-rata calculation based on the population of the relevant Parish. A discount applies for Parishes (such as Albourne) not actually within the proposed MMT site. For Albourne, this would be a sum of £257, but rounded up to £260. The Clerk advised that because the matter was not on the Agenda, a decision could not be taken at this meeting, but as a response was needed by 10th July 2019, the matter can be dealt with under delegated authority on the urgency ground. It was therefore noted that NE would circulate details, and individual Councillors would respond accordingly. Comments from the floor however, were very much in favour of the Parish Council making such a contribution. It was noted that the South Downs National Park Authority has not commented on the proposal, but their stance is not to do so, until a formal planning application has been made. However, there may be a duty to co-operate issue, in terms of the Horsham District Plan revisions and so they may need to be involved at that point, if there is to be any reference to the MMT plan.

7. (2019/076) – 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 (June 2019)	West Sussex County Council
£454-89	IT equipment for planning applications (receipts filed)	Jerry Butler (reimbursement)

8. (2019/077) – Current issues. (i) On the tidying up of the Millennium Garden, see above, (ii) on the Common Copse land, Richard Speller (WSCC), has now produced a new plan of the area, which supersedes all the previous ones. However, there are still some issues with it, which RS needs to deal with, before the project can move forward, (iii) it was agreed that the Parish Council would support a request from the family of the late Joan Moore for a memorial bench in the Recreation Ground. However, as the land is owned and managed by MSDC, the exact details and the location, would need to be agreed with them. The matter is therefore in hand.

9. (2019/078) – Operation Watershed (OW). Councillor GS said that there was nothing further to report at the present time, and that the position is still as set out in the June minutes.

10. (2018/079) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Cllr JP gave an update regarding the bank at Church Lane (see previous minutes). GS has spoken to the possible landowner, but he is unsure of the position. A Land Registry search will therefore

need to be done. JP further reported that garden rubbish is being dumped by the allotments, and that the trimmings from the conifer hedge cutting back had just been left on site. These issues need to be pursued with Affinity Sutton (now the Clarion Housing Group). Three overgrown footpaths had been reported to the Public Rights of Way team at WSCC. They are on the standard summer clearance programme, but it was felt that they cannot await this. Further action therefore needs to be taken to try and get them done sooner, and JP and the Clerk will pursue this. JB reported that John Parks is the new Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, with himself as the Vice Chairman. There is a possible planning enforcement issue with regard to the new structure being constructed at 1 Cottage Homes, and what it is intended for. The Clerk will check this out with MSDC.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 6th AUGUST 2019 @ 7.00 p.m. (if required for planning and urgent matters only)