

# ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2024]

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 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 John Spencer (JS)  
Cllr Imelda Spencer (IS)  
Cllr Shane Axtell (SA)

*In attendance:* Iain McLean; Council Clerk; (attending remotely via Zoom), Councillor Geoff Zeidler (MSDC); Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC), and 4 members of the public.

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- (2024/101) - Councillor JD formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** No apologies for absence were received on this occasion, although Councillor Geoff Zeidler had indicated that he may be a bit late, due to attendance at an earlier Parish Council meeting.
- (2024/102) – Declarations of interest.** There were no such declarations received.
- (2024/103) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** **(A)** WILD (Watchdog for Intrusive Local Development) updated the meeting on their work regarding the District Plan examination. The stage 1 hearings had finished, and they had inputted the process. There is more work for Mid Sussex District Council to do on flooding, highways, and transport. It is likely that main modifications will be required, which will need to be consulted on. The concept of a 20 minute neighbourhood for the Sayers Common proposal was doubtful. More work needs to be done on the Sustainability appraisal. Density of the developments and a lack of a strategy were also issues that needed to be looked at further. Stage 2 of the hearings is aimed for March 2025, when the sites and the sites selection criteria will be looked at in more detail. It is important to liaise with Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council as a joint representation may be more powerful. It was noted that National Highways is taking a very odd approach to the Hickstead junction on the A23 by suggesting that a development of some 2,000 homes will have no effects on it. **(B)** The issue of the re-lining on the B2116 came up again, as this work has still not been done. Councillor Joy Dennis will take this up. **(C)** A resident raised the issue of the clearance work being done on land adjoining Church Lane. The Parish Council has no knowledge of this, but it was

thought it may be to do with some re-fencing, and catch up maintenance work by the land owner. It is believed that no building work is intended. **(D)** A local resident asked what is the latest regarding the Wellcroft (former Hazeldens) retired village development. The position has not changed in that new contractors are still being sought, but Cllr IS said that she would contact Phil Docherty at Inspired Villages in order to find out.

**4. (2024/104) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were duly approved and will be signed off, as a true record, by the Chairman as soon as possible.

**5. (2024/105) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Geoff Zeidler (GZ).** Cllr GZ referred to his latest written report that had been sent to Councillors, and is available as part of these minutes. In regard to the District Plan he reported that the unmet need of MSDC’s neighbouring Authorities is clearly an issue for the Inspector. She has also looked closely at the Duty to Co-operate requirement even though the neighbouring Authorities had said they were satisfied on this point. It was also important to recognise that site were only allocations at this point, and would still have to be the subject of rigorous planning scrutiny if they ever got to an application stage. Cllr JD gave her report. The main points were (i) no services will be impacted by WSCC’s proposed budget for next year, (ii) school places are keeping up with demand, (iii) the application for the speed reduction on Shaves Wood Lane/Truslers Hill Lane has scored well, (iv) dates are awaited to start the work on implementing the 40 mph speed reduction on parts of the B2116, (v) there was a discussion on WSCC’s rejection of the Parish Council’s application for a 20 mph speed reduction on part of the B2116 (see previous minutes), and it was thought that if the Parish Council could get up a local petition, get the school parents on-side, and perhaps seek the support of the nearby local businesses, the situation might be capable of review. The lack of consistency on the approach taken by WSCC to various applications was also a concern. Cllr JD also agreed to look into this further.

**6. (2024/106) – Planning matters.**

6.1 Five planning applications were considered, and the plans and relevant policies presented and discussed. It was therefore **RESOLVED to comment to MSDC as follows** (with Cllr JP proposing and Cllr IS seconding for all applications) -

<b>PROPERTY</b>	<b>PROPOSAL</b>	<b>AGREED RESPONSE</b>
DM/24/2376 - The Stables, Honeybourne Farm, Truslers Hill Lane	Variation of condition no 2 of planning application DM/22/0345 - Amendment to the approved elevations to allow for the extension lower ground floor level to be raised above the water table (unforeseen).	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.
DM/24/2111 - Site of The Former Hazeldens Nursery, London Road	Site hoarding and 3 no. flags adverts.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.
DM/24/2560 - Bishops	Install Starlink dish on existing	Albourne Parish Council has no

Place, London Road	pole and replacement front door like for like.	objections to this application.
DM/24/2561 <b>LBC app</b> - Bishops Place, London Road	Install Starlink dish on existing pole and replacement front door like for like.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.
DM/24/2636 - Site Of The Former Hazeldens Nursery, London Road	Modification of planning obligation to provide the permanent communal facilities and workshops within the village centre prior to first occupation of any more than 50% of the extra care units and provision of temporary communal facilities in the interim period, in relation to DM/19/1001 (AP/19/0081).	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.

