

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2017]

Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 7th March 2017, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr Meg Price (MP) - Chairman
Cllr Graham Stafford (GS) – Vice Chairman
Cllr Nikki Ernest (NE)
Cllr Jerry Butler (JB)
Cllr Nick Wergan (NW)

In attendance: Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk), Councillor Peter Griffiths (West Sussex County Council) (from 8.10 p.m.) and 6 members of the public (for parts or all of the meeting).

- 1. (2017/024) – Councillor MP formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Heather Jordan and Di Howard, and Mid Sussex District Councillor Anthony Watts-Williams (AWW) (who is standing in for Albourne following the recent resignation of John Allen).
- 2. (2017/025) – Declarations of interest.** MP declared a personal interest of a minor nature, in item 6.1 on the Agenda (Squirrels) as the property is opposite her house.
- 3. (2017/026) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** On the issue of the Barleycroft parking, Sally Godfrey said that following the meeting with the Parish Council, Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council on 1st March 2017, her efforts to form a Residents Association had received a poor response. It is likely that MSDC will now take their own enforcement action by putting bollards around the green. It was possible that some residents could investigate turning their front gardens into parking areas. It was noted that a big pothole at the junction of the Street with Barleycroft has been reported, and the repair work should be done soon. Finally, Joy Dennis introduced herself as the prospective Conservative candidate as Councillor for the ward of Hurstpierpoint and Bolney, which includes Albourne, at the forthcoming WSCC elections in May.
- 4. (2017/027) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th February 2017 were duly approved and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman, subject to one amendment at minute 2017/023 (delete “her” and insert “the”). A previous correction had already been made. In response to a point made by NW, it was noted that

there had not as yet, been any substantive response from the Singing Hills Golf Club about the light pollution issue, although helpful re-assurances had been given about an engineer being asked to look into, and resolve the matter. MP will therefore chase up the contact at the Club.

5. (2017/028) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Peter Griffiths (PG), and MSDC Councillor Anthony Watts-Williams (AWW). PG gave his report. He mentioned that he will not be able to attend the next APC meeting in April, and although he hoped to attend, as there will be the WSCC election purdah at the time, he will not be able to address the Annual Parish meeting of electors in May. He hopes to be at the Annual Parish Council meeting on 9th May 2017. Topics covered were encouraging access to the Small Grants Committee in WSCC, the 3-in-1 card scheme, which still applied for education issues (PG will provide further details to the Clerk), the availability of Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) from WSCC(contact Richard Speller), the support for schools from WSCC, which has been good, the possibility of installing white lines at Barleycroft (see also minutes of the previous meeting), which could help to discourage parking, the possibility of arranging free bus passes for children coming to the School from Sayers Common, which might help discourage car usage. Finally, and in case he is unable to attend what will be his final APC meeting on 9th May 2017, the Council moved and recorded a formal vote of thanks to PG for all his hard work and great efforts on behalf of Albourne over the years, on a whole range of issues that have affected the Parish.

Under this item, NE reported on behalf of AWW, that the latest hearing on the housing issues had been postponed, because MSDC needed to decide on their response to the significant increase in the housing numbers that the Inspector had put forward. The local MPs are also involved. It is not likely to be a long term pause. It was noted that MSDC's budget for 2017/18 had been approved, and the subsidy from Government had reduced over the last 7 years from £6.4m to £300,000. An increase in Council tax of 1.99% had been approved, but MSDC is not planning any cuts to services.

6. (2017/029) – Planning matters.

