

# ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2017]

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## Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017, at 7.00 p.m.

*Present:* Cllr Meg Price (MP) - Chairman  
Cllr Graham Stafford (GS) – Vice Chairman  
Cllr Nikki Ernest (NE)  
Cllr Jerry Butler (JB)  
Cllr Di Howard (DH)

*In attendance:* Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk), Councillor Peter Griffiths (West Sussex County Council) and 4 members of the public (for parts or all of the meeting).

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- 1. (2017/013) – Councillor MP formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Heather Jordan and Nick Wergan, and Mid Sussex District Councillor John Allen.
  - 2. (2017/014) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared on this occasion.
  - 3. (2017/015) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** An issue of a broken footpath stile, which had been damaged as a result of a burglary to a nearby farm, was raised. It was noted that it was the responsibility of the land owner to repair. Pot holes were a problem, and everyone was encouraged to report pot holes on the County Council's "love my streets" page on their website. It was reported that there were more early morning lorry movements by grey, non-identified "grab" vehicles. It was unclear whose they were and where they were going. The matter needs further investigation.
  - 4. (2017/016) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 were duly approved and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman.
  - 5. (2017/017) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Peter Griffiths (PG), and MSDC Councillor John Allen (JA).** PG reported that he had attended a very useful meeting regarding the Barleycroft parking issue, involving Councillor MP, and representatives from MSDC. He said that the formation of a residents group to try and resolve the matter would be a helpful step. He will look at setting up the Big Society grant mechanism for the Group seeking a grant to fund any agreed works. Richard Speller (WSCC) will be contacting David Terry (MSDC) to take the matter

forward. It is possible for example, that the Group could lease the land from MSDC. On the HGV issue, he will be briefing his successor candidate for the WSCC elections in May. It was noted that Councillor NE has in fact already met with the candidate, Joy Dennis, to discuss this and other issues. He said that WSCC is looking at the breaches, but the definition is sometimes an issue. However, he said that where there are such breaches, WSCC often takes a too softly, softly approach. NE is also taking up with a local resident, John Drew, to see if he can help with the monitoring and recording issue. PG will pursue the grey lorry issue mentioned above, and see if they are connected with the Rampion project (laying cables for the wind farm). Councillor GS said that it would be an idea to do a leaflet drop to those residents mainly affected by the lorry movements to try and boost the monitoring, in addition to the article already on the website. PG said that WSCC's proposed budget for adult social care is inadequate. WSCC is making representations regarding NHS re-organisation. There is an increase in the council tax element for WSCC this year. He encouraged a village spring clean, through the Active Communities initiative. He referred to the education funding gap in West Sussex, and that all the local MPs are on board in seeking to obtain a £20m interim payment from a central Government pot. He reported that the level of the grant per student in West Sussex is very poor. School Ofsted reports are generally good, but some are overspending. On Rural broadband, he encouraged the Parish Council to invite a presentation to a future meeting from BT. PG will provide the details to the Clerk. He referred to the Leader project for funding for local businesses to look at ways of improving mobile phone coverage, and would provide details for the website. He referred to the next County Local Committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017, which would be the last one under the old structure. It is at the Martletts in Burgess Hill. Councillor GS raised an issue about litter accumulation at the Hickstead slip road, and it was noted that this is a Highways Agency issue. GS also raised the issue of the need to obtain a WSCC accredited contractor to install the new litter bin by the bus stop. PG said that he would chase up Richard Speller and ensure that the name of an approved contractor is provided. Finally PG wondered whether white lines on roads (which do not need a Traffic Regulation Order) could be a way of helping car parking issues in Albourne generally. These can be effective, and said that the Council could tap into Burgess Hill Town Council who have a contract to do white lining on roads.

## 6. (2017/018) – Planning matters.

6.1 Four planning applications were 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/16/3864 The Oaks, Henfield Road	Demolition of adjoining store with proposed extension and conversion of an existing car barn into an annexe (amended plans received 12 December 2016).	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application, provided that a condition is applied to ensure that the building can only be used and occupied by the owners of the main dwelling (The Oaks), and cannot be used as a separate dwelling.

DM/16/5643 2 Barleycroft	Proposed rear extension.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.
DM/17/0007 High Cross Farm, Henfield Road	New building to re-establish the previously approved application of the erection of a two storey office building under reference 13/03012/FUL.	Albourne Parish Council objects to this application. It seems to be the exactly the same as application DM/16/2499, which was refused by MSDC. The Parish Council's comments made to the earlier application therefore apply to this one. It is outside the built area of the site and therefore conflicts with policies ALC1 and ALE1 of the Albourne Neighbourhood Plan, and also E7 of the Mid Sussex Local Plan 2004. It is noted that the applicant has included a very vague letter of intent from a business for this new building. However, similar letters were submitted to justify an earlier application on the site for an agricultural building. The companies requesting the space never occupied the buildings, and so this type of letter cannot be considered to be any evidence of need or commitment.
DM/16/4169 Land east of Truslers Hill Lane, Truslers Hill Lane	Retrospective application for external alterations to barn previously approved under reference 10/1343/FUL	Albourne Parish Council has no objection to the alterations to the barn. However, we would like the same conditions to be in place as for the original application DM/10/1343, but with condition 7 reworded to say 'Any agricultural vehicles or machinery and any equestrian equipment shall be stored within the building when not in use'. We would also ask that any non agricultural/equestrian objects such as caravans and children's play equipment be removed from the site. Finally, we note that the land on this site adjacent to the entrance to Albourne Place and the public footpath, which has been hard-cored and seems to have a membrane laid, does not seem

