

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2022]

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 4th October, 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

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

In attendance: Iain McLean; Parish Council Clerk (via remote means), and one member of the public.

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- (2022/059) - Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** An apology for absence was received from Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC).
 - (2022/60) – Declarations of interest.** Cllr NE declared a personal interest in the planning application for the land at Gunners Cottage, as her property neighbours the subject property.
 - (2022/61) - Whitehall Homes LLP – presentation.** The presentation on the proposal for housing development on fields to the north of Magnolia Court, Magnolia View, and Holders adjacent to the B2118 London Road, did not go ahead, as no representatives from the Company attended the meeting.
 - (2022/062) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** There were none raised on this occasion.
 - (2022/063) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th September 2022 were duly approved and will be signed off, as a true record, by the Chairman as soon as possible.
 - (2022/064) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Kristy Adams (KA).** There were no reports as neither Councillor was present.

7. (2022/065) – Planning 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
<p>AE/DM/22/2908 - Gunners Cottage, Henfield Road</p>	<p>Permission to make temporary access (in relation to DM/21/4006) permanent.</p>	<p>Albourne Parish Council objects to this application for the following reasons; (i) on the grounds of road traffic safety. It is suggested in the application, that the proposed entrance/exit would be much safer than the existing entrance to Gunners Cottage, which is on a relatively straight part of the B2116, as compared with the proposed new gateway. However, the proposed new gateway at this point of the B2116 is completely unsuitable for any traffic needing to slow down in order to operate a gateway, whether electrically or manually operated. We note that when travelling from either east or west, the gateway is on a bend which forms part of a Z bend, and is on a part of the B2116 with an unrestricted speed limit. Evidence of the increased danger is shown on a crash map (which presumably MSDC has), and which sets out the accident data along this stretch of the road for the two locations, (ii) the proposal is contrary to District Plan policy DP12, and Neighbourhood Plan policy ALC1. It is not necessary and will develop a long stretch of agricultural land, (iii) the land is currently classified as agricultural. We therefore believe that there should be an application for a change of use, which should be shown outlined in red along the area of the track, (iv) regarding the proposed electric gates, there is no mention of any example of what they would look like. The Parish Council is concerned that they may be completely out of context in this rural location, (v) there is no detail</p>

		<p>provided on how the existing access will be blocked up, and there is a further concern over whether it would be aesthetically in keeping with this rural location. As a general comment, the Parish Council considers that a much more suitable track to the stables could be made from the existing entrance, turning right to join the track running up to the new stable block.</p>
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* In accordance with her declaration of interest above, Cllr NE left the room for the duration of the item, and took no part in the proceedings.

7.2 In terms of Cllr JD's report, there are two meetings coming up. One is on the 10th October, with Cllr JD (WSSC) and Richard Speller (WSSC) to discuss the whole range of current and outstanding issues, being the progress of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) proposals, the redundant road signs, and road markings. It was also proposed to discuss the possibility of a separate TRO to deal with traffic speed reductions along Truslers Hill Lane. It was noted that the new traffic signs are still far too big, and that the old ones have still not been taken away. There is also to be a meeting with Steve O'Connell (Sussex Police) on 6th October to talk through the proposed road safety survey along the B2116.

7.3. There were no appeals or enforcement matters to discuss on this occasion. However, it was noted that there still appears to be unauthorised activity at the Equestrian Centre, and the Clerk will send a reminder to the Planning Enforcement Officer regarding his assurances that the Parish Council would be kept informed. On the review of the District Plan, it was noted that MSDC's Scrutiny Committee for Planning, Economic Growth and Net Zero will be considering the strategy and non-housing site policies in the draft District Plan on Wednesday 5th October. The full draft District Plan, including housing sites, will be considered at a second Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 18th October. Subject to Scrutiny Committee's recommendations, MSDC will be asked to approve the draft District Plan for Regulation 18 consultation at its meeting on Wednesday 2nd November. In the meantime the Parish Council has been invited to an individual Parish briefing meeting on Thursday 6th October, which the Chairman and Clerk will be attending.

8. (2022/065) – Finance report and matters.

8.1 The financial summary and the Bank reconciliation for the month, were received, noted, and approved. It was noted that the second tranche of the precept in the sum of £7,511 had been remitted by MSDC, but was not yet on the latest Bank Statement. This will improve the balance of the current account.

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

AMOUNT	PROCUREMENT	PAYEE
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£427-83	Clerk's salary + on costs (September 2022)	West Sussex County Council
£380-00	Miscellaneous ground works at the Millennium Garden	Adie Rowe
£40-00	Grass cutting at the Millennium Garden x 2	Brian Truran

8.3 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to sign and complete the three tree planting Highway License Agreements with WSCC, relating to the Council's participation in the late Queen's Green Canopy scheme, and in accordance with Standing Orders, the Chairman was authorised to sign the documents accordingly.

9. (2022/066) – Current issues. It was reported that the hedge behind the allotments has been trimmed, but the trimmings left in situ. Also, the hedge at Barleycroft has kindly been cut back by a resident, but the trimmings also left on the grass verge opposite. The recent email from a resident about the general state of the footpaths around Albourne, in terms of overhanging vegetation, was discussed by members, and there was general agreement about what was said. Cllr JP has provided some photographic examples. The Clerk will take this up with WSCC Public Rights of Way (PROW) with a copy to Cllr Joy Dennis setting out the unsatisfactory nature of the situation. This will include the non-action by WSCC regarding the report on 1st July to PROW about a damaged and missing footpath sign, and the general state of the pavements along the B2118 on both sides of the road. On the latter, this will be taken up with the Highways Authority at WSCC, as they are part of the highway rather than the footpath network. The Clerk has also written to MSDC about the regularity of the grass cutting on the Recreation Ground, but has not received any response as yet. This will be chased up.

10. (2022/067) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Cllr DS raised the issue of the safer routes to School fence alongside the footpath by the Village Hall. This now needs complete replacement. She reported on her discussions with WSCC, and the suggestion that WSCC would consider doing the repair work, but only if the Parish Council took over the responsibility for the fence thereafter. It was noted that there is a school safety issue, but there are significant issues in the Parish Council becoming too involved, given that the fence is not its responsibility. It was therefore proposed by Cllr GS and seconded by Cllr DS and then unanimously **AGREED** that the Parish Council would **not** take on the responsibility for the fence. Further actions to be taken are that Cllr SS will take some photos of the damage and send these to the Clerk. The Clerk will write to Richard Speller with a copy to Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC) reiterating how unsatisfactory the situation is. Subject to the response, the Clerk will seek advice from SSALC. The matter will also be raised with the School to find out if there have been any complaints from parents or children. Cllr DS will attend the meeting with WSCC referred to in minute 7.2 above, so as to have a face-to-face discussion about this matter. Cllrs SS and JP raised the issue of the gap in the hedge (see previous minutes), which is now being used for loading and unloading, and vehicles are parking up on the grass verges in order to do so. It was agreed that given the lack of any action by MSDC, the Parish Council will itself purchase and erect some stakes across the gap in an attempt to block up the hole. Cllr JP raised the issue of the toxic Black Locust plant invading the Beech hedge alongside the safer routes to School footpath at the Village Hall. Since the previous cutting back action, the tree from the adjoining garden is now quite large, and the problem is becoming serious. The Clerk will take this up again with the relevant officer at MSDC. Cllr GS mentioned the fact that the Post Office pillar box at High Cross has been

removed, and the Clerk will contact the Post Office in order to try and find out what is going on.

The meeting closed at 8.12 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 1st NOVEMBER 2022 @ 7.00 p.m.