

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2019]

Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 5th March 2019, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr Graham Stafford (GS) – Chairman
Cllr Nikki Ernest (NE)
Cllr Jerry Butler (JB) – Vice Chairman
Cllr Heather Jordan (HJ)
Cllr Di Smith (DS)
Cllr Suzi Sawyer (SS)
Cllr John Drew (JD)

In attendance: Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk), Councillor Joy Dennis (JDS) (WSCC), Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (JLB) (MSDC), and 5 members of the public (for all or parts of the meeting).

- 1. (2019/022) – Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** There were no apologies for absence.
- 2. (2019/023) – Declarations of interest.** There were none.
- 3. (2019/024) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** (i) There is an issue about coach parking being too close to the junction with the B2116. This could pose a danger for other road users, and the Clerk was therefore asked to write to the School to seek its help in addressing the issue, but would need to clear the request with Councillor JD first, in view of the other traffic issues being currently dealt with by the Parish Council, (ii) It was noted that a hedge has been taken out near to the Gospel Hall, leaving just a barbed wire fence. It is unclear why this has been done, or who might own the hedge, but the Clerk will write to the Brethren in order to ask if they know anything about it, (iii) the reroofing work being carried out by MSDC to properties has resulted in vehicles scuffing up the grass verges near Barleycroft and Hunters Mead. Councillor JLB will take this up on behalf of the Parish, (iv) the Millennium Garden is in a bit of a mess. The Parish Council needs to develop a management plan for carrying out some improvements. The seat around the tree is particularly in need of some repair. Councillor SS will look into this, and see what needs to be done. It may be that Barcombe Landscapes Limited, who do the grass and hedges, could be asked to assist.

4. **(2019/025) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th February 2019 were duly approved and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman, subject to the changes previously required by Councillors GS and NE. The Clerk confirmed that these had been taken on board in the final version.

5. **(2019/026) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JDS), and MSDC Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (JLB).** JDS said that the Community Highways scheme had not yet formally gone in, as further input is required. Councillor JD said that he thought it was in a form that it could be submitted as is, but would be the subject of further discussion. The Speed Indication Device (SID) is now back with Albourne, and is situated near High Cross. The Reeds Lane pothole repair works are ongoing. On the WSCC Waste Strategy issue, it was felt that the best thing is for Councillor NE and JDS to meet separately. It was noted that the draft plan for the new cycling routes strategy will go through Albourne, and this is a high priority for funding. The matter is ongoing with more details to emerge but the idea is that it will mainly benefit the schools, so as to encourage more children to cycle to school. JLB said in reference to the cycling strategy, within MSDC’s transport policies, there is a duty to look at sustainability. The Corporate Plan and budget for 2019/20 has been approved. There is a big investment planned for parks and open spaces. The Burgess Hill redevelopment scheme is ongoing. Council tax is going up moderately in 2019/20, and this will be clear in the bills. MSDC is maintaining its stance against any new town proposals. The possible planning enforcement issue at the Barn, Twineham Lane, is very much on MSDC’s radar, and will be kept under review. The property is not being used for the purposes for which planning permission was granted. There is no new planning application as yet, regarding the proposal for a retirement home at the Hazeldens former garden nursery site.

6. **(2019/027) – 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:-**

PROPERTY	PROPOSAL	AGREED RESPONSE
AE/DM/19/0804 Souches, the Street	Conifer T1 – removal of 4 lowest limbs.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.

6.2 On the traffic issues, Councillor JD confirmed that as above, the Community Highways scheme is ready to go. The support of the School has been sought to the mitigation measures proposed. In order to continue to inform the process, JD has the forms to fill in, in order to set up the traffic loops. These will measure the time, volume, and speed of traffic, and are intended to be installed at High Cross. The cost is around £170 plus VAT for each loop. It was therefore formally **AGREED** by the Parish Council to meet this cost as and when necessary. It was noted that the next liaison meeting with Olus is set for this coming Thursday, 7th March 2019. The issues of re-routing visiting traffic away from the B2116, and

agreeing voluntary speed restrictions on lorries, continue to be the objectives. It is also hoped to obtain a voluntary agreement against working at the Firsland site on public holidays. JD further reported that figures obtained show that in 2018 Firsland processed some 56,000 tonnes of waste against the maximum allowance of 75,000 tonnes. Winterpick was nearly up at its limit of 40,000 tonnes with 38,000 tonnes of waste processed. On the Ombudsman complaint issue, five replies from WSCC in standard form had been received, enabling them to proceed to stage 2. The matter is therefore still ongoing, and JD and NE agreed to liaise on the information and list of points that needed to be included in the complaints. GS formally thanked JD for his work, particularly in regard to the ongoing Speed Indication Devices project. Finally, a list needs to be made up of the signs and locations of all the road traffic signs that need to be fixed, so that WSCC can be asked again to address this issue.

