

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2014]

Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 4th March 2014, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr Meg Price, Chairman (MP)
Cllr Graham Stafford, Vice-Chairman (GS)
Cllr Mick Gratton (MG)
Cllr Elaine Makey (EM)
Cllr John Gooch (JG)
Cllr Nikki Ernest (NE)
Cllr Barry Compton (BC)

In attendance: Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk), Councillor Peter Griffiths (WSCC), Councillor Gordon Marples (MSDC), and Councillor Sue Seward (MSDC) (for the first part(s) of the meeting), and 6 members of the public.

- 1. (2014/219) – Chairman formally opens meeting and receives any apologies for absence.** No apologies had been received.
- 2. (2014/220) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** A member of the public raised the issue of flooding and drainage in the Parish, particularly at Barns Close. He had himself carried out some digging out work in order to prevent serious flooding during the recent bad weather. Also, the surface of the car park by the Village Hall does not help with water flow coming off the Recreation Ground, and down into the Street. The tarmac needs re-doing. The whole situation needs looking into and improving. Councillors responded by saying that with the Operation Watershed funds, and the routine gully maintenance programme from WSCC, the issues were being addressed. Indeed, there is an item later on this Agenda.

At the request of David Heron of Vortal Properties, who was unable to attend the meeting and had sent his apologies, the Clerk read out the latest email from him, dated 21st February, regarding the Hazelden's site re-development proposal. Cllr MG commented that he had nothing to add to the previous responses and statements. Cllr NE agreed, but said that the Parish Council might want to consider attending any pre-planning discussions with MSDC. Cllr Seward commented that it was for the owner/developer to make the case to MSDC, not

the other way round.

3. **(2014/221) – Declarations of interest.** None were declared.
4. **(2014/222) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th February 2014 (as amended in correspondence) were approved and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman. Updates: There were none that would not be coming up on the Agenda.
5. **(2014/223) – Quiet tarmac along stretch of A23.** Cllr NE was concerned at clear advice received from the Highways Agency that this was not in the plan and had never been in the plan. This was contrary to Peter Griffiths' understanding. He was due to have a meeting on March 20th about widening the A23, and would pursue the issue there. It was possible that budget constraints were holding back the programme.
6. **(2014/224) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Peter Griffiths and MSDC Councillors Gordon Marples and Sue Seward.** Peter Griffiths said that the situation regarding the plaque for the Village Hall had moved forward, and the Parish Council needed to decide where this might be located. It was hoped that something will be done in time for the CLC meeting in June. He mentioned that there may be more funding available from WSCC for flooding issues. He is still investigating the land ownership issue at the Old Rectory, Church Lane with the PCC and WSCC Highways. Gordon Marples said that there was nothing further to report on Mayfields from MSDC, but that its position had been made clear. MSDC were still in discussion with the Planning Inspectorate over the District Plan, but were not taking the set-backs lying down. There was a nil budget increase for 2014/15, so this had led to a Council tax freeze again. He reported that the running of the District's leisure centres and theatres had been re-tendered, and the new operator would be announced shortly. Sue Seward urged the Parish Council to pursue the flooding issues, and said that the messages on the A23 quiet run issue seemed to her to have been very mixed. She mentioned that under the programme, full resurfacing should have occurred within 15 years of the original surfacing done back in 1992. This simply had not happened.
7. **(2014/225) – Neighbourhood Watch.** The scheme seemed to have lost its momentum, and nothing much has happened since former Councillor, Jerry Butler was involved. The scheme relies on volunteers and no one has come forward. It could be raised at the Annual Parish meeting in May, and so the Clerk was asked to put the matter on the Agenda.
8. **(2014/226) – Lamp-post issue.** The Clerk reported on the problem that lamp-post L in Church Lane had caused to an adjoining private property, causing great

inconvenience to the owners. It was noted that the immediate problem now appears to have been fixed by Streetlights, but that there was still an ongoing issue of supply, which they and the electricity supplier (UKPN) were looking into. The general view was that the streetlight itself is not a problem, and that the adjoining property owners had never asked for it to be removed or relocated. It should therefore be left where it is.