6.1 Two 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/17/0471 Land to the rear of Grange View House, London Road	Temporary planning permission for a period of 3 years for the erection of a tubular steel framed polytunnel and ancillary site cabin office.	Whilst the Albourne Neighbourhood Plan supports development, which is necessary for the purposes of agriculture, we have serious concerns about this application. The proposed poly-tunnel is large and visually intrusive, and will have an adverse impact on the neighbouring properties, and views from the South Downs. There is no information included in the application related to the business case,

		<p>and need for these structures. Given the proposed size of the poly-tunnel we assume it is for commercial usage, but there is no information included in the application on proposed traffic movements, and there is a concern that any increase in traffic could be significant. Furthermore, the proposed site office is unnecessarily located directly on the boundary of the neighbouring property, and so must be considered "unneighbourly" under existing Local Plan policy. The proposed screening of leylandii trees is also unacceptable. We would also ask that the application history of this site is considered when assessing this application. However, if MSDC is minded to grant permission, the Parish Council would ask that a clear condition is included that it must be for horticultural use only.</p>
DM/16/3927 Squirrels, the Street	Proposed remodelling of existing dwelling to include ground floor extension and the addition of a new first floor (revised description and drawings received 13/02/17)	Albourne Parish Council view this design as an improvement on the previous one. However, there are continued concerns related to the scale and design of the proposed dwelling due to its prominent position in the Conservation Area (CA). There must be a question over whether this proposal enhances or preserves the character or appearance of the area within the CA, under the requirements of policy B12 of the Local Plan, or whether a more traditional design would be more appropriate.

Note: In accordance with her declaration of interest above, MP took no part in the discussion of DM/16/3927.

6.2 On current planning and planning enforcement matters, it was reported that the Kings Head Stud planning application had been granted by MSDC and the justification is that it complied with new District Plan policy 6, which refers to "adjoining the settlement edge". NE has had a meeting with MSDC to discuss the ramifications of this, and they had agreed that the policy is unclear and needs rewording. Other enforcement matters had been reported by email to Councillors, but the issues at Oakvale Cottages need to be chased up now, and Pear Tree Farm should be added to the list. The Clerk will update the list further for the next meeting in April.

6.3 On the progress of the District Plan, this had been dealt with under item 5 (see minute above).

7. (2017/030) – Finance report and matters.

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

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

AMOUNT	PROCUREMENT	PAYEE
£35-00	To install boundary post at “amenity land” in the Street	Graham Stafford (reimbursement for amount paid to Mick Golbey)
£69-00	Hall hire charges x 3	Albourne Village Hall
£427-83	Clerk’s salary + on costs (January 2017)	West Sussex County Council
£145-00	Electrical works at VH to enable fitting of the new defibrillator	C.T. Electrical Limited

7.3 The payment agreed by Councillors in correspondence (£35) in respect of the installation of the boundary post at the “amenity land” in the Street was formally noted and approved. The Council wished to express its thanks to local resident, Bill Lofts, who had helped greatly in getting the job done. However, it is likely that a further post will be necessary, in order to prevent any further land grab, and GS has written to Richard Speller. It is understood that the matter is with WSCC’s Legal Department and that RS will be writing to nearby land owners warning them about any attempts to land grab any of the land. The Clerk will chase this up.

7.4 It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council’s policy of not making grants or donations (except in regard to Churchyard maintenance) should be maintained, subject to annual review, and so given the fact that Albourne is a small Parish with a small precept, it would not be possible to make a donation of £250 to the Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance Service. However, the importance and excellence of this service was noted and expressed.

8. (2017/031) – Operation Watershed. Councillor GS said that there had been some progress in that the sum of £9,797.87 has been received to now go ahead with the CCTV investigations, and the Street gullies near the Village Hall. On the Oakvale Cottages project, GS and MP are visiting the Albourne Equestrian Centre tomorrow, in order to try and secure the landowner’s consent form. MP will also be seeing the owner of the Oaks, in order hopefully to do likewise. On the Yew Tree Farmhouse/Church Lane matter, this project is ongoing. Overall, progress is still slow, but steady.

