

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2023]

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 7th February, 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Graham Stafford (GS) – Chairman
Cllr Jerry Butler (JB) – Vice Chairman
Cllr Di Smith (DS)
Cllr Joy Parks (JP)
Cllr John Drew (JD)
Cllr Suzanne Sawyer (SS)
Cllr Geoff Zeidler (GZ)

In attendance: Iain McLean; Parish Council Clerk (via remote means), Councillor Kristy Adams (MSDC), Phil Harvey from Fluid Ideas, and a consultant from MPC (via remote means) (for item 11.ii), and three members of the public.

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- 1. (2023/010) - Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC) had sent apologies for absence.
 - 2. (2023/011) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared on this occasion.
 - 3. (2023/012) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** The problem of the School parking in the Street was raised, and the Parish Council was urged to support the measures recently put forward by a resident. There is a separate item later on the Agenda for discussion on this matter.
 - 4. (2023/013) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd January 2023 were duly approved and will be signed off, as a true record, by the Chairman as soon as possible.
 - 5. (2023/014) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Kristy Adams (KA).** Cllr KA gave her report. The main points included (i) a considerable investment by MSDC in Parks' improvements, (ii) figures on the delivery of affordable housing in the District, (iii) the installation of 60 electric vehicle charging points across the District, (iv) the proposed extension of the Bluebell railway, (v) an update on rough sleepers, (vi) training for Councillors on the needs of veterans, (vii) input to the Government's consultation on the proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and the issue of the planning constraints in

Mid Sussex, (viii) an update on the dog bins issue, and the fact that the portfolio holder at MSDC, Councillor John Belsey, is looking at the issue of increasing the dog waste collection capacity.

6. (2023/015) – Planning matters.

6.1 Two 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
AE/DM/22/3044 - Lanehurst Lane, Twineham	Replacement garage and workshop building (amended plans 23.12.2022 and amended description). 04.01.2023)	Albourne Parish Council has no particular opinion on this application, but would wish to support the comments of the adjoining owner, and would hope that these can be addressed in the decision making process.
SDNP/23/00234/CND - Eastwood Farm, Shaves Wood Lane	Removal of Condition 4 (Agricultural Tie) relating to Mid Sussex DC planning approval AE/009/86	Whilst noting that a Lawful Development Certificate has since been obtained, Albourne Parish Council has no particular comments on this application, subject to the applicants being able to prove to the satisfaction of the Authority, the justification and reasoning for removing the restrictive covenant, and we assume that in respect of the various applications, this has been the case.

6.2 The only thing to report relates to the re-submitted application for the Traffic Regulation Order under the Parish Council's Traffic Management Scheme. The Parish Council needs to be updated on who the new contact will be, once Richard Speller has left WSCC, where the application is on the list, and when is it likely to be decided. The Clerk will write to Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC) accordingly.

6.3 Cllr GZ has sent a letter (as copied to members) to Mims Davies MP, and to MSDC, regarding the consultation on the Government's Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. This sets out a concern about the proposed calculation of housing numbers. The issue has particular relevance to the ongoing review of the District Plan. There is a meeting of the inter Parishes Group on 20th February to be held by zoom. One of the points will be the overlap of Horsham DC's District Plan with Mid Sussex's, although their review remains delayed. It was noted that the Government's proposals include giving more weight to up-to-date Neighbourhood Plans, and the Parish Council will need to give consideration on how best to carry forward the review of its own Neighbourhood Plan, and the appropriate timetable for this.

6.4. There was nothing further to report. However, it was noted that a response has been promised as to the enforcement issues at the Equestrian Centre issue, but nothing has come in yet.

7. (2023/016) – 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 (January 2023)	West Sussex County Council

8. (2023/017) – School Parking. After discussion, the Parish Council **AGREED** to support the proposals put forward by a resident to extend the zigzag markings, and to put yellow lines over the drop down kerb where the safer routes to school footpath meets the road. There also needs to be consideration of how to prevent people parking across drives and access-ways in Barn Close. The School also needs to be engaged, as parent education might be part of the answer, and all these points will be taken up with WSCC Highways. The problem will also be raised at the forthcoming police beat surgery in the Village Hall. As part of the discussion, the latest situation on the fence alongside the safer routes to school was raised, and the email from WSCC setting out the example of the proposed replacement fence was discussed. Although there were some reservations about the aesthetic look of the fence, it was **AGREED** that the fence was robust, and would provide the necessary safety for users of the footpath. The Clerk will respond accordingly.