- 9. (2014/227) – Posts/blocks on Highway verges.** Peter Griffiths was already looking into this, in terms of how and why WSCC should be carrying out this work and funding it, having regard to the recent correspondence with Cllr MG. There was nothing to add at this stage, but the point was made that “highway clutter” should be kept to a minimum, and it was not something to be encouraged in neighbourhood planning terms.
- 10. (2014/228) – Project updates.** (i) There was still no date for the new clapperboards work, and this needed to be chased up. It was noted that WSCC also need to do some fencing work across common land. (ii) There is still no firm date for the installation of the new fingerpost at High Cross, but the matter is in hand. The Clerk will chase this up again. (iii) On the stiles issue, despite a visit, and an email from Cllr GS, there had been no action from the new Footpaths Ranger, apart from an indication that the Department was under-funded and under-resourced. It was agreed that the officer would be written to again, expressing the Council’s disappointment at the lack of progress, and that this should be copied to the Head of the Section and to Cllr Peter Griffiths. After that, the Chairman of the relevant Committee at WSCC would have to be involved.

Action:	Cllr GS/Clerk
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11. (2014/229) – Planning matters).

11.1 Four planning applications were considered, and the plans and relevant policies discussed. It was resolved to comment to MSDC as follows:-

APPLICATION/PROPERTY	PROPOSAL	AGREED RESPONSE
AE/14/00331/FUL – Land at Wick Farm, Shaves Wood Lane	Erection of a poly-tunnel for horticultural use.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.
AE/14/00631/FUL – The Old Rectory, Church Lane	Minor erections to Coach House, and re-pitching of roof to Coach House. Erection of a double garage, single storey	In planning terms, Albourne Parish Council is not able to support this application, and has concerns regarding the

	extension to form utility room.	treatment of an Oak tree affected by the application. It also has some detailed comments regarding the land ownership position, and the effect on adjoining Church parking.
AE/14/00633/LBC – The Old Rectory Church Lane	Ditto (above)	Ditto (above)
AE/14/00733/FUL – Chestnut Court, The Street	Proposed detached garage.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application, subject to comments about landscaping and positioning.

11.2 Cllr MG reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is finished, but some changes needed to be made as a result of the progress of the Slaugham NP. This SA now has 16 objectives, and flooding and drainage has been added to the document. The one non-respondent regarding the statutory consultation process needed to be chased up for a response. Cllr NE raised the issue of the excessive lighting at the Avtrade site in Reeds Lane, and it was agreed that Cllr MG would try and arrange a meeting with Avtrade to discuss this. It was also noted that they appear to be cutting down some trees and hedges. The Clerk would notify H&SC Parish Council as a matter of courtesy, as the site is in fact within their parish. Cllr NE reported that the next inter Parishes Group meeting was on 18th March 2014. LAMBS and CPRE representatives would be invited. Also the Chairman of Upper Beeding PC would be invited, as he had some concerns about “downstream” flooding from the Mayfield proposal if it ever went ahead.

Action:	Cllr MG/NE/Clerk
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11.3 In terms of the applicant's recent email regarding the planning application for the wind turbine, it was agreed that there was no reason to change the Parish Council's previous comments as already made to MSDC. Cllr NE agreed to draft a response, so that the Clerk could forward an appropriate reply to the applicant as soon as possible.

Action:	Cllr NE/Clerk
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12. (2014/230) – Finance report.

12.1 The financial summary and the Bank reconciliation for the month, were received, noted, and approved. It was noted that even without the ring-fenced money for Operation Watershed, the bank balance was fairly healthy. It was agreed that at a future meeting, the Council would need to decide on how to spend the money, or whether to add a further amount to reserves.

