

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2021]

Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 5th January 2021, at 7.00 p.m.

held via zoom in view of the current restrictions on meetings in person.

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

In attendance: Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk)

1. **(2021/001) – Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** There were no apologies for absence.
2. **(2021/002) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared on this occasion.
3. **(2021/003) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** None had been raised prior to the meeting.
4. **(2021/004) – Approval of Minutes.** The notes of the Parish Council “meeting” held on 1st December 2020 were noted.
5. **(2021/005) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (JLB).** No reports on this occasion, given the need to test any technical issues arising from holding a zoom meeting. (The test was successful, and will be rolled out in full, for the next meeting in February).
6. **(2021/006) – Planning matters.**
 - 6.1 There were no planning applications to consider this cycle.

6.2 On Cllr JD's report, the Village Gateways signs have arrived, and await being painted and installed. However, as the weather is inclement at the moment, it is not advisable to paint them currently, as the temperature must be above 8 degrees for at least 8 hours for the paint to set, etc. This needs to be re-scheduled, when the weather improves. In the meantime, Cllr JD will contact MSDC to explain the delay, given the need to ensure that the s.106 monies earmarked for the project, are secure. The Speed Indication Device (SID) has been up and running since September, and has been located in three different locations. Roger Clifton-Moore has been downloading the information. The average speed is 31 mph, and the majority of traffic comes in under 35mph. The volume of traffic is down by a third which is to be expected regarding the current situation. The Parish Council would like to express its thanks and appreciation for the work carried out by Cllr John Drew and the team for managing the SID. Finally, it was noted that the redundant road signs are causing concern, in particular the large sign on the B2116 near the junction with the B2118, as it has started to collapse and it must be taken down. There is a liability concern if it caused damage to persons or property. JD therefore agreed to contact Nick de Souza at WSCC, with a copy to Cllr Joy Dennis, outlining its concerns with regard to the above sign, and also to ask about progress with regard to the Traffic Regulation Order submitted by the Parish Council.

6.3 On current planning applications, planning enforcement, and other strategic planning matters, (i) application DM/20/3796 for Hunters Cottage (Replacement of 3 x softwood single glazed windows with identical sized softwood double glazed units plus installation of split level air conditioning unit) has been approved by MSDC. DM/20/3375 for Webbers (Single storey extension to western elevation - revised plans received 02.11.2020) has been approved by MSDC. DM/20/20/4071 for 1 Gallop Mews (Row of Cupressus Leylandii (G1) - to be felled and roots removed by stump grinder, Leylandii to be replaced by Taxus Baccata (Yew), T1 - Prunus Laurocerasus to be felled to ground level) has been approved by MSDC. DM/20/4243 for Q Leisure, the Old Sand Pit (Variation of condition 2 of planning permission DM/18/4461 to amend wording of condition) has been approved by MSDC. (ii) Cllr NE reported that the planning enforcement matter at the Equestrian Centre regarding the storage of parked cars on the site was under investigation by MSDC, and further action is awaited. A further issue about a "permanent" stable block building being erected adjacent to the separate stable block, west of the main buildings, will also be reported. On the issue raised by Woodmancote Parish Council (WPC) regarding the area of land in Blackstone Lane north of Pear Tree Farm, which appears to have been turned into an urban type garden, being originally agricultural land, Albourne Parish Council confirmed that it is not aware of any issues, and so asked WPC to follow this up directly. There has not been any further communication since.

7. (2021/007) – 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 (December 2020)	West Sussex County Council
£32-36 *	Purchase of new shovels for the salt bins *	Graham Stafford reimbursement (Cheerful Bargains Limited) *
£570-45	Purchase of new APC dedicated lap-top for use by the Clerk	Jerry Butler reimbursement (Dell, and Currys PC World)

* Please note that as this matter was approved at the Parish Council's meeting on 3rd November 2020, this invoice has been already been paid, and is for the formal record only.

7.3 The proposed budget for the financial year 2021/22 was presented. This proposes no changes from the current budget (2020/21), which in total amounts to £30,610. On this basis it was **RESOLVED** to agree the budget as recommended.

7.4 In the light of the agreed budget, and after discussion about whether the precept for 2021/22 should be raised, it was **RESOLVED** to keep the precept at the same level as for the current year, i.e. £15,022. The Clerk will make the request to MSDC accordingly.

8. (2021/008) – Current issues. (i) Cllr JP reported that the clearance work on the overgrown footpath at Cutlers Brook, has still not been done, despite a number of reports to the Public Rights of Way (PROW) team at WSCC, and the situation is getting worse. Similarly, with regard to the issues concerning the concrete bridge south of Spurk Barn (footpath No 18AL-5). The Clerk is requested to write once again to PROW with a copy to Councillor Joy Dennis, and also to the landowner, whose responsibility this is. The question of enforcement powers was raised, and the Clerk later confirmed that WSCC do have these powers, if they choose to exercise them. Cllr JP also reported that the fly tipping issue in Church Lane is still ongoing, and frustration is growing at the problems in getting this resolved. On better news, she reported that the improved, replacement rubbish bin in the Street, and the new dog waste bin in Church Lane have both now been installed by Tim Smith. (ii) There has been some further anti-social activity in and around the Village Hall (mainly using the car park area) and a package of what appeared to be some drugs was found in the playground. The Village Hall Management Committee will look again at the issue of gating the site, although there are practical difficulties with regard to this, and the possibility of putting in some discrete lighting, and CCTV. (iii) The state of the fencing alongside the footpath at the Village Hall was raised by Councillor DS. This has been taken up on numerous occasions with officers at WSCC, and also Councillor Joy Dennis. The Clerk will have another go. (iv) On the demarcation fencing of the Common Copse land, the marking out of the site by WSCC is still awaited, and Councillor GS will chase Richard Speller at WSCC in order to progress this. It was thought a good time to get the work done, as the adjoining property is currently empty.

9. (2021/009) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Cllr NE reported that the recently consulted on Site Allocations Development Plan Document had now been submitted to the Planning inspectorate by MSDC for formal examination. This would be likely to take place in the late spring, or summer. Mayfield's and Croudace have both commented on the proposals, and it will be interesting to find out what they have said. Councillor SS

raised the issue of the state of the front garden of one of the properties in Hunters Mead, which has been covered in a variety of objects, and which looks a mess (fronting the Street). The Clerk will take this up with the Registered Social Landlord in order to see if anything can be done about this. She also raised the issue of the tree planting proposal on the triangle of land opposite Ernest Doe. It was noted that this would need the consent of the landowner (WSCC). It was felt that Rowan trees would be the most suitable option, and so this will be an ongoing project for the New Year. She also raised the issue of the accessibility of the Parish Council's website re the Councillors' area, and the Clerk will respond. Councillor JP reported that the concrete base for the new bench in the Millennium Garden still needs to be done, but it is too wet and cold at present. Councillor JB mentioned that under current restrictions, the Under 5s, and the after school club, were the only activities able to keep using the Village Hall, as the children of key workers. Councillor GS said that the recent flooding problems outside Ernest Doe on the B2118, and outside the Village Hall, and also at the end of Church Lane (on the corner) had all been reported to WSCC, and the relevant incident numbers obtained. He noted that the salt/grit bin in Church Lane had a faulty lid, and that the bin was full of water. He said that he would be prepared to drill some holes in the bin in order to drain the water away. Finally, it was noted that the Christmas tree recycling area at the Village Hall will be open until the 12th January 2021.

The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 2nd FEBRUARY 2021 @ 7.00 p.m.