

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2023]

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 4th July, 2023 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 Shane Axtell (SA)
Cllr John Spencer (JS)

In attendance: Iain McLean; Parish Council Clerk, Councillor Imelda Spencer (both via remote means) (IS), Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC), Councillor Geoff Zeidler (MSDC), and 2 members of the public.

- 1. (2023/069) - Councillor JD formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Imelda Spencer, and the reason accepted.
- 2. (2023/070) – Declarations of interest.** Cllr JP declared a personal interest should the subject of the flooding on the B2116 be raised, as her property is directly affected, and she has a personal involvement. Otherwise, there were no other interests declared.
- 3. (2023/071) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** A resident raised an issue regarding the hire of the Village Hall, and the potential use of the pub bar facilities, particularly for charitable or community events. There are a couple of requests that have been made in this regard. The matter will need to be looked into by the Village Hall Management Committee, and the relevant people contacted further.
- 4. (2023/072) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th June 2023 were duly approved and will be signed off, as a true record, by the Chairman as soon as possible.
- 5. (2023/073) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Geoff Zeidler (GZ).** Cllr GZ has circulated a written report, and the main points covered are (i) that the Croudace planning appeal regarding the housing development proposal south of the Henfield Road starts on 15th August at the offices of MSDC in Haywards Heath. MSDC is vigorously defending its refusal of planning

permission, and the outcome may well depend on whether or not MSDC can show it has a valid 5 year housing land supply. The District Plan review is progressing to the Regulation 19 consultation stage and all the responses received at the Regulation 18 stage are being considered. The anticipated changes by the Government to the National Planning Policy Framework are still awaited, but MSDC has to proceed on the basis that nothing may change. There is a commitment to ongoing discussions with the Parishes most affected by the review, in the light of the inclusion of major sites for housing development put forward in the Plan, which includes Albourne (being the Sayers Common Market Village proposal for some 1,800 housing units). It is expected that a revised draft Plan will be looked at by MSDC in mid October. It is noted that a number of Parishes are progressing TRO applications, and JD is very aware of the one for Albourne. He touched on the fly-tipping issue, which is a common problem for many Parishes, and the work that MSDC is doing in order to help identify relevant landowners. Residents are also encouraged to use the dedicated reporting line on the MSDC website page, to report any incidences. Cllr JD gave her report. The main points are (i) the need to encourage Covid vaccination take up, for identified groups, (ii) the ongoing need to find accommodation and support for Ukrainian refugees, and the need for Towns and Parishes to advertise this need wherever they can, (iii) the issue of the proposal to resurrect the plan to have a second runway at Gatwick, and the effect this will have on residents, in terms of noise, increased road traffic, and the environmental impact. It is expected that the plan will double the capacity of the airport, (iv) she is aware of the meeting on 6th July to discuss all the highway and traffic issues in the Parish, and to have the appropriate input to the discussions in terms of the matters facing the Parish at the present time.

6. (2023/74) - Councillor Vacancy on the Village Hall Management Committee.

It was proposed and agreed that Councillor John Spencer be appointed to the fifth Councillor place on the Committee.

7. (2023/075) – Planning and traffic matters.

7.1 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
DM/23/1510 - Souches, The Street	T1- Ash - Remove significant limb overhanging public highway and drive (Tree in Conservation Area).	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.

7.2 Cllr JD confirmed that a meeting has been arranged on 6th July, with the new Highways Manager at WSCC, Adam Denby, in order to discuss all the outstanding highway and traffic matters, including the progress of the Traffic Regulation Order, and the outcome of this meeting will be reported back to Council in due course.

7.3. There were no updates on planning matters generally, as not otherwise covered in Councillor Geoff Zeidler’s report above.

8. (2023/076) – 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 (June)	West Sussex County Council
£192-00	Councillors training courses x 2	Mulberry & Co
£575-00	Grant from MSDC for Coronation event due to the Village Hall Management Committee but paid to the Parish Council in error	Albourne Village Hall

On a point raised by Councillors, the Clerk will send Councillor JS and all new Councillors, a copy of the approved 2023/24 budget.

9. (2023/077) – Report from the Village Hall Management Committee. The latest meeting had taken place on the 27th June. Councillor DS was elected as Chairman, and she gave her report. The main points were the latest progress in terms of clearing out the garage, prior to its demolition, the proposed re-decoration of various areas in the Hall, and the requests to hire the Hall and its facilities for a Harvest Festival Show, and a renewed Village Show in September. It was also confirmed that the Village pub alcoholic drink prices will need to be reviewed in the light of the new duty changes being put in place by the Government. The next meeting will be held on the 29th August 2023, when all these matters will be progressed further.

10. (2023/078) – Current issues. Cllr JD went through the rolling list of actions that had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The main action points were (i) the surface water issue along the B2116 is now the subject of a formal complaint to WSCC, (ii) the planting of the Jubilee trees will be taken forward by Cllr SS as soon as practicable, (iii) the work to close the gap in the hedge by Hunters Mead has been commissioned, and Cllr JP will check that it has been done, (iv) the possible swap of the dog waste bins (from one on the B2118), so as to allow the new bin bought by the Parish Council, to be put back in Church Lane (on the corner by the footpath) is ongoing, and is being pursued by the Clerk, (v) the problem of the regularity and reliability of the grass cutting of the Recreation Ground by MSDC is ongoing, and it may be that the Parish Council could cut the grass itself from time to time, particularly before events. The Clerk will sound MSDC out about this. (vi) on the Speed-watch initiative, the training has been done, and the monitoring will be underway in August at the agreed locations. It has been agreed that the appropriate equipment can be purchased by the Council, and Cllr IS will take this forward. (vii) as stated above, all the traffic and highway action points are the subject of the meeting with WSCC on 6th July, (viii) Cllr SA will be taking forward the possibility of renewing an Operation Watershed application to deal with the outstanding flooding issues in the Parish, and he hopes to arrange an appropriate meeting soon. Cllr JD suggested one other item that needs to be added to the list, which is the need to refurbish/renew the Albourne Village sign in the Street. This will be added to the next meeting Agenda for discussion.

11. (2023/079) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Cllr JP raised the recurring issue of the toxic Black Locust plant invading the hedge alongside the Village Hall footpath, which emanates from an adjoining private property. Cllr DS will be pursuing this with MSDC officers.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 8th AUGUST (Planning only if required) or 5th SEPTEMBER 2023 @ 7.00 p.m.