ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2026]

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 1st September 2026 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr John Drew (JD) – Chairman
Cllr Di Smith (DS)
Cllr Suzanne Sawyer (SS)
Cllr John Spencer (JS)
Cllr Dave Robson (DR)
Cllr Peter Law (PL)

In attendance: Iain McLean; Parish Council Clerk, Councillor Geoff Zeidler (MSDC), Councillor Rodney Jackson (WSCC) and eleven members of the public.

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1. **(2026/081) - Councillor JD formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** An apology for absence was received from Councillor Imelda Spencer, and the reason accepted.

2. **(2026/082) – Declarations of interest.** Councillor Law declared a personal interest in any discussion of the additional housing sites put forward by MSDC in the District Plan as he is a near neighbour to one of them.

3. **(2026/083) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** (i) The issue of the traffic flows and numbers on Truslers Hill Lane was raised. The loop data commissioned by the Parish Council will form part of the response to the Main Modifications consultation, and to challenge assumptions made in any future planning applications. The problems have been recognised by the Developers and WSCC Highways to a degree, but no adequate solutions provided. (ii) The road sign on the high Cross junction (B2116 with Truslers Hill Lane) is still down, having been knocked over in a road traffic accident, and the Clerk will pursue this with WSCC again.

4. (**2026/084) – Approval of Minutes**. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th July 2026 were duly approved and will be signed off, as a true record, by the Chairman as soon as possible.

5. **(2026/085) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Rodney Jackson (RJ), and MSDC Councillor Geoff Zeidler (GZ). Cllr GZ** gave his report. The main points were (i) There is still no timetable on Local Government Re-

organisation. (ii) The Burgess Hill redevelopment programme is continuing. (iii) He has major concerns around the inclusion of the additional housing sites for Albourne (for example around the spatial strategy, and the fact that no political judgment, as required by the Inspector, seems to have been exercised, and, and will be putting in a response accordingly. (iv) There is an ongoing review into the 1-2-3 Waste Service strategy, and residents are urged to report any issues regarding bin collections. There is a view that in some cases, the communications could have been better. (v) He will take back the issue raised about hedge cutting in August (i.e. within the main bird nesting season) to officers, and ask why this is necessary. **Cllr RJ** gave his report. The main points were (i) The ongoing programme to repair potholes. WSCC has a good pot of money currently, for this programme. (ii) The steps WSCC is taking to try and help with the cost of living. (iii) The County budget is under great pressure from Adults Social Care and Children's services, and these services account for a great part of it. (iv) On devolution, a shadow Board has been set up with East Sussex, West Sussex, and Brighton in order to try and get into the swing of how things will work in the new Unitary Authorities, if and when they finally come about.

6. (2026/086) – Planning matters.

6.1 There were no individual planning applications to consider this cycle.

6.2 On planning matters generally, the consultation on the Main Modifications proposed by MSDC for the District Plan closes on the 7th September. The Parish Council is finalising its response, and this will be put on the website. Other responses from Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council, the Hurst Society, WILD (a local campaign group), and Twineham Parish Council are also going in. These all continue to express concerns about coalescence, infrastructure, roads, water, sewerage, and highway capacity. It was noted that Cllr DS and JS attended a conference with SE Water around water supply generally, and SE Water seem to be confident that with the investment they are planning, they can cope with all the development going on in Mid Sussex. They are working on a Position Statement to be provided to MSDC. The next Sayers Common development Group Liaison meeting is on the 16th September, and residents are urged to attend the Riverdale presentation at Hickstead regarding the proposed West House Farm housing development on 15th September (one of the additional housing sites mentioned above). Finally, a resident made a representation regarding the impact of the cars on the proposed Washbrooks Farm development, and handed out a detailed study of how the development would adversely affect the local community.

6.3. On traffic and highway matters, there is no further update at this stage other than as already discussed in the context of the District Plan.

