

ALBOURNE PARISH [2016]

**Minutes of the meeting of the Annual meeting of
the electors in the Parish of Albourne
held on: Tuesday, 3rd May 2016, at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: **Albourne Parish Councillors:** Cllr Meg Price – Chairman, Cllr Graham Stafford, Cllr Di Howard, Cllr Nikki Ernest, Cllr Heather Jordan, Cllr Nick Wergan.

Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk).
Cllr Peter Griffiths (WSCC) for part of the meeting.
Joel Havicon (PCSO) for part of the meeting.
24 members of the public (being electors of the Parish).

(Apologies for absence were received from Cllr John Allen (MSDC), and Ann Higginson (Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee).

1. Chairman's introduction and review of the previous year.

The Chairman started by asking for a moments silence and reflection in memory of two former Parish Councillors who had sadly passed away. She then updated the meeting on the various issues the Parish Council had been involved in over the past year. It was noted that the parish precept in effect remained the same for the financial year 2015/16, and will do so for 2016/17. There are still many issues to be resolved including HGV movements along the Parish's roads, car parking around the School, speeding issues, upgrading the children's playground, the proposed Q Leisure Park and Ride scheme, quiet run tarmac along the A23, a new bench by the bus stop, dog bins. It was also mentioned that there was a vacancy on the Parish Council, and the members of the public were invited to consider applying. Finally, she thanked all her fellow Parish Councillors, and the Clerk for all their help throughout the previous year.

2. Minutes of Annual Parish meeting held on 5th May 2015.

These were unanimously approved, and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

3. PCSO Joel Havicon/Neighbourhood policing report.

Joel Havicon handed round a local crime report, which showed where crime

activity has been taking place. He warned against opportunist rural crime being carried out. Watch out for gates being left open to fields. He mentioned the Speed-watch scheme, and noted the efforts that the Parish was putting together in terms of volunteers in order to take this forward. It needs six volunteers, split in to two teams of three [*this point was disputed by a member of the public on approving the minutes at the Annual meeting on 2nd May 2017.*] He us happy to train and supervise. He has a number of “slow down” signs, which can be deployed. He mentioned the anti-social activity at the Recreation Ground. Lighter fuel canisters are being dropped along the roads, which is an indication some low level drug use. There was also a find of some cannabis in a tobacco tin. He covered operation Crackdown, and urged people to use the reporting mechanism to report speeding, anti-social driving, etc. He said that the scheme does have teeth.

4. Highways issues.

Richard Speller from WSCC Highways was not present but Cllr Stafford said that here were three highways issues ongoing. Traffic speeding, street furniture (the removal of the outdated signage), and the dangerous exit out of Truslers Hill Lane onto the main road. It is the Parish Council’s intention to try and take these forward in the coming year.

5. Neighbourhood Plan/District Plan.

Councillor Ernest went through the steps required for the Neighbourhood Plan, and confirmed that it had been submitted for independent examination. There are some minor revisions required, but the document has been cleared to proceed to the referendum. This is likely to take place in the late summer or early autumn, because of the EU referendum in June and other elections. She emphasised the need for a high turnout. The meeting expressed its gratitude to Michael Gratton for all his invaluable work on the project. On a question from the audience, it was confirmed that the Government is not likely to be dropping NPs, given the localism agenda. On the District Plan (MSDC), this had become delayed, due to a number of changes. It was proving especially difficult to settle on both an agreed annual and total number for the objectively assessed housing need across the District. There is still no 5 year land supply, which makes it difficult to defend planning applications for housing sites.

6. Operation Watershed and flooding issues.

Councillor Stafford outlined the progress so far, and said that flooding issues in Reeds Lane were a particular issue that needed to be resolved. The Parish Council is making an application for 45K to have all the gullies along the Henfield Road surveyed and fixed where necessary. There is also an issue outside the Village Hall with water runoff from the car park, which is being jointly investigated with WSCC. The priority is to prevent flooding to houses.

7. Trees/Hedges/footpaths.

Councillor Jordan mentioned the MSDC proposal to replant the hedge alongside the Village Hall. This will be done later in the year. The issue of the tree suddenly taken down in the playground needs to be addressed, either with a replacement tree or with something else. The area near the basket ball court in the Recreation Ground needs to be tidied up. Footpaths need to be cleared, but this is difficult in the summer months. No upgrades are planned by WSCC at present.

8. Village Hall report.

As the Chairman of the Committee was not present, the meeting was referred to her written report. However, the times of opening for the Pop up Pub were discussed, and there was a request for more volunteers to work behind the bar.

9. Any reports from WSCC/MSDC

Councillor Griffiths said that he thought that following a number of organisational changes, things at WSCC were slowly improving in terms of efficiency and effectiveness, but there is still work to do. He referred to the change in the Traffic Regulation Order regime, and said that there could only be one TRO for all the nine Parishes in his Ward. He noted that potholes, Operation Watershed, and the quiet run tarmac are all issues that need to be worked on, with County cooperation. He urged the Parish Council to think about using the new Community Benefits team for any projects that could qualify.

10. General session for the public.

The issue of large delivery lorries coming down Church Lane was raised. These can't be prevented, but with appropriate liaison, they could be smaller. The security issue at the Village Hall was raised, particularly with regard to suspicious vehicles coming into the car park. Many of these are not from the Village, and people are urged to report them. Councillor Wergan asked whether the Village would be interested in having some outdoor gym equipment installed in the Recreation Ground. If so, please feedback to him. It would be necessary to access grant funding, if this was to proceed. The issue of broken stiles along footpaths was raised, and it was noted that these are the responsibility of the relevant landowner. The issue of the road (difficulties in passing), and car parking along the Hurstpierpoint Road was raised, and Cllr Griffiths said that this is being looked into. At the moment, various solutions are out to consultation.

11. Chairman's concluding remarks and close.

The Chairman closed the meeting, and thanked everyone for attending, particularly those speakers and presenters.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

SIGNED.....Meg Price (Chairman)