

ALBOURNE PARISH [2013]

Minutes of the annual meeting of Albourne Parish electors and residents held on:

Tuesday, 7th May 2013 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: (from Albourne Parish Council)
Cllr Meg Price (Chairman)
Cllr Graham Stafford (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Michael Gratton
Cllr Elaine Makey
Cllr Nikki Ernest
Cllr John Gooch

Iain McLean (Clerk)

(from West Sussex County Council)
Cllr Peter Griffiths

(from Mid Sussex District Council)
Cllr Sue Seward

19 electors and residents of Albourne Parish

- 1. (Chairman's introduction and review of the previous year)** The Chairman of Albourne Parish Council, Meg Price, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. She confirmed that the precept for 2013/14 would remain the same at £14,633. She broadly outlined the activities that the Parish Council had been involved in, such as neighbourhood planning, the District Plan, the new market town proposal, flooding awareness, street-lighting, and the village hall improvement works. She thanked all the Councillors and staff for their hard work throughout the year, and also Cllr Peter Griffiths from WSCC and Sue Seward from MSDC for their help. She particularly thanked former Parish Councillors Robert Dunckley and Jerry Butler, both of whom had left the Parish Council during the course of the year.

2. (To approve and sign the Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 1st May 2012) The Minutes of the annual Parish meeting held on 1st May 2012 were duly approved, and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

3. (Mid Sussex District Council's draft District Plan)

Councillor Nikki Ernest, with Claire Tester (Head of Economic Promotion and Planning at MSDC), gave a presentation of MSDC Local Development Plan explaining what the plan was, the risks and what was to happen next and the input needed from the local community. CT advised that the District Plan requirement was for 10,600 houses and of that figure 2,000 needed to come from local Neighbourhood Plans (NP), i.e. spread across the towns and villages. She added that MSDC had a duty to cooperate with neighbouring councils. The comment was made that developers' hold the view that that suggests Mid Sussex must take housing numbers from other councils. However, the interpretation of duty to cooperate was yet to be tested. NE stressed that it was important that residents respond to MSDC's consultation and in the Parish Council's view give the MSDC plan support. Details of how to respond and a draft letter of support were provided to the meeting.

4. (Neighbourhood Plan - NP)

Councillor Mick Gratton reported to the meeting on Albourne's NP. He explained that the PC's Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report - part of the NP process - was with Claire Tester's Team. The Parish Council had considered sustainability issues – the need to meet the needs of the present without affecting negatively the needs of future generations. It had carried out an analysis of the strengths, weakness and opportunities of and threats to the parish. CT commented that one of the unforeseen side effects of the new plan was the planning expertise being built up in the parishes. This will be very beneficial to all concerned.

5. (Village Hall report)

Councillor Elaine Makey gave a report on behalf of the VH Management committee. Points made included:-

- A good year including well supported Jubilee Celebrations. Thanks to Dave Lesley and Jenny and all the volunteers.
- A new lease has been signed with MSDC, which ends in 2034.
- Increased hall bookings.
- Healthy Bank balance some of which to be used for provision of disabled access and WC during the summer holidays.
- With Clerk's help applying to WSCLC for a grant towards building alterations. If successful intention to provide some time in the future better and larger internal storage.
- Fund raising: Table Top sale 18 May and re-opening of Albourne Arms on Sunday 30 June. Helpers were needed.

EM thanked the Management Committee, Jenny Gratton (booking clerk and treasurer), Gwyn Price for his help with the new lease, the Parish Clerk for work on the Licence and Grant, Mick Gratton and Cliff Emery for help on the works specification, and Cliff Emery also for his work on the tender documents and liaising with builders.

6. (Any reports from MSDC Councillor Sue Seward and WSCC Councillor Peter Griffiths). The Councillors gave their reports, and summarised the issues over the last year. These are referred to in previous minutes of Albourne Parish Council.

7. (Questions and issues raised from the floor)

To Claire Tester on the District Plan:

Q. Does MSDC have a plan B if Inspector rejects Mid Sussex housing number of 10,600?

Response: Safety valve is the 2000 new houses from parishes as this could be greater, but no Plan B for 10,600.

Q. Current requirement in National Plan to have 30% social housing for any new housing development of 15 or more houses.

Response: District Plan will require social housing where 4 or more houses being built. If less than 4 a financial payment will be required.

Q. Will duty to cooperate end up being a judicial decision?

Response: Yes, likely to be several court cases.

Member of public comment: Crawley has large amounts of unused office-space this should be taken into account in any duty to co-operate discussions as it could be used for housing.

Other questions/comments:

The public footpath from Spring Cottage to the School – difficulty of access because of the state of the footpath.

Damage to verges by builders on Church Lane.

Parking along the road to Hurstpierpoint between the allotments and the former Picket and White site (Peter Griffiths commented that HPP & Sayers Common Parish Council was looking into this. It was noted that four businesses were operating from the site).

The possibility of introducing 20 mph speed limits in the Village.

It was noted that there was a County Local Committee (CLC) meeting coming up in June, where some of these issues could be discussed further.

8. (Chairman's concluding remarks) Meg Price thanked all those present for attending the meeting, and invited everyone to remain afterwards for some light refreshment and to talk with their Parish Councillors.

SIGNED:

Chairman of Albourne Parish Council

DATED:

2014