6.3 On current planning and planning enforcement matters, Councillor NE reported that there is still no decision on the Equestrian Centre application (lighting), but that the deadline for comments closed on 26th February, 2019, so it should be soon. The Barn enforcement issue (see above) was again referred to, and the view is that MSDC is doing everything that can be reasonably expected of them at the present time. The inter Parishes meeting had taken place on 26th February, 2019, and had been very well attended. There had been high level representation from both MSDC and Horsham DC. It was noted that HDC is actually undertaking a new District Plan, rather than simply reviewing it, and the draft is due in October. There is some confusion about exactly what HDC is trying to achieve, but NE has followed up the meeting with a list of questions and concerns to HDC. However a further meeting will be necessary (after the forthcoming elections in May). Horsham Town and Parish Councils' Neighbourhood Plans will be affected by any new District Plan, although there are not as many of them in place as there are for Mid Sussex. HDC may still look to allocate a new strategic site, c.c. the Mayfield Market Towns issue, but MSDC will not be changing its approach. A copy of HDC's Pre-Planning Agreement with MMT has been seen, and it was particularly noted that WSCC Highways is represented in it.

7. (2019/028) – Finance report and matters.

7.1. The financial summary and the Bank reconciliation for the month, were received, noted, and approved. It was particularly noted that the current account bank balance includes the ring fenced sum of £29,041-20 being the Operation Watershed grant recently received from WSCC.

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 2019)	West Sussex County Council

7.3 **It was formally agreed to continue the annual contribution, and therefore to make a payment of £400 towards the upkeep of St. Bartholomew's Churchyard,** and the Clerk confirmed that there is provision in the current budget for this.

8. (2019/029) – Current issues. (i) It was noted that there is still no response from the WSCC officer regarding the Common Copse land, in terms of ensuring that the private owner is satisfied with the plans and proposals. The officer has been on holiday, but Councillor JDS (WSCC) will now chase this up, (ii) The Clerk is in correspondence with MSDC regarding the proposal for a new dog waste bin near Church Lane, and will hope to move this forward shortly, (iii) It was noted that the work MSDC has done to repair the breach in the hedge at Hunters Mead is not adequate, and this will need to be brought to their attention.

9. (2019/030) - Village Gateway signs. It was noted that these gates are not part of the Community Highways scheme, but could help with the overall traffic calming objectives. Six gates will be needed in total for the Village at a cost of £1,000 per gate (on figures obtained from Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common PC), plus the installation costs. This would be a big proportion of the Parish Council's spending. However, it may be that other quotes/estimates could be sought. It might also be best to go for a low maintenance option. In any event, there are still mixed views on whether or not Albourne should have such gates, but GS said that he understood them to be generally quite effective from some research done. NE said that it would be sensible for someone to put together an actual proposal, with more precise costings and options. There was also a discussion on the need to ensure that the gates are put in the right place, in terms of where the proper road boundaries of the Village are, and what the gates should say on them. Ultimately though, it was agreed in principle, to look at the matter in more detail, and GS and JD said that they would be happy to work a proposal up, and come back to a future meeting. It was also something that could be raised with villagers at the Annual Parish meeting for Electors in May. Finally, it was noted that if the Council was to go ahead, grant funding could be sought, e.g. through the Central Local Committee (WSCC) grant procedure.

10. (2019/031) – Operation Watershed (OW). Since the last meeting, there is nothing further to report at present. The Parish Council is just waiting to be advised by the contractor, Landbuild, of the start date for the Oakvale Cottages flood relief works under the currently approved OW scheme.

11. (2019/032) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. HJ queried the latest about the location of the Silent Soldier. It is believed the PCC is still looking at relocating it to the Church, but have not as yet confirmed. However, it is suggested that it may be more appropriate to set it up annually at Remembrance time. NE said that she would talk to Geoff Zeidler to discuss the options further. GS said that a proper blacksmith still needed to be found to carry out the repairs to the Village sign. The Clerk and GS will try and take this forward. It was also noted that the repairs to the Medieval Pound have been completed, and that the work needed to be checked in terms of what the contractor had been asked to do.

The meeting closed at 8.58 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 2nd APRIL 2019 @ 7.00 p.m.