7. (2026/087) – 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
£450-00 *	Clearance of the allotment site *	Adie Rowe *
£612-00 *	Traffic loops on Truslers Hill Lane *	Obtrada Limited *
£622-77	Clerk's salary + on costs (July)	WSCC – Sundry Debtors Fund
£16-69	Purchase of two high-viz vests for Operation Speed-watch operatives (VAT and shipping costs)	Imelda Spencer – additional refund for VAT and shipping costs
£25-00	Grass cutting at the Millennium Garden x 1	Brian Truran
£48-00	Putting two additional Councillors on the .gov.uk email domain	Vision ICT Limited
£390-00	External audit fee for the year 2025/6	Moore

* These payments had already been authorised under delegated authority and paid.

7.3. It was ***AGREED*** (as recommended by the maintenance contractor) to order new compliant lamps for 5 of the Parish Council's streetlamps, where under Government Regulations, the current lamps will become obsolete in February 2027. The Clerk reported that the estimated cost is £350 per lamp, and this could be done on a rolling programme of replacement.

8. (2026/088) - Communications Strategy. Cllr PL's paper was discussed. It was felt that more use could be made of Albourne Connected, and the Council's website needs to be improved and updated. The points made in the paper were therefore noted and agreed, and the Clerk and Cllr PL will take this forward.

9. (2026/089) - Councillor roles and responsibilities. Cllr JD went through the portfolio of each Councillor, particularly as regards shadowing certain roles, given the inevitable changes in personnel at the forthcoming elections in May 2027. These roles will be posted on the website.

10. (2026/90) Report from Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr DS gave her report. The main points were (i) the need to review Under 5s hiring rates in accordance with the Agreement. (ii) The need to firm up arrangements for a quiz night in October. (iii) The Committee is looking at proposals to engage a "handy-man" for routine maintenance jobs in the Hall at an appropriate hourly rate. (iv) The Hall's insurance renewal is in hand. (v) the servicing of the Hall's boiler is being pursued. (vi) Cllr DR and the Clerk will take forward the new License for having remote meetings, and it was agreed that this should be way of Teams rather than Zoom as this is the cheaper option, Other matters are set out in the published minutes of the meeting, and in the tasks sheets that the Committee go through at each VHMC meeting.

11. (2026/91) – Delegated Authority. The decisions taken under delegated authority on the grounds of urgency, as set out in the Council's Standing Orders, (i) to make the payments indicated by an asterisk in the document at 7.2 above (those transactions having been previously approved by the Parish Council), and (ii) the decision to grant consent to the

School for their contractors to use the Millennium Garden in order to access the site being used to extend the adjacent building for a kitchen extension, were both duly reported and noted for the public record.

12. (2026/092) – Current issues. Cllr JD went through the rolling list of actions, and updated the document as necessary. This will be published separately. The main updates were (i) there have been some further Speed-watch monitoring on the B2118 resulting in 12 warning letters northbound, and 4 letters on Truslers Hill Lane, (ii) on the Wellcroft Retirement Village development on London Road B2118, construction works have re-commenced, and Landbuild have asked for some restricted Saturday working times from MSDC Planning. Some further highway works will also take place at the end of the year. (iii) there is a report from Cllr DR on the latest Speed Indication Device data, and it was agreed that this would be published on the website, (iv) the Copper in the cafe is not proceeding as there was not enough interest, and other local venues are being utilised, (v) Cllr SS reported that Peter Holding has the "No dumping" warning sign for the allotment site in hand, (vi) the Clerk will chase up a number of unanswered issues regarding the Recreation Ground.

13. (2026/093) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Cllr SS raised a general issue concerning vegetation overhanging footpaths in the Parish, and this needs to be taken up with WSCC. (ii) Cllr JS asked for an item on the next Agenda to discuss the Parish Councils requirements for spending s.106 planning funds that should become available to the Council in due course. (iii) Cllr DS asked the Clerk to ensure with Glendale that if and when the hedge alongside the rear of properties in Barn Close (by the footpath at the Village Hall) is cut back, this shouldn't be too severe or the height disproportionately reduced.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

SIGNED.....John Drew/Imelda Spencer
Chairman/Vice Chairman

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 6th OCTOBER @ 7.00 p.m.