

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2019]

Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 8th January 2018, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr Graham Stafford (GS) – Chairman
Cllr Nikki Ernest (NE)
Cllr Jerry Butler (JB) – Vice Chairman
Cllr Suzi Sawyer (SS)
Cllr Heather Jordan (HJ)
Cllr Di Smith (DS)

In attendance: Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk), Councillor Joy Dennis (JD) (WSCC), Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (JLB) (MSDC) and 3 members of the public (for all or parts of the meeting).

1. **(2019/001) – Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** An apology for absence was received from Councillor John Drew, and the reason accepted.
2. **(2019/002) – Declarations of interest.** There were none on this occasion.
3. **(2019/003) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** (i) The dog waste bin (no 341) nearest the Village Hall is overflowing. JLB will ask officers to deal with, (ii) the issues have returned with regard to the MSDC open land at Hunters Mead, e.g. the goalposts are back, and there is a breach in the hedge being caused by unofficial use and short cuts. JLB will also report this to officers, so that the land can be properly monitored and controlled, (iii) there is a hole in the hedge behind the bus stop on the B2118. This could be due to anti-social activity, which is being investigated by the police, but it has at least stopped for now, (iv) the mesh fencing around the play area in the Recreation Ground is broken. The post has rotted. JLB will also pursue this with officers.
4. **(2019/004) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th December 2018 were duly approved and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman.
5. **(2019/005) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (JLB).** (i) JD reminded the

meeting that Church Lane is closed this week for highway works. Diversions are an issue in the light of multiple road closures at the moment (i.e. Reeds Lane and Twineham Lane), and this needs to improve in the future. She will be meeting with Councillor John Drew to discuss the proposed Community Highways Scheme for the mitigation measures set out in his report (see further below). JD reported that the latest Operation Watershed grant had been approved, but there is an issue about the additional element, as the estimated cost is now more than the grant. The Clerk and JD will get in touch with the officers to discuss this. WSCC is pressing the issue of ensuring that landowners are aware of their riparian responsibilities in terms of upkeep and maintenance of drains and ditches. The Gatwick expansion consultation is still ongoing (GATCON). JD reported that a new Sixth Form College had been approved in Haywards Heath to replace the one that had closed. Chichester College is the new provider, and it will have a particular focus on academic and technical studies. NE asked about the planning appeal for the new waste incinerator in Horsham, which had been refused, and whether this was within WSCC's strategy, since it remains unclear what the strategy is. It was noted that following a recent road traffic accident, the bent/damaged road sign still needs correcting, but the railings have been done, (ii) JLB said that on GATCOM, MSDC had asked for more evidence from the Airport for their proposals before deciding on its final response. A further planning application for the former nursery site at Hazeldens could be expected. It was noted however, that a similar application for a Care Home at Bolney had been refused. The Hunters Mead issues (see above) could be addressed in the Open Spaces and Parks survey being undertaken by MSDC. It was agreed that the "no ball games" sign needed to be replaced. DS will let JLB know about an overgrown footpath issue (the ongoing one near Butts Cottages on the B2118) so that MSDC could look at the land owning issue again. There is also a possible fly tipping issue to be pooled at, where a whole pile of earth has been "dumped" on the "no man's" land. Finally, it was noted that MSDC is currently in its budget setting round for the next financial year 2019/20.

6. (2019/006) – Planning 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
AE/DM/18/4818 Kings Cottage, London Road	Replacement single storey rear extension.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.
AE/DM/18/4868 Sandpit Cottage, London Road	Proposed removal of existing porch and replace with a bespoke timber and single glazed porch.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.
AE/DM/18/4973 2, Greenmead, Henfield Road	Demolition of existing conservatory with single storey rear extension. New external door to front porch in addition to timber frame pergola.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.

