

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2024]

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 6th February 2024 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr John Drew (JD) – Chairman
Cllr Joy Parks (JP) – Vice Chairman
Cllr Di Smith (DS)
Cllr Suzanne Sawyer (SS)
Cllr Shane Axtell (SA)

In attendance: Iain McLean; Parish Council Clerk (via remote means), Councillor John Spencer (via remote means), and 4 members of the public.

- 1. (2024/012) - Councillor JD formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Apologies had been received from Councillor Imelda Spencer, and the reason accepted. Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC), and Councillor Geoff Zeidler (MSDC) had also sent apologies.
- 2. (2024/013) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared on this occasion.
- 3. (2024/014) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** A representative from WILD confirmed that there will be a public meeting on 8th February to discuss the Sayers Village proposal in Sayers Common Village Hall. There will be a good range of speakers including Cllr JD. People are encouraged to respond to the Regulation 19 consultation on the draft District Plan, (the deadline is 23rd February), and there is a good explanation of how to do this on the WILD website. Cllr JS noted that the 300 flyers sent out had produced 9 responses on flooding and drainage. Traffic and transport concerns will also need to be set out. Advice is The Parish Council has instructed a consultant to compile a report to help on the Parish Councils' own response to Regulation 19. It was noted that the Horsham Plan is also going through consultation, and the duty to co-operate, in terms of meeting the unmet need of neighbouring Authorities, will be a common issue. Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common are also finalising their response, and the two Parishes, along with Twineham Parish Council, are in regular touch about the common issues that the development proposal has highlighted.
- 4. (2024/015) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th January 2024 were duly approved and will be signed off, as a true record, by the Chairman as soon as possible.

5. (2024/016) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (**JD**), and MSDC Councillor Geoff Zeidler (**GZ**). There were no reports as neither Councillor was present. However, GZ had circulated his monthly report and update.

6. (2024/017) – Planning and traffic matters.

6.1 Three 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/24/0135 - Finches, The Street	3 Yew trees - one on the corner of Northern boundary and the street, one 15 meters West of the street along Northern boundary, and one midway along Northern boundary with Bounty Cottage.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.
DM/24/0183 - Truslers Well, Truslers Hill Lane	To use an existing incidental building (approved under application DM/23/1341) as an ancillary residential building. This is an application to establish whether the development is lawful. This will be a legal decision where the planning merits of the proposed use cannot be taken into account. (Further revised application made with deadline for comments extended to 23.02.24)	Albourne Parish Council notes that this will be a legal decision only, and that permitted development rights do not appear to allow planning objections to the application. However, we are concerned that the building is capable of eventually becoming separate (i.e. not ancillary) to the main residence. Indeed, it is proposed to have a separate address for the building. Whilst therefore our ability to object may be limited in these circumstances, we think that a condition should be attached to any further Certificate that requires the new dwelling to remain ancillary to the main house.
DM/24/0219 - Souches, The Street	Conifer T1 - Removal of 4 lowest limbs (Tree work in a Conservation Area.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.

6.2 Cllr JD reported that the meeting with Adam Denby (WSCC) in order to discuss the various highway and traffic issues (including the progress of the Traffic Regulation Order) had been postponed and is currently being re-arranged. There is therefore no progress to report at the present time. Cllr JS reported that the recent traffic survey on the B2116 westbound (during the morning rush hour) had shown that of 92 vehicles one had been speeding, although the Speed Indication Device had been active at the time.

6.3 (i) Issues around the draft District Plan had been covered as above, (ii) the Parish Council's Regulation 19 response is in the course of preparation, and will be submitted soon, (iii) on the appeal regarding planning application DM/23/0881 (storage of vehicle) for the

Albourne Equestrian Centre, Melrose Farm, Henfield Road (which was refused by MSDC in 2023) it was felt that the Parish Council's original response had been full and robust, and that no further input was needed at the present time, (iv) the decision taken under delegated authority on the grounds of urgency, to appoint Charles Townsend to advise on the Parish Council's response to the regulation 19 consultation was noted for the record.

7. (2024/018) – 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
£577-45	Clerk's salary + on costs (January)	West Sussex County Council
£60-00	Planning application training - Cllr John Spencer	Mulberry & Co

8. (2024/019) – Current issues. Cllr JD went through the rolling list of actions that had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, and this is attached for the record. The issue of the Village sign was raised, and the need to refurbish it. It needs to be decided what needs to be done with it (possible rust removal/repainting), and it may need a new pole. The sign may need to be taken down in order to properly assess its condition. It was therefore agreed that Cllr SS would lead on the issue, and feedback should be sent to her. Cllr SS said that the gate at the School end of the Millennium Garden was still being left open, and this needs to be taken up with the School. It was noted that it is used as a route to the School. The issue of potholes was discussed, and people need to be encouraged to report these directly to the dedicated WSCC website. A link will be put on Albourne Connected. Cllr DS mentioned the issue of the Chairs and Clerks board. This needs updating, and putting back up in the Village Hall. Former Councillor Graham Stafford will be consulted. She also referred to the re-wilding area in the Recreation Ground. It was felt that this might be better located on the Barleycroft Green. The Clerk will pursue this with MSDC. Cllr SA is looking at the responses on the flooding issues in the Parish, with a view to seeing what could be done under Operation Watershed. He is also making progress on the separate dedicated email address for Councillors, along with Dan Smith. Cllr JP asked the Clerk to chase up (i) the new goalposts for the Recreation Ground, (ii) the fly-tipping in the Recreation Ground, which is still there despite having been previously reported, and (iii) the clearing up of the traffic signs and items on the B2118 following completion of the works at the traffic lights (some items have been removed, but others still remain). The Hunters Mead hedge gap issue is now with MSDC, and the Council is waiting to be further advised as to what they propose to do about it. Cllr JD and SA referred to the state of the grit/salt bins, and that these need to be checked with a view to having them filled. Other points were that the Clerk will check the progress of the streetlights work now agreed, and it was noted that that the issue of the Pound weed and bramble clearance has been dealt with. This will be carried out twice a year at the same time as the routine work in the Millennium Garden is done. The voice alarm problem at the new development (at Wellcroft Green), which goes off when people are merely using the nearby footpath, has been reported to Inspired Villages.

9. (2024/020) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. There were none, as any such matters had been raised in the context of the above.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

SIGNED.....John Drew/Joy Parks
Chairman/Vice Chairman

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 5th MARCH 2024 @ 7.00 p.m.