

# ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2017]

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## Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017, at 7.00 p.m.

*Present:* Cllr Meg Price (MP) - Chairman  
Cllr Graham Stafford (GS) – Vice Chairman  
Cllr Nikki Ernest (NE)  
Cllr Heather Jordan (HJ)  
Cllr Di Howard (DH)  
Cllr Nick Wergan (NW) (until 8.00 p.m.)

*In attendance:* Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk), and 3 members of the public (for parts or all of the meeting).

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- 1. (2017/001) – Councillor MP formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Jerry Butler, and Mid Sussex District Councillor John Allen.
- 2. (2017/002 – Declarations of interest.** GS declared a personal interest (of a minor nature) in the planning items DM/16/5406 and 5408 as he lives near to the property in question. NE declared a personal interest (of a minor nature) in the planning items DM/16/5406 and 5408, and also DM/16/5184 as she lives in both cases, near to the properties in question.
- 3. (2017/003 – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** There were no matters raised on this occasion.
- 4. (2017/004) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 were duly approved and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman.
- 5. (2017/005) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Peter Griffiths (PG), and MSDC Councillor John Allen (JA).** There were no reports as neither Councillor was present.
- 6. (2017/006) – Planning matters.**

6.1 Five 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
Gretta Gate, Henfield Road DM/16/5184	Two storey extension to west of detached dwelling and entrance porch linking to existing coach house with a modified driveway to link existing gated access points. (This is an alternative submission of permitted application DM/16/0893).	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application, but requests a condition that construction and/or delivery lorries and vehicles must not be allowed to park in the lane, and that suitable on site provision should therefore be made.
1 Barn Close DM/16/5246	Single storey extension to front of two storey end of terrace house. To extend kitchen rebuild porch and convert store (part of garage) into utility room.	Albourne Parish Council is disappointed to note that the works related to this application were started prior to the application being decided. However, we have no objections. Given the history though, we would ask that MSDC Building Regulations ensure the all building regulations are adhered to, and that no damage is caused to the attached neighbouring dwelling by any of these works.
Priestfield Barn, Henfield Road DM/16/5406	Retention of eleven 7.2m x 5.7m timber clad livestock buildings forming East block.	Albourne Parish Council does have some concerns with regard to this application. We note that the proposal represents a significant intensification of the use of the site (the breeding and raising of over 50,000 birds per year). The Parish Council also has an issue about the increase in size, both in terms of the footprint and height of the ancillary structures. It seems that a large amount of chalk has been imported onto the site in order to raise the levels, and it is important that the sheds are not too prominent and intrusive, in terms of the effect on neighbouring properties and the surrounding countryside. We also support the concerns of the agricultural consultant as set out in his report, in terms of the intensification and nature of the agricultural use of the site. The concern is that the pheasants could be bred for sale to industry - i.e. shooting - rather than for meat. Such industrial use should be exempted, and strict conditions should be applied in any approval, in order to restrict the activities to

		agricultural use. The Parish Council has also raised previous concerns about the burning of carcasses on the land, and the environmental impact that this has on surrounding land. Any consent should include appropriate conditions to prevent this, and we note that this position is also supported by the environmental concerns raised by the consultant's report. Overall, the Parish Council cannot support the application in its current, uncertain form.
Priestfield Barn, Henfield Road DM/16/5408	Retention of eleven 7.2m x 5.7m timber clad livestock buildings forming West block.	Ditto
4 Oakwell DM/16/5557	Single storey rear extension.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application. However, there is public footpath which runs adjacent to the site, and given the scale of the plans, we note that the impact of the proposed extension on this public right of way is unclear. Obviously the line and appropriate width of the public footpath would need to be maintained, and we would urge that West Sussex County Council as the highway Authority, are consulted and kept informed.

Note: In view of NE's declaration of interest above, NW led on applications DM/16/5406 and 5408, and HJ led on application DM/16/5184.

6.2 On current planning and planning enforcement matters, NE and the Clerk updated the Council on various matters. It was noted that the application at Magnolia Court had been approved, there is believed to be a revised application coming in for the Oaks, there are further District Plan examination hearings at MSDC into the housing numbers aspect of the Plan, on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017, which NE (and the Clerk will be attending). NE has been invited to attend an upcoming LAMBS meeting. The Firsland Industrial Estate lorry movements issue remains ongoing (see previous minutes), and NE is still chasing up the outstanding issues.

## **7. (2017/007) – 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
£410-63	Clerk's salary + on costs (November 2016)	West Sussex County Council
£75-00 (s.137 expenditure)	Agreed donation for works carried out to local footpath	The Monday Group

7.3 On the proposed budget for the financial year 2017/18, NW raised an issue about the possible need to budget, if not now in the future, for upgrading the Parish Council's website. The usage of the website needed to be determined, before any firm decisions could be made, and the Clerk will make some enquiries. NW also said that he would try and look at some comparison sites. In the meantime, the budget was received, noted and approved. The overall budget was therefore agreed and set at £18,410.

