

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2023]

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 3rd October 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 Imelda Spencer (IS)
Cllr John Spencer (JS)

In attendance: Iain McLean; Parish Council Clerk, (via remote means), Councillor Geoff Zeidler (MSDC) (until item 6), and 3 members of the public.

- (2023/097) - Councillor JD formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC) had sent her apologies.
- (2023/098) – Declarations of interest.** Cllr JP declared a personal interest in the complaint to WSCC about the flooding issue on the B2116, which had now been upheld, as she was the complainant. Otherwise, there were none.
- (2023/099) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** There were no matters raised by the public on this occasion.
- (2023/100) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th September 2023 were duly approved and will be signed off, as a true record, by the Chairman as soon as possible.
- (2023/101) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Geoff Zeidler (GZ).** Cllr GZ gave his report and referred to the written summary that had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The main points covered were (i) on the District Plan review, MSDC has met with the Parishes most affected including a combined meeting with Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common, Albourne, and Twineham. At that meeting the context and evidence relating to the plan was discussed, and as a result a further meeting to focus on Master Planning and Traffic is being scheduled. There was also the opportunity for Parishes to prioritise the Local Infrastructure that they would like to be included in relation to the

“Sustainable Community” sites. The Regulation 19 plan is expected to go to an extraordinary Scrutiny meeting on 22nd November. The revised NPPF has not yet been launched and Michael Gove has written to Councils on Planning in a letter which is available on the website, (ii) GZ reported that there is a new contract in place for the maintenance of parks and open spaces, and it is hoped that this will lead to an improvement in the service, particularly as regards Albourne’s Recreation Ground and the mowing of this area. It was not clear whether picking up of the grass risings has been included and this will be checked, (ii) there is a further issue with the emptying of the new dog waste bin recently re-installed on the Church Lane corner, and the Clerk will copy the correspondence to GZ, (iii) the general need to improve communication as between Parishes, MSDC, and WSCC was discussed, particularly as regards the notification about the start of works in the local area, (iv) GZ will take up the ongoing issue of the missing goal posts on the Recreation Ground with officers, (iv) also on the Recreation Ground, Cllr DS mentioned that the set aside re-wilding area is just a mass of weeds and thistles, and wondered what was the point of it.

6. (2023/102) – Planning and traffic 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/23/2382 - Wick Farm House, Truslers Hill Lane	Replacement of one existing barn and the erection of a second barn. Change of use to class B8 storage and distribution use.	In terms of the proposed new barns, the second barn is substantial in size, and will have a significant visual impact on the surrounding area. There is a single track access to the Barns, and we have concerns on the traffic impacts of the proposal on Truslers Hill Lane and the narrow on-site lane. The Traffic Statement, for B8 storage and distribution, shows there will be 41 movements a day and as the on-site access road is narrow and is also a public footpath, we have a major concern with the proposed traffic on site and also danger to pedestrians on the public footpath and cyclists. At present, the use of the land is agricultural, but there is bound to be a substantial increase in traffic generation if any of the possible uses applied for are permitted. This traffic will go past the existing dwellings changing the nature of their environment, and will obviously come out onto Truslers Hill Lane, increasing the flow, and therefore the likelihood of accidents. This road currently has

		a 60mph speed limit and consideration should be made to reduce this to 40mph if this application is approved. The change is to B8 storage and distribution, and we do not believe that any change of use from the agricultural and residential nature of this particular area, is appropriate. There is also the potential for the proposal to impact on the South Downs National Park Authority's Dark Skies initiative. The application therefore contravenes a number of District Plan policies regarding development in the countryside, and for all of the above reasons the Parish Council objects to the application. As a general comment, the Parish Council is not averse to other more suitable uses of the site, and does commend the applicant for some of the rural enhancement measures he has taken on the land.
DM/23/2325 - Daisy Fields, Truslers Hill Lane	Change of use to part of the field from equestrian use to dog agility field.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.

