

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2023]

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 7th March, 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Graham Stafford (GS) – Chairman
Cllr Jerry Butler (JB) – Vice Chairman
Cllr Di Smith (DS)
Cllr Joy Parks (JP)
Cllr John Drew (JD)
Cllr Geoff Zeidler (GZ)

In attendance: Iain McLean; Parish Council Clerk (via remote means), Councillor Kristy Adams (MSDC), Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC), Phil Harvey from Fluid Ideas, and a consultant from MPC (via remote means), and six members of the public.

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- 1. (2023/022) - Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Suzanne Sawyer, and the reason accepted.
 - 2. (2023/023) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared on this occasion although Cllr GZ mentioned that he had signed the petition being presented to the Parish Council about introducing speed reduction measures on the B2118 London Road.
 - 3. (2023/024) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** The problem of speeding on the B2118 London Road was raised, and this will be discussed later on the Agenda. A petition has been presented to the Parish Council from concerned residents asking for some action in order to try and reduce the speed limits in this area.
 - 4. (2023/025) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th February 2023 were duly approved and will be signed off, as a true record, by the Chairman as soon as possible.
 - 5. (2023/026) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Kristy Adams (KA). Cllr KA** gave her report. The main points included (i) an update on the collection of dog waste. This is a common problem across the District, and the hope is to increase the collection capacity in due course, (ii) the MSDC budget has been agreed. The Council tax increase is 2.75%, (iii) the collection of food waste will be rolled out across the District, (iv) the bulky waste collection service is

being expanded, and also the garden waste collection service, (iv) the consultation on the Government's planning reforms closed on the 2nd March, and a response has been sent in by KA, along with one from MSDC (available to view on their website), (v) the state of the basket ball hoops on the Recreation Ground will be chased up, (vi) the recent fly-tipping reports on the B2116 will be chased up, and measures such as warning signs in order to try and prevent this in the future, need to be looked into. **Cllr JD** gave her report. The main points included (i) there has been a recent meeting with residents and the developer of the former Hazeldens site, Inspired Villages, which JD attended, to discuss concerns about the proposals, (ii) the speeding issues along the B2118 London Road, and the offer from Inspired Villages to pay for two Speed Indication Devices (SIDs), given that speeding opposite the development will also be a concern, were discussed. This will need further thought, and possibly a meeting with Richard Speller's replacement at WSCC, which could also be a meet and greet opportunity with the new Highways Manager. However, the matter needs a firm proposal to be worked up, and issues such as the ongoing maintenance of the devices, and the most appropriate locations for them, will need to be discussed. It was noted that Inspired Villages do have a proposal arising from its s.278 Highways Agreement as connected with the development, and which it will share with the Parish Council, (iii) the current Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is still on the waiting list with WSCC, and JD will chase this up, (iv) it is believed that the installation of the new fence alongside the Safer Routes to School footpath at the Village Hall, is imminent, (v) the provision of new Schools in the District was highlighted particularly in Burgess Hill as educational infrastructure is very much a priority, (vi) WSCC's budget has been agreed, and details are available on their website, (vii) the work that WSCC is doing with landowners in order to try and ensure highway ditches are properly cleared, so as to prevent undue flooding was highlighted. The intention to expand the Operation Watershed programme to help with flooding issues, was also touched on, (viii) there are plans to improve local bus services, and to try and even up the fares structure (ix) there is new money to help restore highway lines and signs, (x) it is expected that the hedge trimming on the section of the B2118, which encroaches on to the footway, will be done by WSCC soon. JD will chase this up as bird nesting season is fast approaching.

6. (2023/027) – 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/23/0329 - Site of the former Hazeldens Nursery, London Road	Modification of Section 106 Agreement relating to AP/19/0081 (DM/19/1001) to amend Clause 3 Paragraphs 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, and 4.1.5 of the first schedule.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.
AE/DM/23/0520 - Eastwood Farm, Shaves Wood Lane	This application is to discharge the Section 52 agreement linked to application AE/009/86 at Eastwood Farm, Shaves Wood Lane, Albourne, BN6 9DY.	Whilst noting that a Lawful Development Certificate has since been obtained from the SDNPA, Albourne Parish Council has no particular comments on this application, subject to the

