

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2021]

Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 2nd March 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), Councillor Joy Dennis (West Sussex County Council), Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (Mid Sussex District Council) and one member of the public.

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- 1. (2021/019) – Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** There were no apologies for absence.
 - 2. (2021/020) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared on this occasion.
 - 3. (2021/021) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** None had been raised prior to or at the meeting.
 - 4. (2021/022) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd February 2021 were duly approved and will be signed, as a true record, by the Chairman, as soon as possible.
 - 5. (2021/023) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (JLB).** JD has sent a comprehensive report, which has been circulated to all Councillors for sharing, as appropriate. Cllr John D raised an issue concerning the tip at Burgess Hill and how busy this was, with queuing traffic. He suggested that it would be sensible to have better signage and an indication of waiting times. JD said that WSCC was aware of the issues and was looking into the solutions, which at some tips could involve making appointments. It was reported that West Sussex schools are very full at present, and in

high demand. Therefore, dealing with the allocation of school places is a high priority. There is still no response from WSCC Legal Department on the issue of the fencing at the Village Hall. There is a consultation coming out soon about cycle routes. The Hurst to Albourne part of the route has highlighted some issues, which need to involve Highways England. The Nationwide Building Society High Street planned closures is being pursued, given that no formal process has taken place. Cllr John D said that he has still not been able to meet Richard Speller (WSCC) on the progress of the Traffic Regulation Order and the issue of the replacement road signs. JD therefore said that she would be in touch with Richard Speller as soon as possible, and in so doing would raise the issue of progress with regard to Parish Council's Traffic Regulation Order submitted in September of last year, and with regard to the removal and replacement of the redundant road signs on the B2116 and B2118, which were first raised in July. **JLB** has sent a report, which has been circulated to all Councillors. It was noted that there are further Covid grants available for businesses in Mid Sussex. MSDC is looking at the connectivity of local footpaths. There are two significant planning applications coming up in the area. One relates to Rampion as regards their plans for additional infrastructure (a new power substation), and the other concerns the proposal for the storage of batteries on land opposite the Royal Oak pub on Wineham Lane. There will be traffic implications for local areas, and so they are ones to watch. Cllr JP raised the issue of the emptying of the dog waste bin in Church Lane, and JLB could only confirm that MSDC is no longer carrying out this service. However, she appreciated the problems, and hoped that when the contract comes up for renewal, MSDC will look at increasing the capacity.

6. (2021/024) – Planning matters.

6.1 There were no planning applications to discuss this cycle.

6.2 On Cllr JD's report, JD confirmed that one of the redundant road signs, being the most unstable one, had been removed. Richard Speller (WSCC) did not appear to know about this, and it seems to have been done under a different programme. The problem is that part of the sign related to a children's' school safety sign, and this needs to be put back as soon as possible. JD therefore proposed, and seconded by SS, that if there is an unacceptable delay in the sign being put back by WSCC, the Parish Council should purchase its own school safety sign at an estimated cost of £100. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to agree this. On the Speed Indication Device, the next location will be west facing near Oakwell. JD proposed, and seconded by NE, that in order to make it easier to move the SID around the Village, the Council needed to purchase two more back plates with fixings for the various location poles at an estimated cost of £140 plus VAT. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to agree this. On the Village Gateway signs, the plan is to carry out the painting work in April, subject to the social distancing rules in force at the time.

6.3 On current planning applications, planning enforcement, and other strategic planning matters, Cllr NE said that the two planning issues at the Albourne Equestrian Centre were still ongoing. These were the storage of vehicles, and the erection of a new stable block. It is understood that the operator will be applying for retrospective planning consent for the cars, and the issue of the stables is being considered. The Parish Council had received a letter from the tenant at the Centre explaining the background to the situation. On the ongoing issue of the floodlighting, it is understood that the Planning Authority may be about to grant

permission for this. It was noted that this goes against previous statements, and the Parish Council is not sure what has changed. The Parish Council will want to see a set of stringent conditions on hours of use, intensity of the lighting, and the direction of the lighting. Cllr JLB (MSDC) said that she would ask for an urgent update from the planning officer to these matters. Finally, as regards the planning issues at the garage in Twineham Lane (see previous minutes), it was noted that the refusal of consent is going to appeal in April.

7. (2021/025) – Finance report and matters.

7.1 The financial summary and the Bank reconciliation for the month, were received, noted, and approved.

7.2 The invoice(s) 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 (February 2021)	West Sussex County Council
£88-93*	New post to secure new dog waste bin in Church Lane*	Glasdon UK Ltd (reimbursement for John Parks)*

* For information only, as payment was approved at APC meeting on 2nd February 2021, and has already been paid.

Under this item, it was also **RESOLVED** to agree the expenditure of £340 for the previously approved fencing around the Common Copse land in the Street, the work having recently been completed.

7.3 Both Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were considered, reviewed, and confirmed, with no changes proposed.

7.4 The risk assessment/risk management policies document was considered and reviewed. Councillor JB felt that there were some areas that needed tightening up, and he would send these to the Clerk. Councillor NE thought that some of the risks were more in the nature of statements, and it wasn't clear how these could be managed in risk terms. The Clerk will look into this and amend the document as appropriate. Subject to these comments, and changes as necessary, the document was approved.

8. (2021/026) – Current issues. (i) Cllr JP further reported on the issue of the dog waste bin in Church Lane. The bin has been removed pending its relocation to a more suitable position. The new fixing post has arrived, and the old one cut down to ground level and made safe. The Clerk will contact TS Landscapes to see when the work can be done, but conditional on the emptying issue. Cllr JLB said that she hoped that when the contract comes up for renewal, the capacity issue will be looked at. (ii) On the clearance of the Common Copse land in the Street, Cllr JP has received two quotes for the bramble clearance work. She proposed, and seconded by SS, that the Parish Council proceed with the quote from Brain Truran in the sum of £45. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to agree this. (iii) On the scheduled spring work for the Millennium Garden it was agreed that the

hedging doesn't need to be done yet, just the clearance of brambles and some general tidying up. The Clerk will approach TS Landscapes about this.

9. (2021/027) - West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC). The Clerk briefed the Parish Council further on the issues surrounding the actions of WSALC, and the implications of the Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils (of which WSALC is a member) ceasing to operate from 1st April. However, through the actions of the member Councils of WSALC, the proposal to obtain support services from the Hampshire ALC had been stopped at the AGM held on the 25th February. Moves are afoot to put WSALC under new Board management, and to negotiate a continuity of support services from SSALC personnel. Further meetings are taking place, which either the Clerk and the Chairman (or both) will attend. It was therefore agreed to put the decision as to whether to rejoin WSALC for 2021/22 on hold, pending the outcome of the negotiations. The Clerk will bring a further report to the next meeting.

10. (2021/028) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Cllr JB mentioned that it is intended to hold a Village Hall Management Committee meeting via zoom on 30th March 2021. It was also **AGREED** that the Parish Council should purchase a zoom license, so there is no restriction on time. The Clerk and Cllr JB will look into this.

The meeting closed at 8.07 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 6th APRIL 2021 at 7.00 p.m.