Note: The meeting was adjourned at the appropriate point in the discussion of the Wick Farm House application in order to allow the applicant to speak for the application, and for one objector to speak against the application.

6.2 Cllr JD deferred this item (highway and traffic issues) to the rolling list of actions due for discussion under item 10.

6.3. The item on the Croudace planning appeal held in August, regarding the application to develop the land to the south of Henfield Road (DM/22/2416), was deferred, as the Planning Inspector's decision is not yet available. It is expected soon.

6.4 As referred to under item 5, Cllr JS reported on the meeting with MSDC officers on 14th September (which he and Cllr JD had attended) to discuss the review of the District Plan (to 2038), and the inclusion of the Sayers Village site as one of 3 significant strategic developments proposed in the Plan. One of the key elements is the infrastructure planning for the proposal, and how this might be delivered. There is also a proposal to involve the site promoters in future meetings. Further meetings are proposed in due course, and MSDC is keen to involve Parishes in the process as far as possible. It was noted that the Regulation 19 consultation is being prepared, which will take into account the Regulation 18 consultation responses received by MSDC.

7. (2023/103) – 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 (September)	West Sussex County Council
£40-00	Grass cutting in the Millennium Garden x 2	Brian Truran

7.3 The half yearly budget monitoring report for the period 01.04.23 to 30.09.23 was noted and approved. The Council has only spent about a third of its budget so far, and is unlikely to overspend for the year. It was noted however, that many of the budget heads are contingent on events, and so may not need to be used. It was noted that by the time of the next audit, the Parish Council needs to have put in place a forward Action Plan for the Parish, against which estimated expenditure from the Council's financial resources needs to be set, and the Clerk will present a draft of this to the Council before the next meeting. This will also help to reduce the level of the general reserve, which is currently too high.

8. (2023/104) – Street Light maintenance schedule. This item was deferred as the contractor has not yet come back to the Clerk with costs to put against the schedule of suggested work, and this will be chased up for the next meeting. The matter will now be moved to the rolling list of actions for reference at future meetings.

9. (2023/105) – Medieval Pound (MP) and the Millennium Garden (MG). The situation regarding routine, annual maintenance of these areas was discussed, and the need to ensure that the MP is included. It was felt that the roots of the brambles and weeds need to be scrubbed out as well as cut back. Accordingly, it was **AGREED** (i) Cllr JP will contact Adie Rowe (who looks after the MG) to add the MP to the maintenance schedule for the spring and autumn work (starting next spring), and (ii) to ask that the scrubbing out proposal is investigated, and carried out as soon as possible.

10. (2023/106) – Current issues. Cllr JD went through the rolling list of actions that had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, and this is attached. However, it was noted (i) that Adam Denby at WSCC has provided an update on the various highway and traffic matters, and although progress is being made slowly, there are no timetables for delivering on them, and this needs to be chased up, (ii) up to 15 letters have now been sent out to drivers doing over the speed limit on the B2118 under the Speed-watch programme as instigated by the Parish Council, (iii) cutting back work to the Black Locust plant by the Safer routes to School footpath has been carried out, but the whole plant needs to be uprooted. This will be taken up with MSDC, (iv) footpath maintenance issues are ongoing, but either work is not done, or there are no reports back to the Parish Council, following the referral of problems to PROW (Public Rights of Way) Team. There is one particular issue where a footpath has been over ploughed. This issue will be taken up with Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC) at the next

meeting. Further items were (i) the gap that has been re-made in the Hunters Mead hedge. The Clerk will draft a letter to the residents in Hunters Mead, and send this to Councillors for approval. After that, it was considered that the new gap should be closed up, (ii) the Clerk is still looking into the issue of Councillors having dedicated Albourne PC email addresses, and will report back as soon as possible.

11. (2023/107) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. There were none, as these had been raised and discussed under item 10 above.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 7th NOVEMBER 2023 @ 7.00 p.m.