		<p>applicants being able to prove to the satisfaction of both Authorities, the justification and reasoning for discharging the s.52 Agreement in full, and we assume that in respect of the various applications, this has been the case. However, it does highlight the need to ensure that covenants imposed by planning approvals are properly monitored and enforced, so as to ensure that agricultural landholdings do not accidentally or inadvertently revert to domestic landholdings.</p>
<p>SDNP/23/00827/MPO - Eastwood Farm, Shaves Wood Lane</p>	<p>Removal of restrictive covenant associated with Section 52 Agreement attached to Mid Sussex planning approval AE/009/86, which requires the dwelling to be occupied in conjunction with the use and occupation of the whole of the land as an agricultural unit (S52).</p>	<p>Whilst noting that a Lawful Development Certificate has since been obtained from the SDNPA, Albourne Parish Council has no particular comments on this application, subject to the applicants being able to prove to the satisfaction of both Authorities (MSDC), the justification and reasoning for removing the restrictive covenant (and discharge of the s.52 Agreement), and we assume that in respect of the various applications, this has been the case. However, it does highlight the need to ensure that covenants imposed by planning approvals are properly monitored and enforced, so as to ensure that agricultural landholdings do not accidentally or inadvertently revert to domestic landholdings.</p>

6.2 Highway issues had been discussed in the context of Councillor Joy Dennis's report (see above).

6.3. There was nothing further to report. However, it was noted that despite the fact that a response has been promised on the enforcement issues at the Equestrian Centre issue, nothing has come in yet. The Clerk will pursue this with MSDC yet again and report back.

7. (2023/028) – 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 (February 2023)	West Sussex County Council
£196-56	Dog bin collection service 2022/23	Mid Sussex District Council
£73-19	New defibrillator Pads	The Defib Pad (reimbursement for John Parks)

8. (2023/029) – School Parking. Councillor JD (WSCC) suggested that the solutions put forward by residents and supported by the Parish Council (see minutes of the last meeting) should be addressed in an application for a Community Highways Scheme. The Clerk will take this forward. JD mentioned the possibility of trialling a School Street solution, which has been tried in other places. This involves completely closing the road off for the period of the school delivery and collection times. However, it was noted that there are some practical problems with this, given the nature of the Street. It was also noted that the PCSO will be monitoring the situation periodically. It was also reported under this item that there are now three volunteers for the Speed-watch programme, and so one more is needed in order to progress the scheme.

9. (2023/030) – Current issues. (i) Cllr GZ confirmed that a detailed response had been put in by the Parish Council to the proposed planning reforms, and this has been posted on the website. There had been very good engagement with the recent Inter Parishes meeting, particularly as regards the impact of the proposed Sayers Village proposal on the area. This site is being put forward by MSDC in their review of the District Plan. MSDC's Scrutiny Committee will be considering the responses to the consultation at their meeting on the 15th March 2023, (ii) John Parks confirmed that he had managed to resolve the recording of use issue for the defibrillator at the Village Hall.

10. (2023/031) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Cllr DS raised the issue of a schedule of works for the Hazeldens development, with particular reference to the muddy state of the road in view of site access by heavy vehicles. The road needs regular cleansing, and this will be looked into by Inspired Villages with the contractors. Cllr JP raised the issue of the gap in the hedge opposite Hunters Mead, and it was proposed by JP and seconded by DS and then unanimously **AGREED**, that the Clerk will seek an estimate from Beacon Fences in Ansty in order to look in to closing the gap with a suitable post and rail fence. Cllr GZ raised the issue of the forthcoming elections on the 4th May 2023, and the need to ensure there are sufficient candidates for the new Parish Council, given the number standing down. He also thought that the frequency of meetings should be considered in the future, by reference to comparisons with other similarly sized Parishes. Cllr JB mentioned that one idea to promote and attract new Councillors would be to have a briefing session at a forthcoming Pub night, and this was agreed. Cllr GS mentioned the broken down kissing gate opposite the Church in Church Lane, and as this was installed by the Monday Group, the Clerk will take up the matter of a repair with them. GS also referred to the need to carry on trying to resolve, possible with Operation Watershed funding, the remaining flooding problems

around the Village, mainly on the bend in Church Lane. Ditches need to be dug out and cleared, and he will obtain some prices for this.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 4th APRIL 2023 @ 7.00 p.m.