

# ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2024]

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 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 Imelda Spencer (IS)  
Cllr Shane Axtell (SA)  
Cllr John Spencer (JS)

*In attendance:* Iain McLean; Parish Council Clerk (via remote means), Councillor Geoff Zeidler (MSDC) (from 7.30 p.m.), and 3 members of the public.

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- (2024/068) - Councillor JD formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** There were no apologies for absence on this occasion.
- (2024/069) – Declarations of interest.** Councillor DS declared a substantial, personal interest in the planning application below, as she has an interest in the subject property. Councillor JP also declared a personal interest in the subject property, as she is related to the applicant.
- (2024/070) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** (i) A brief update was given by WILD (Watchdog for Intrusive Local Development) regarding the Sayers Village proposal in the revised District Plan. The MSDC timetable has slipped, but it is anticipated that the Plan will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate later in the summer. A major challenge will be to the 20 minute neighbourhood plan idea, (ii) there are major road works planned in Sayers Common for August/September to re-line pipe work, (iii) the collapsed drains in Truslers Hill Lane have still not been dealt with, (iv) the overgrown vegetation at the High Cross triangle junction, which is a traffic hazard, needs trimming back.
- (2024/071) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were duly approved and will be signed off, as a true record, by the Chairman as soon as possible.

**5. (2024/072) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Geoff Zeidler (GZ).** Cllr GZ gave his report. The main points were (i) there had been good meeting with Southern Water regard the arrangements for the work mentioned in item 3 above, but the problem of the over generation of waste water is an issue. It also ties in to GZ’s work on planning conditions not being met, and therefore having consequential affects on neighbouring residents, (ii) the recent meeting with MSDC and Glendale regarding the upkeep of the Recreation Ground and other areas was referred to, and the items are being addressed, (iii) the concern around the planning consent for the Battery farm at Bolney was raised, but GZ said that many of the issues had been addressed and many safety features put in place, e.g. the Fire Service was now happy with the plan. The scheme is part of the drive for national infrastructure and the green agenda, (iv) the fly-tipping in the Street has been reported to MSDC by the Clerk, and GZ will chase this up if no action is taken soon, (v) the issue of the flooding at Oakvale Cottages, needs to be chased up, with GZ’s support if necessary, because not dealing with it until September (as in WSCC’s response) is not acceptable.

**6. (2024/073) – Planning matters.**

6.1 One planning application was considered, and the plans and relevant policies presented and discussed. It was therefore **RESOLVED to comment to MSDC as follows** – (with Cllr JS proposing and Cllr SS seconding)

<b>PROPERTY</b>	<b>PROPOSAL</b>	<b>AGREED RESPONSE</b>
DM/24/1231 – 9 Barn Close	Replacement of existing wooden shed in the back garden of the property with larger single storey wooden clad outbuilding.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.

(Note – Councillors DS and JP left the meeting for the duration of this item in accordance with their declarations of interest above, and took no part in the proceedings.)

6.2 Cllr JD confirmed that the complaint about the refusal of the Traffic Regulation Order by WSCC had been submitted to the appeal stage, and the result is awaited. There has been some progress on other issues. The zigzag lines at the School have been re-done and are now much clearer. If the speed reduction to 20 mph regarding the proximity of the School is ultimately rejected, the Parish Council will need to look at other measures to control traffic and parking, such as flashing lights. It was agreed that a meeting with the School would be the best way of addressing all these issues, including the ongoing problem of the need to secure the gate from the Millennium Garden to the School.

6.3. Issues relating to the progress of the District Plan and the Sayers Village proposal had been covered in other reports. On specific planning applications, the Clerk reported that application DM/24/0192 relating to the Equestrian Centre for the storage of vehicles (see previous minutes) had now been withdrawn. He confirmed that application SDNP/24/00510/FUL for the refurbishment of the existing pool terrace and pool building, new sauna and the development of an external spa garden and associated works at the Wickwoods Country Club and Spa had now been approved by the Parks Authority.

## 7. (2024/074) – 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 (June)	West Sussex County Council
£161-26	Website hosting and support (annual payment)	Vision ICT Limited
£25-00 *	Grass cutting at the Millennium Garden	Brian Truran
£25-12 *	New cable for SID machine	Reimbursement for John Parks

\* These invoices came in after publication of the summary, and were added at the meeting.

**8. (2024/075) – Current issues.** Cllr JD went through the rolling list of actions, and updated the document as necessary. This will be published separately. The Clerk will contact the website host and provider to take forward establishing dedicated, separate email address for Parish Councillors. It was agreed in principle to purchase a strimmer for the Millennium Garden (MG), and Brian Truran will be contacted to see what he would require. There is a litter issue in the MG, and this needs to be looked into. However, it was noted that this might detract from any proposal to have some picnic tables in the MG. The many reports of overgrown footpaths were noted, particularly on the B2118. Inspired Villages has recently updated the situation about the development at Wellcroft, and the search for a new builder, and this needs to be circulated to Councillors. Two estimates for the updating of the Chairs and Clerks board for the Village Hall have been received, and a third is awaited. Cllr JP will draft an item to put on Albourne Connected about encouraging Speed-watch volunteers to come forward. On the procurement of additional Silent Soldiers, it was **AGREED** (as proposed by Cllr JP and seconded by Cllr IS) to acquire both as a navy and RAF soldier. Cllr IS said that she would be happy to take this forward. It was noted that in terms of progressing the review of the Neighbourhood Plan, this would be very much dependent on what comes out of the new District Plan. On the proposal from the Millennium Garden and the Recreation Ground that had come out of the recent meeting with Glendale (the Park managers) and MSDC regarding bio-diversity initiatives, the Clerk will check what can be provided, by whom, and and who will pay the costs.

**9. (2024/076) – Allotments.** The overgrown state of some of the allotments was discussed, although it was noted that there have been some recent vacancies. These have now been advertised. However, the Clerk will be pursuing this matter further in terms of reminding allotment holders of their responsibilities to properly cultivate their plots. The state of the entrance gate and the picket fencing at the entrance is not good, and this needs to be looked into. A further report will therefore be made in due course.

**10. (2024/077) - Report from Village Hall Management Committee.** There had been a meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The main points were (i) as part of the history record of

Albourne, it had been agreed by the Committee to put up a picture of the old Curtains Cottage in the Hall, as kindly provided by a resident, (ii) it had been agreed to install some secure cabinets for past and current records that need to be retained, (iii) the decision to put a smart thermostat in the Hall in order to try and control the energy usage and costs, (iv) the acceptance of the quote to demolish the garage, subject to formal consent from MSDC for the demolition, which the Clerk and the Committee Chair are currently dealing with.

**11. (2024/078) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters.** Cllr IS indicated that she is not able to attend the September meeting. Finally, the Clerk was asked by Councillors to send a letter of thanks to a resident who looks after the appearance of the Village outside his property on London Road.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

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

***NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024 @ 7.00 p.m.***  
*(provisional date for any planning applications and urgent matters only) OR*  
***TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 @ 7.00 p.m.***