9. (2023/018) – Action Plan. It was noted that Action in Rural Sussex had offered to help with the project, but it was generally thought that a formal plan might be too ambitious. However, it would be sensible for the Parish Council to set out some priorities over a future period, and to allocate specific funds towards them. This would help focus the work over the Parish Council, and help it to be less reactive to problems and issues. Additionally, it would also ensure that the Parish Council's overall reserves and funding would be more focussed. The Clerk will therefore take this forward.

10. (2023/019) – Report from Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr JB reported on the meeting held on 31st January 2023. The main points concerned the ongoing preparations for the Coronation of King Charles III, the proposed redecoration of parts of the internal areas of the Hall, the completion of the electrical work in the Hall, the continuing success of the Albourne Arms pub on Friday nights, the fact that bookings continue to pick up well, confirmation of the upcoming Police beat surgery in the Hall on the 26th February, and the defibrillator refresher training being carried out by John Parks for Councillors on 10th February. Full draft minutes are available, and will be published shortly.

11. (2023/020) – Current issues. (i) On the issue of the depleted winter salt/grit bins in the Parish, the unhelpful stance of WSCC, in that they will not top up bins even after extreme

winter weather, needs to be taken up with Councillor Joy Dennis, and in the meantime Cllr GS will look into how best this could be done by the Parish, in terms of collecting supplies from the depot and re-filling the bins directly. The Clerk confirmed that there is a winter maintenance budget for any reasonable costs (ii) the naming of the Retirement Village development, and internal roads, in the light of an email from Phil Harvey dated 31/01/2023 was discussed. Phil outlined his thinking and research on the matter. He said that there would be one main access road into the development, with six off shoots leading to the twenty blocks. Councillors generally thought that it would be appropriate to use the name of the former garden nursery, Hazeldens, and perhaps the names of some plants and flowers there. However, it was agreed that there would be a separate discussion/meeting about this in order to take the matter forward. Before then, Phil will send the Clerk a copy of the background document he had prepared, as it had not been possible to share it on the zoom platform.

12. (2023/021) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Cllr DS mentioned an issue of some ownership of land, which had been raised with her, in terms of its development potential, but it was noted that although it was outside the built up area boundary, it was not a Parish Council matter. Cllr JP raised the problem of two areas, where there is overhanging hedges obstructing the footpaths. Work needs to be done before the bird nesting season. The Clerk and Councillor GS will take these concerns up with WSCC. She mentioned the fact that the outside areas of the Village Hall needed tidying up, and it was **AGREED** that she would ask Brian in the Village to quote for removing the accumulated rubbish. The Clerk will deal with the ongoing issue of the blown down boundary fencing still lying on the VH ground. Finally, she mentioned the idea of informing residents about what the Parish Council does for the Village in a brief bulletin style communication, as residents may not know of the work on the Council, and so it was agreed that this could be posted on the Albourne Connected forum. Cllr GZ mentioned the issue of what is happening to the VH garage, and Cllr JB confirmed that the VH Management Committee had decided that it should in due course be emptied out and demolished. He also mentioned that the Church was organising an Apple Day in September, and would want to engage the support of the Parish Council as appropriate. Cllr JB mentioned that he proposed to cancel the current zoom License in his name, as he would not be standing for election in May, and that it was therefore more appropriate for the License to be in the name of the Parish Council. The Clerk will look into renewing it on that basis. He noted that some speed loops had been put down at Truslers Hill Lane and Shaves Wood Lane, but no one knew why this was. Cllr GS then also stated that he would not be standing for election as a Parish Councillor at the elections in May either.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 7th MARCH 2023 @ 7.00 p.m.