9. (2017/032) – Format for Annual Parish meeting of electors on 2nd May 2017. It was noted and agreed that subject to the representative being able to attend, there would be a presentation by Paul Boichat from BT on Broadband issues. MP will do ongoing issues in the Parish. GS will update on Operation Watershed. NE will update on Neighbourhood Plan and District Plan issues. HJ will comment on footpaths. Suzi Sawyer will say something about the activities of the Village Hall’s Social Group. DH will talk to the activities of the Pop-up-Pub. It was noted that Cllr PG will not be able to speak, as he will be in the WSCC election purdah

period, although he will hopefully be able to attend as a farewell to the Parish, given that he is not standing in the election. AWW (MSDC) will be invited to attend. The Clerk will circulate the usual draft invitation flyer for approval, with a view to arranging printing (by Action Press) and distribution to the Village in the usual way.

10. (2017/033) – Car parking at Barleycroft. There was nothing to add to the report and discussion given above in minute 2017/026. However, Councillor PG mentioned again that it might be worth looking into the white lines issue (see minutes of the last meeting).

11. (2017/034) – Garage site (owned by Affinity Sutton) next to the Allotments. After recent correspondence, it was noted that the matter was now being dealt with by David Shepherd (Head of new Business), and he had indicated his willingness to meet with representatives from the Parish Council in order to discuss the possible future development of this site in order to provide some affordable housing. MP suggested that it should be her and NE, along with the Clerk if available, and this was agreed by the Council. The Clerk will go back to Mr Shepherd on this basis and seek some suitable dates. It was noted that the matter had been delayed because Affinity Sutton has recently merged with another Housing Association to form the Clarion Housing Group.

12. (2017/035) – Village Hall Management Committee. JB said that a VHMC meeting had been held on 28th February 2017, and that the main issue in terms of proceeding with the appointment of a new Bookings Secretary, and implementation of the new proposed governance arrangements were dependent on a response from the Charity Commission, particularly with regard to ensuring that the Trust retained its charitable status (and number). The Clerk will chase this up.

13. (2017/036) – Current issues. (i) On traffic issues, MP has met with John Drew, and he will be carrying out a traffic survey of HGVs going to the Firsland Industrial Estate along the B2116, (ii) the signage issue is still ongoing, on (iii) the new waste bin issue, Richard Speller has now provided the details of an approved contractor to install the bin (Tony Steer from Bolney). GS will contact him in order to get a price for approval, (iv) the defibrillator for the Village has been wired up and is now in place at the agreed location on the Village Hall. It was noted that it needs to be inspected once a month to check, e.g. the battery status. It should therefore now be a standard item on each months APC meeting. GS will get in touch with his contact regarding the SEECAM training, and this could be in the nature of an open talk to any residents of the Parish, (v) on the new Millennium Garden bench, this has been acquired and is awaiting installation using the existing fixing. The Clerk will bring for payment of the invoice to the next meeting. (vi) on the new playground equipment, it was confirmed that a grant of £5,000 had been received from MSDC, and there would be other funding sources from the Parish Council, donations, and hopefully from the Village Hall Management Committee. The Clerk will now pursue further with MSDC.

14. (2017/037) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. GS has reported some ongoing flooding outside Ernest Doe. It looks like there is a big blockage of the drainage system there. MP noted that there was a drain full of mud nearby, and this needs to be reported under “Love your street” on the WSCC website. GS will provide her with the relevant gully number. NE noted that on the Pondtail Wood issue (unauthorised works to the site), the

owner has appealed against the enforcement notice, and it was agreed that in this context, the Parish Council should make its own representations to the Planning Inspectorate. NE will draft something up. NW mentioned a fly tipping issue opposite Fed-Ex, where the rubble was now beginning to grass over. On the back of this NE mentioned that an old sofa had been dumped in Twineham Lane. The Clerk will report both matters to MSDC. Finally, NW said that the daffodils planted around the Village looked great, and thanked all those involved in the planting some time ago.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

SIGNED.....Meg Price/Graham Stafford
Chairman/Vice Chairman

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 4th APRIL 2017 @ 7.00 p.m.