

# ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2019]

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## Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019, at 7.00 p.m.

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

*In attendance:* Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk), and 2 members of the public (for all or parts of the meeting).

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- 1. (2019/121) – Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Both Cllr Joy Dennis (WSSC) and Cllr Judy Llewellyn-Burke (MSDC) had indicated that they were unable to attend the meeting, and had therefore sent apologies.
- 2. (2019/122) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared on this occasion.
- 3. (2019/123) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** On a question raised, it was noted that there has been no response as yet, to the objection lodged by the Parish Council to the proposed removal of the telephone box in the Street. On a further issue, it was asked what has happened to the list of Clerks' and Chairmen's honours board. Cllr GS said that it needs to be updated, and then it is the intention to put it back up on the VH wall as soon as possible.
- 4. (2019/124) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were duly approved and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman.
- 5. (2019/125) – To receive reports (if any) from WSSC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (JLB).** No reports received, as neither Councillor was present.
- 6. (2019/126) – Planning matters.**

6.1 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
DM/19/4685 Barn at Truslers Hill Lane, Albourne	Erection of 2 storey 4 bedroom dwelling for stud manager. Extension of existing stable building to include additional stables and creation of foaling unit.	Albourne Parish Council objects to the new dwelling component of this application. It is in conflict with MSDC policies DP6, DP12 and DP15, and also Albourne Neighbourhood Plan policies ALC1 and ALH1. We object to the principle of a residential dwelling on this site. The use of this site is not agricultural, and we have no evidence as to why this should be regarded as a special case. We can find no evidence that this site has been run as a profitable horse stud business for any length of time. The only business which can be found is that the applicant works as an Equine Dentist. There are many cases of agricultural land being used for the keeping of horses both within this Parish and beyond. Giving permission for a new dwelling in this case would set a precedent across the District. On the detail of the plan we object to the siting of the proposed dwelling which looks incongruous, and also to the design, which is out of keeping with the area.

6.2 The next step for the approved Highways scheme is to assess the indicative costings for the work, but WSCC has no monies to fund the project at present. There is still the possibility of some s.106 planning monies, and Cllr JD (WSCC) will hopefully be able to help with securing this. Once the costs are known, (and these need to be broken down by item) then potential funders can be approached, e.g. Olus. The School has written to WSCC in support of the traffic calming measures, and it was noted that the issue of the school parking problems has now been raised with the Governors. It was further noted that there is a proposal to restrict HGVs using Reeds Lane to 7.5 tonnes. This will have an adverse affect on Albourne, and needs to be looked into. Following the ongoing Olus liaison meetings, the contractor seems to be sticking by its promises to help reduce the HGV issues, and there is a good working relationship between the parties now. It was noted that there is a new operator working from the site, and this will need to be monitored. The green waste vehicles are operating up to their capacity limit, but are below on the wood recycling. On the Village Gateways issue, there has been an on-site meeting with WSCC to look at the locations, but in principle, the proposed 4 gateways have been agreed by County. There is a further on site meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in order to take detailed measurements and dimensions,

so that the quotes can be sought. The Speed Indication Device (SID) has now been in place for 3 months, and until someone else wants it, it was agreed to leave it there for the time being.

6.3 On current planning, planning enforcement, and other strategic planning matters, Cllr NE reported that DM/19/3876 (Q Leisure) had been refused. DM/19/4025 (Softech House) had also been refused. The decision for DM/19/4639 (Kings Head Stud) is still awaited. The issue at the Barn (see previous minutes) has been the subject of two formal enforcement notices, but there is the possibility that these may be appealed. There is still no update with regard to the floodlighting at the Equestrian Centre in terms of planning outcomes or enforcement. It was noted that the Hazeldens application (DM/19/1001) has been appealed, and the Parish Council will wish to make further representations to the Planning Inspectorate before the deadline of 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Cllr NE will draft this up and then send it round as soon as possible. On the recent approach by a developer to build on the field adjacent to the School (40 houses plus a school parking/drop off and pick up area) it was **AGREED** that the sponsors should be invited to attend the January or February 2020 meeting in order to present their proposals.

## **7. (2019/127) – 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:-**

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>PROCUREMENT</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>
£427-83	Clerk's salary + on costs (November)	West Sussex County Council
£46-44	Payroll admin charges (01.04.19 – 30.09.19)	West Sussex County Council

7.3 The request from the Parochial Church Council for financial assistance towards their plans to improve the car parking in Church Lane was discussed. Views expressed by Members, included a desire not to encourage further outside dog walkers from coming to the area, and that any proposal to grass-crete the verges could not be supported. The best option would therefore be the creation of a dedicated parking area for church goers, in an adjoining field, which may be available from the landowner. This would help protect the look of the Lane for all users, since it would help to reduce car parking along the highway verges. The car park could be gated, and opened up only for Church events. The Council therefore **AGREED** that it was in principle, open to making a financial contribution of £500 (which the Clerk advised would have to be s.137 "grant" expenditure), subject to receiving further details of whatever the final scheme turns out to be. The Clerk will write to the PCC accordingly.

**8. (2019/128) – Current issues.** (i) On the Church Lane fly tipping, burning of rubbish issued, it was agreed after discussion, that as there is no known owner of the land, the Clerk would draft a poster (to be sent to Cllr GS) to be put around the site, advising that such activities were offences under the environmental protection legislation, (ii) on the Common Copse land Cllr GS has now met with Richard Speller (WSCC), and the measurements

agreed. However, RS needs to speak with the owner of the adjoining property, in order to double check that everyone is happy, before the Parish Council can go ahead with the actual work on the ground, (iii) on the new rubbish bin, and dog waste bin, MSDC had confirmed that they cannot help with the fixing. On the location of the dog waste bin, it may be that a formal Highways License will not be needed for its location, and the Clerk will write to WSCC in order to obtain confirmation of this.

**9. (2019/129) - Calendar of Parish Council meetings for 2020.** The proposed list of calendar meetings for 2020, generally maintaining the tradition of the first Tuesday in each month, was noted and **AGREED**. The Clerk will notify the bookings Secretary accordingly.

**10. (2019/130) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters.** Cllr JP reminded the meeting that the further issues with regard to the manhole near Church Lane (being the dumping of the old reinforced concrete surround some metres down the footpath by the contractors, as well as the stopcock post not being replaced) had still not been dealt with. The Clerk has written to SE Water, but may need to do so again. The further work at the Millennium Garden is due to start on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019, and the School has been informed. Cllr JD raised the issue of the Silent Soldier, and it was noted that as in the last minutes, the intention would be to bring it back from the Churchyard to the Village, at the next Remembrance time. Cllr JB raised the issue of an uprooted road sign at the B2116 junction with Truslers Hill Lane, and this has been reported to WSCC Highways by the Clerk. Cllr DH raised the issue of the Parish Councillors having ID badges, and this needs to be looked into. She also noted that the condition of the post and rail fence alongside the footpath at the VH still needs resolving, and whilst some repair work has been carried out voluntarily by a local resident, WSCC do need to take responsibility for the fence. The suggestion of having an extended pull-in lane near the School to help with drop-off traffic has not progressed due to lack of WSCC funds. Cllr GS noted that the overhanging tree work at Barleycroft still needs doing, but this has been reported, and should be on MSDC's radar. A pile of block paving has been left on the Barleycroft green by a property having work done to it, and Cllr DH said that she would be happy to take this up with the owner, as it does need to be cleared up. Finally, he reported that sadly, former Parish Councillor, John Gooch, had recently passed away.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

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

***NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020 @ 7.00 p.m.***