6.2 On the traffic issue, Councillor JD's draft statement "Community Application for a New Highway Scheme" had been circulated to members. These contain proposals for highway mitigation measures, to try and resolve some of Albourne's traffic management issues. These proposals need to be put to Richard Speller (WSCC), but after discussion, the general feeling was that they will need to be prioritised, as not everything will be achievable. Therefore, it was **AGREED** that Councillor Drew be asked to look at this with a view to scoring each item. The issue of whether or not to pursue the possibility of having Village Gateway signs also needs to be resolved. There are mixed views on whether or not they work, and so some guidance will be necessary. On the issue of the complaint to WSCC about how previous planning applications at Firland have been handled (see previous minutes regarding the position of the Local Government Ombudsman) there is a meeting coming up of the volunteers who have agreed to take this forward as individuals, so that hopefully further progress can be made.

6.3 On current planning and planning enforcement matters, Councillor NE reported that DM/18/4701 (Bishops Place) had not yet been decided by MSDC. DM/18/4593 (Q Leisure) had been approved. DM/18/4558 (Softech House) had been refused, since it was thought that a full application would be necessary. DM/18/4487 (Albourne Farm, Shaves Wood Lane) had been approved – see previous minutes for further details of all these applications. The application for the floodlighting at the Equestrian Centre has still not been resolved, but this is likely to be decided in mid February. It was noted that the lights had been on today, and it was believed that the nature of the operation at the Centre had changed. The position needs to be kept under review pending the planning decision.

7. (2019/007) – Finance report and matters.

7.1. The financial summary and the Bank reconciliation for the month, were received, noted, and approved. The Bank balance remains quite healthy, and the year-end balance is likely to be about £35,000 in credit.

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 (December 2018)	West Sussex County Council

7.3 The proposed budget for the financial year 2019/20 was presented. This showed a slight reduction in the budget from the current year (i.e. down from £31,960 to £30,060), due mainly to the fact that playground project had now been completed. GS suggested that the street light electricity budget needed to go up slightly, and that the proposed budget for the possibility of formal elections in May (if more than seven candidates stand), also needed to be reviewed. Subject to clarification on those two issues, it was **RESOLVED** to agree the budget.

7.4 In the light of the budget, and after discussion about whether the precept for 2019/20 should be raised, given the possibility of some new projects coming up (tree planting, village gateway signs), it was **RESOLVED** to keep the precept at the same level as for this year, .i.e.

£15,022. It was noted that there should still be money to fund possible projects, especially since some of them could be long term.

8. (2019/008) – Current issues. On the marking out, and replanting, of the “Common Copse” land (see previous minutes), GS reported that a new plan had been provided to him from Richard Speller (RS) measuring out the area, and giving a fencing requirement to physically demarcate the area in question. This could be done from some left over fencing that GS has, but it would be necessary to appoint a contractor to do the work. However, it was agreed that it would be very important to first ensure that the adjoining land owner was happy with the plan and proposals, and so the Clerk should write urgently to RS requesting that this be done directly by RS, with the appropriate confirmation back to the Parish Council. The matter needs to be resolved for future owners, and so that the Parish Council can proceed with the replanting proposal under the license from WSCC.

9. (2019/009) – Operation Watershed (OW). This was discussed under minute 2019/005 above.

10. (2019/010) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. HJ mentioned the recent email correspondence regarding the destruction (again) of a footpath kissing gate by thieves attempting to gain access to some storage barns. This has been reported to the appropriate authorities, but it was not yet clear whether the gate would be replaced by the owner, and if so, with what, given that it would need to be more robust. DS wondered what had happened to the Silent Soldier. It was currently being stored by GS pending it hopefully being relocated to the Church. He has been in touch with the Parochial Church Council but is still awaiting a response. NE said that as Geoff Zeidler is on the Committee, she would check with him at a forthcoming meeting. GS noted that the current traffic issues are in certain areas impacting on the saleability of houses in Albourne. NE mentioned a newspaper article about some Care Home providers seeking exorbitant cuts on the re-sales of the units provided. It is believed that the Government is to look into this practice.

The meeting closed at 8.34 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 5th FEBRUARY 2019 @ 7.00 p.m.