6.2 Cllr JD is arranging regular meetings with Adam Denby at WSCC (the last one being held on 16<sup>th</sup> October) in order to discuss all outstanding traffic and highway issues in the Parish. JD has also written to Chris Stark, the Road Safety Manager at WSCC, in order to pursue the possibility of putting in “20 is plenty” signage on the B2116, given that the application for the formal speed reduction was turned down. The options for the School parking issue have probably been exhausted, but can be kept under review. There is an issue of blocked gullies and overgrown hedges on roads, and inspections need to be made. WSCC’s position on the repair of potholes was noted, but there are still some in Albourne that need attention. The Clerk has written to WSCC regarding the responsibility for road debris clearance, e.g. mud on roads after flooding, and will chase this up.

6.3. The general planning and District Plan update had been mainly discussed at item 3 above. However, Cllr JS mentioned that there was a meeting arranged for the 19<sup>th</sup> November with Andrew Simpson, who will be giving the Parish Council some help and advice on the next steps. It was also hoped to arrange a further meeting with neighbouring Parish Councils in order to pursue the possibility of a joint approach. He has also attended a Planning Seminar recently, and will send out the associated slides to Councillors for information. He also wanted to commend Tim Higginson from WILD for all the work he has done on the Sayers Common housing proposal in the District Plan, and in attending the recent examination hearings to put over the points, which the Parish Council very much supports.

## 7. (2024/107) – Finance report and matters.

7.1 The financial summary and the Bank reconciliation for the month, were received, noted, and approved, with Cllr SA proposing, and Cllr DS seconding.

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

AMOUNT	PROCUREMENT	PAYEE
£577-45	Clerk’s salary + on costs	West Sussex County Council

	(October)	
£490-00	Work to the foot-paths in the Millennium Garden (e.g. new laying new bark chippings)	Adie Rowe
£57-38	Payroll admin. charges 01.04.24 – 30.09.24	West Sussex County Council
£180-78	4 bird boxes for the Millennium Garden	Joy Parks (reimbursement) – Wildcare Limited
£86-74	Work to gate and fence at the allotment site	Peter Holding (reimbursement) - Eurogreen Enviro. and Wickes.
£350-00	Hedge cutting at the Millennium Garden, and autumn clearing of the Medieval Pound	Adie Rowe

**8. (2024/108) – Current issues.** Cllr JD went through the rolling list of actions, and updated the document as necessary. This will be published separately. The main points were (i) the bird boxes for the Millennium Garden have arrived and will be installed shortly, (ii) Cllr SA is checking to see what further work may need to be done on flooding issues, and whether the recent work carried out by WSCC at Oakvale Cottages has resolved the problem, (iii) the Clerk has made some further progress on moving over to the gov.uk email domain, and is seeking further quotes. It was agreed that if no further quotes are forthcoming then the Council should proceed with Vision ICT (the current website host and provider), (iv) the cutting back of hedges and trees on footways and paths continues to be an issue, and despite reports, much work is still to be done, (v) the playground gate springs still need to be repaired, and this will be reported to MSDC once again.

**9. (2024/109) – Allotments.** (i) The vacancy for the one plot has still not been filled, but now that the site looks a bit better, it is hoped that this may be taken up soon; (ii) Peter Holding has repaired the fence and gate, and also cleared much of the overgrowth on the un-worked plots. The Parish Council wished to record its thanks for all the work done; (iii) whilst some work has carried out by plot holders, it still seems that only 2 of the 6 plots are being properly cultivated and looked after. The Clerk will need to pursue this again with the plot holders, (iii) the Clerk is still awaiting a detailed reply from Clarion Housing regarding the need to clear the accumulated rubbish from their land. They had said they will be visiting the site to assess the situation but this has yet to happen; (iv) the Parish Council also agreed to deal with removing the mainly garden rubbish that had been dumped on the allotment site, and Cllr DS said that she would look into the possibility of securing some volunteers to carry out this work.

**10. (2024/110) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters.** (i) The condition of the one rural fingerpost in the Parish was discussed, in the light of an email that had been received about its current state, and it was agreed that this needs to be properly maintained, and to remain a prominent feature of the Village. An inspection will take place shortly with a view to seeing what needs to be done, (ii) a resident has raised the idea of putting in double yellow lines along the B2116 from the B2118 junction to the Street in order to stop parking, and access obstruction, but the Council had a number of reservations, including street urbanisation, speed concerns, and whether such action would really be merited in the circumstances. It is possible that there are more suitable alternatives to resolve the problems and the Clerk will write to the correspondent accordingly.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

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

***NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: WEDNESDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024 @ 7.00  
p.m.***