

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2021]

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 7th December, 2021 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

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

In attendance: Iain McLean; Parish Council Clerk (via remote means), Councillor Joy Dennis (West Sussex County Council), and three members of the public.

- 1. (2021/096) - Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Di Smith, and the reason accepted. Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (MSDC) was not present.
- 2. (2021/097) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared.
- 3. (2021/098) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** None were raised.
- 4. (2021/099) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd November 2021 were duly approved and will be signed, as a true record, by the Chairman, as soon as possible.
- 5. (2021/100) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (JLB).** JD gave a comprehensive report. The main points are (i) on the damage caused to one of the newly installed Village Gateways, a response has been received from both WSCC and the grass cutting contractor. The matter is ongoing, and the Clerk is in correspondence, (ii) on the redundant road signs issue, this will be dealt with when resources permit. The Parish Council still finds this unacceptable, and it is a great shame that the impetus from the constructive meeting that Cllr John D had with WSCC officers last summer has been lost. It was noted with surprise, that WSCC has found the resources to replace a perfectly good road sign, with an even bigger one. If funding is the issue, the PC might be prepared

to look at funding the work itself. JD will take this up once again to see if she can boost progress, (iii) on the speeding reduction Traffic Regulation Order, JD has managed to put in place new criteria for these, and this will enable the PC's application to be approved. JD will investigate whether in terms of the need to resubmit the application, there needs to be any new paper-work, but the new process shouldn't take more than seven months to complete, (iii) the hedge cutting along the B2116 didn't in the end, get done by WSCC , because the officer involved was indisposed. It was reiterated that the work had in any event, been carried out by volunteers, and thank you letters had been sent out by the Clerk, (iv) on the road surface dressing issue, this matter is reviewed by WSCC every six months. JD is asking that the matter be looked into, particularly as regards to the drainage issues. There is a lot of surface water along that stretch of the B2116 during times of heavy rain, and it is flowing into adjoining private properties, (v) there was a discussion on the latest Covid numbers in West Sussex. They are very high at present, particularly amongst children, (vi) Fuel Awareness day is coming up, designed to reach and help people who may be in fuel deprivation, and this needs to be publicised, (vii) instructions to poultry owners are to keep birds housed at present due to the possible presence of avian flu. It may be a good idea to put something on the website, as Albourne being a rural area, there may be a lot of poultry keepers in the area, (viii) the Brighton railway mainline is closing for maintenance over the holiday periods, starting on 19th December. There will be a bus replacement service from Three Bridges. The Clerk will put the details on the website with the appropriate dates, (ix) white lines on the roads for rural areas needs to be maintained as WSCC is looking at not having them in some areas, (x) WSCC's Transport Strategy hopes to improve and make more use of buses particularly in rural areas. WSCC hopes to go carbon neutral by 2030, e.g. by the use of electric vehicles. Cllr NE wanted to know how WSCC proposes to go more green with regard to its waste strategy, and e.g. the Firsland operation, which involves a huge amount of heavy vehicle movements – JD said that the point was well made, and should part of the green agenda, (xi) WSCC's budget setting for 2022/23 is underway, (xii) any footpath issues that don't get dealt with by the Public Rights of Way (PROW) team should be referred to JD, (xiii) Cllr GS raised a flooding issue on the B2116 near to Oakvale Cottages, where the resurfacing has raised the level of the road such that water flows to the Cottages before it can reach the drain. JD will take this up, (xiv) the issue of the routing of the lorries to and from the Firsland Estate was raised, and that more direct routes could be taken. JD will look into this further. Cllr GS then thanked JD for all her input and help over the course of the last year.

6. (2021/101) – 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
AE/DM/21/39802 - Oak Cottages, Truslers Hill Lane	Proposed single storey rear extension.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.

6.2 All the issues referenced in this part of the Agenda had been dealt with in the discussion and the points set out above in minute 5. However, it was noted that the proofs for the Gateway signage needs to be seen by Councillors before final sign off.

6.3. Cllr NE reported that the Planning Inspector has now given his report on the Development Planning Document site allocations document submitted by MSDC. He has agreed that all the sites can go forward with some modifications, which are all set out on MSDC's website. There are not thought to be any direct effects for Albourne, and there is now a further six week consultation process under the Regulations.

7. (2021/102) – 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 (November 2021)	West Sussex County Council
£115-50	Lighting repairs – column I, The Twitten	Streetlights

8. (2021/103) - Millennium Garden (MG) maintenance. Cllr JP explained that it would be sensible too wrap up all the routine maintenance work needed from time to time in the MG (autumn hedge cutting, spring clearance of e.g. brambles, and looking after the wood chipped path) in one overarching contract, either on an annual basis or possibly longer (say three years). This would save having to seek quotes for each individual bit of work that might be required. There was general agreement on this, and so Cllr JP formally proposed the suggestion, which was seconded by Cllr SS. Accordingly it was unanimously **RESOLVED that a tender be prepared and put out, with a view to securing a contract for all the above work.** The Clerk will therefore take this forward in consultation with Parish Councillors particularly as regards possible contractors who might be interested in the work. Cllr JP also reported that that part of the front hedge of the MG has been damaged by engineers using it as a walk through to carry out maintenance work on the small electricity sub-station in the corner of the garden. JP agreed to take photos of the damage along with the contact details on the sub-station, and forward to the Clerk to take up with Network Power.

9. (2021/104) - Report from Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC). The VHMC had met on the 30th November 2021. Cllr JB reported that the bookings had almost recovered to pre-pandemic levels. On the broadband issue for the VH, JB outlined the benefits, and moved the recommendation from the VHMC, that the project should proceed with Plus-net. This gives a free installation of the line, and a £18 plus VAT per month contract fee. It has been agreed that the costs will be shared 50/50 with the VHMC. The proposal was seconded by Cllr JP, and so it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the offer from Plus-net. On the issue of the garage, the VHMC's recommendation (given that the garage is beyond economic repair) is that provided MSDC agree to the possibility of the garage being replaced in the future, should that become necessary, the garage should be demolished and not replaced for the time being. Cllr JD seconded the proposal, and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation from the VHMC, with five votes in favour and one against. However, it was also noted that before proceeding further the issue of the storage

requirements for the garage need to be finally resolved, and this will go back to the next VHMC meeting in February 2022.

10. (2021/105) – Calendar of Parish Council meetings for 2022. This was noted and approved, maintaining the tradition of meeting on the first Tuesday of every month. The Annual meeting of Electors will be on the 3rd May 2022, and the Annual Parish Council meeting on the 10th May 2022.

11. (2021/106) – Current issues. Cllr SS mentioned that the trees to be planted in Albourne for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022 will be delivered in March. SS was congratulated on a good outcome for the PC’s application under the national scheme.

12. (2021/107) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters.

Cllr NE mentioned that sadly, former WSCC Councillor, Peter Griffiths, whose Bolney ward covered Albourne, had recently died. She also referred to an email from Geoff Zeidler advising that a number of neighbouring Parishes were looking into developing a sustainability strategy for the area, and asking whether anyone from Albourne Parish Council might volunteer to serve on the group. Not everyone had seen the email, and so Cllr NE will circulate this, before taking forward.

(No other matters were raised.)

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 4th JANUARY 2022 @ 7.00 p.m.