		to have been included in this planning application. We would request clarification as to whether planning permission is required for these works and proposed usage.
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6.2 On current planning and planning enforcement matters, it was reported that DM/16/5184 (Gretta Gate) had been approved by MSDC, DM/16/3922 (Leyfield) likewise, also DM/16/0471 (Grange View) application approved in part. DM/16/5406 and DM/16/5408 (Priestfield Barn) had been approved by MSDC. On DM/16/4516 (Kings Head Stud), NE had attended the MSDC Planning Committee meeting to speak against the application, but it was approved by the Committee by 6 votes to 3. It was hoped that the application might be called in by the Secretary of State in view of the Neighbourhood Plan implications. It was noted that Councillor John Allen had not been able to represent the Parish Council due to his conflict of interest, but that Councillor Colin Trumble agreed to do so, and spoke against the application. It was agreed that the Clerk should write formally to Councillor Trumble in order to express the Parish Council's thanks. The Clerk mentioned that he was waiting for updates from MSDC on three enforcement matters, and that he would update Councillors by email as soon as received.

6.3 On the progress of the District Plan, NE reported that there were further examination hearings on the housing issues at MSDC on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017, which she would be attending. These were looking at the accuracy of MSDC's housing sites document in terms of environmental and infrastructure constraints. It was noted that the Inspector would be issuing his interim findings on the objectively assessed housing need, and numbers by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017. It was also noted that the hearings into other Plan policies would begin on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

## 7. (2017/019) – Finance report and matters.

7.1 The financial summary and the Bank reconciliation for the month, were received, noted, and approved.

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

AMOUNT	PROCUREMENT	PAYEE
£42-92	Payroll admin support 01.10.16 – 31.03.17	West Sussex County Council
£20-13	Operation Watershed expenses (stationery)	Graham Stafford
£610-20	New waste disposal bin	Glasdon UK Limited
£445-03	Clerk's salary + on costs (December 2016)	West Sussex County Council
£1,542-00	Defibrillator for Village Hall	Cardiac Science Ltd
£375-00	Work to allotment hedge	G D Truran

8. (2017/020) – Operation Watershed. Councillor GS said that there had been some emails from Sue Furlong at WSCC raising a number of issues, but that in the main the various

applications were in order, and that the project was slowly coming together. A land owner's consent form from the Albourne Equestrian Centre is needed for the Oaks application, and GS and MP would be arranging a visit shortly. GS said that he thought that good, but steady progress is being made.

**9. (2017/021) – Car parking at Barleycroft.** There was nothing to add to the report and discussion given above in minute 2017/17.

**10. (2017/022) – Current issues.** (i) On traffic issues, these had been discussed in the context of PG's report above, (ii) the signage issue is still ongoing, on (iii) the new waste bin issue – as above, this is ready for installation subject to the WSCC issue, (iv) the defibrillator for the Village has arrived, and the location discussed and agreed. It will be on the side of Village Hall. The existing power supply can be tapped into. SEECAM training will be needed once installed. The Parish Council then needs to consider how to publicise it, e.g. to residents and local businesses. There could be a stall at the annual Flower Show, there could be a leaflet drop, it will go on the website, and could be raised at the Annual Parish meeting for electors in May, (v) on the new Millennium Garden bench, the Clerk will liaise with the Gratton family about the idea of ordering and paying for the bench directly, in view of the VAT reclaim possibility.

**11. (2017/023) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters.** DH referred to the incorrect laying of the new hedge plants along the footpath by the Hall and Barn Close, and that the work is not complete. MSDC has said that it will be sorting this out. GS referred to the need to site the post marking the boundary of WSCC's "amenity" land in the Street, by Hackhurst. The Clerk will take this up with Richard Speller. MP mentioned that she had spoken with the Golf Club about the light pollution issue from the golf range, and they have agreed to ask their designers to relook at the design, and see if something can be done to reduce the problem. She noted that the grant application to MSDC for the climbing frame in the playground looks as though it will be successful. She mentioned the 3 tier MSALC Local Government conference on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017, if anyone was able to go. Finally, she mentioned that she would be stepping down from the Parish Council in May, after the Annual Parish meeting of electors. Thought would need to be given to finding a new Parish Councillor to serve. NE confirmed that Joy Dennis would be coming to the meeting in March (7<sup>th</sup>). As above, she has already met with the candidate, and raised a number of issues, e.g. Olus, A23 noise problem, Mayfields Market Town, WSCC's spending priorities, and value for money.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

SIGNED.....Meg Price/Graham Stafford  
Chairman/Vice Chairman

***NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017 @ 7.00 p.m.***