7.4 It was noted that the tax base for the financial year 2017/18 had increased very marginally, but is was **RESOLVED to keep the precept the same as for the current year at £ 15,022**, and the Clerk was authorised to respond to Mid Sussex District Council accordingly. Individual bills for the precept amount in Council tax bills should reduce very fractionally.

**8 (2017/008) – Operation Watershed.** Councillor GS said that he is slowly making progress with WSCC. There was a delay in WSCC receiving the revised application forms as signed off by Councillor Peter Griffiths, as they had been mislaid in County Hall. Landbuild has sent in a quote on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016, and GS will circulate. The price for the Oakvale Cottages project is down to £4,800. There is no price yet in for the culverts near to NE's property along the Henfield Road. One of the contractors on WSCC's approved list is not responding to the request for a quote, but the Council does have the ones from Edburton and Landbuild, and so the hope is that WSCC will agree to proceed on the basis of those.

**9 (2017/009) – Children's play equipment for the Recreation Ground.** It was noted that the repainting of the current play equipment had been carried out by MSDC. The grant application for £5,000 to MSDC for the climbing frame has been finalised, now that MSDC officers have confirmed the specification and price. Under this item, it was also reported and noted that the replanting of the hedge along the footpath has not been completed, as MSDC has run out of replacement plants. This needs to be chased up with MSDC, since the area still remains therefore somewhat messy, although it is generally looking better than when the original conifer hedge was taken out.

**10. (2017/010) – Car parking at Barleycroft.** It was noted that MSDC had recently indicated that if no other solutions could be found, they would be writing to the residents to say that they would be erecting bollards around the green in order to protect it from parking. MSDC would like to have the Parish Council's support, but Members indicated that they were not particularly happy with this approach, because it could cause even more problems. It was felt that a further meeting with MSDC and WSCC (Councillor Peter Griffiths) to look at other compromise solutions would be necessary, and the Clerk was asked to arrange this as soon as possible. It was also noted that the road needed to be resurfaced, and this would need to be built into the equation.

**11. (2017/011) – Current issues.** (i) On traffic issues, these are still ongoing, but on the issue of the Freedom of Information Request on the tonnage of material being moved by

lorries to the two industrial sites (see previous minutes) the audit report had not yet been signed off, (ii) On the signs issue, GS has obtained some quotes for the removal of these, and the documents would need to be circulated and gone into. (iii) On the waste disposal bin for installation at the north bus stop (with the shelter), this has been ordered along with the appropriate ground fixing kit. (iv) On the cutting back of the allotment hedge, GS had duly obtained an alternative quote from a local contractor, and it was **AGREED** to go ahead at that price, (iv) On the possible purchase of a defibrillator, the order had been placed and delivery expected shortly. (v) on the Millennium Garden bench, the remains of the old bench had been removed, although the securing stake was still in place, but there is still no word from the Grattons as to what type of bench the replacement should be. The Clerk was therefore asked to look into this, with a view to presenting at least three choices for approval, along with the relevant prices (given also that the Parish Council has already agreed a contribution).

**12. (2017/012) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters.** HJ confirmed that the Millennium Garden hedge has now been cut back as per the recent request, and the WSCC owned tree in the Street has been reduced in accordance with recent correspondence between Jim Mellor and the Clerk. There is still uncertainty over the ownership of the Barleycroft hedge on the Street, and as this is still causing a danger to vehicles exiting the road, it was therefore **AGREED** to arrange to have the work done on a one off, without prejudice basis by the Parish Council at a reasonable cost. She also asked if there had been any progress with regard to re-letting the south allotment, but the Clerk confirmed that he had not as yet heard from the tenants. He had not chased the matter, pending the hedge being done, but that now it had been, he would contact the tenants again. In the meantime, HJ would be looking to mark out the allotment into the two halves, as previously agreed by Council. NW (through MP) had wanted a couple of fly tipping incidents raised but said that MSDC had been reacting quite speedily to the clear up needs. There was still a need for MSDC to provide the comparator information referred to in the minutes of the previous meeting. NE raised the issue referred to her by Mick Gratton of adopting and putting back the red telephone box as a village feature. However, it was agreed that this would need to be looked into in more detail. She also mentioned that she now had the contact details for the new Conservative prospective candidate for the WSCC elections in May, as Councillor Peter Griffiths is not standing. It is her intention to invite the candidate to the February meeting. GS mentioned an increase in local break-ins in the area, and felt that some sort of warning should be given to residents. It was agreed to put an item on the Community website newsletter. It was also noted that details had been provided to the police concerning a suspicious van that had been seen in the area.

The meeting closed at 8.26 p.m.

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

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