12.2 Invoices were presented for payment, and it was resolved to agree and to make the following payments:-

AMOUNT	PROCUREMENT	PAYEE
£2,874-00	To complete remedial works for service inspection regarding the mercury lantern works to lamp columns B,D,F,G,H,I and N	Streetlights
£29-88	Column L Church Lane – replace mains fuse and test	Streetlights
£117-96	Column L Church Lane – replace SS9 photocell	Streetlights
£321-55	Clerk's salary plus on costs (January 2014)	WSCC
£19-82	Reimbursement of cost of purchasing a tool for PC to help with conversion of documents for Neighbourhood Planning	Mick Gratton
£17-00	Subscription for Local Council review magazine	SSALC Limited
£14-95	Reimbursement of Land Registry fee for obtaining title information regarding the Old Rectory, Church Lane	Mick Gratton
£88-00*	Village Hall hire charges*	Albourne Village Hall*

* This invoice came in too late for the documents at 12.1, but was also authorised by Council, as the payment was urgent due to the need to settle the account this financial year.

12.3 On the issue of the Council's insurance, it was agreed that the offer to quote from Came and Company for 2014/15, should be accepted, and that one other quote should also be obtained. The Clerk will action this accordingly, and report back to the Council in due course.

13. (2014/231) - Operation Watershed. (i) Cllr GS referred to the quote from MTS Cleansing for the camera investigation and ditching works at Church Lane. It was agreed that this was highly competitive against the quote from Balfour Beatty. **It was therefore resolved to accept the quote from MTS, and that Cllr GS would confirm to the Company accordingly.** (ii) As set out in recent emails from Cllr GS, the problem of flooding along the B2116, outside Western Cottages and Oakvale Cottages, was referred to. This would be raised with Richard Speller from WSCC at a meeting that Cllr GS would be having with him on 11th March. Cllr GS will also raise the Barns Close/Goldsmiths flooding issue referred to above. The issue of being able to fund additional works from Operation Watershed savings was discussed, and it was recognised that this was a matter that WSCC would have to be involved with in some way. Finally, it was also noted that the pond at Holders needs digging out, as this has been filled with building contractors' rubble, and was not helping the flooding situation.

Action:	Cllr GS/the Clerk
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14. (2014/232) - Village Hall. Cllr EM reported that the roof work to the Village Hall had been done. The gutters were no longer leaking. The Lottery Grant application had now been submitted, but because of a new system it was not likely that the VH Management Committee will hear back before 3 months about the outcome. This could affect the timing of the remainder of the agreed works to the Hall intended for the summer school holidays. The matter will need to be reviewed at the next VH meeting, scheduled for 20th May 2014.

15. (2014/233) – Clerk's report. The Clerk reported that he had received an email regarding the opening of a local community shop in the Village Hall at Sayers Common. As it would benefit the people of Albourne, the Parish Council had been asked to help with publicity. It was agreed that any posters, etc., should be displayed, and so the Clerk would respond accordingly. On the question of the email from MSDC regarding representation at the Gatwick Airport Liaison Group, Cllr MG agreed to be the Council's representative, and will attend the first meeting in June. The Clerk will respond accordingly.

Action:	Cllr MG/Clerk
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16. (2014/234) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Cllr GS raised an issue concerning some tree removal work carried out by contractors for WSCC, Brockwells Forestry. The debris and branches needed to be removed. The Clerk will pursue this with the contractors. Cllr NE asked about the caravan issue in Church Lane. Cllr MG replied that he had spoken with the owner, who said that it for sale, and so should be removed soon. Cllr MP raised the issue of the future maintenance of the

Millennium Garden and the Pound. It was noted that as there were some funds available, anything that now needed to be done could be looked into. It was noted that there had been no response regarding the attendance of the police at a future meeting to talk about Operation Crackdown and speeding. The Clerk would chase up the PCSOs for Albourne. It was noted that the search for a new Councillor, given Cllr JG's resignation, would need to proceed. Cllr EM raised the building issue at Holders, and that it had been reported that the contractor was periodically blocking the footpath. This needed to be kept under review. Cllr MG confirmed the position as above, regarding his attendance at the Gatwick Airport Liaison Group.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

SIGNED.....Meg Price/Graham Stafford
Chairman/Vice Chairman

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 1st APRIL 2014 @ 7.00 p.m.

NOTE: After the meeting, a presentation was made to Councillor John Gooch who had resigned from the Parish Council after the meeting. After 15 years of service he felt it was time to move on, and John was thanked for all his hard work and dedication over the past years.