

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2015]

Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 1st September 2015, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr Meg Price (MP) - Chairman
Cllr Graham Stafford (GS) – Vice Chairman
Cllr Nikki Ernest (NE)
Cllr Heather Jordan (HJ)
Cllr Di Howard (DH)
Cllr Nick Wergan (NW)

In attendance: Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk), Councillor Peter Griffiths (WSCC), and 3 members of the public (for part or all of the meeting).

- 1. (2015/060) – Chairman formally opens the meeting, welcomes those present, and receives apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from Councillor Barry Compton, and Councillor John Allen (MSDC).
- 2. (2015/061) – Declarations of interest.** HJ declared a personal substantial and pecuniary interest in the planning application (below) for Hunters Cottage, as she was the owner of the property and therefore the applicant. All other Councillors declared a minor personal interest in that HJ was a fellow Councillor.
- 3. (2015/062) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public** – There were no issues were raised at this stage, although members of the public may wish to speak to items later on the Agenda. Three issues were raised at the end of the meeting: (i) the power line by the tree in the Copse. The Clerk will take up again with UK Power networks; (ii) the flooding still taking place from rainwater running off the VH car park onto the main road. The gulley issue did not seem to have been resolved. GS will pursue this further; (iii) the light issue from the garage in the Street had not yet been dealt with despite the promises of the owner of the property. The Clerk will pursue this again.
- 4. (2015/063) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 7th July 2015, and 4th August 2015 (Extraordinary meeting) were duly approved and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman.

- 5. (2015/064) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Peter Griffiths, and MSDC Councillor John Allen.** This item was delayed pending the arrival of Councillor Peter Griffiths (PG). (i) PG updated the Council on the planning application by Olus Environmental at the Firsland Industrial estate. It is going to a planning meeting at WSCC on 29th September 2015 at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Chichester. PG can address the meeting, and feels that a Parish Council should also be there. However, it was agreed that there first needs to be a pre-meeting to discuss the approach, and this would be arranged after this meeting. NE referred to the fact that the further information (Transport statement) submitted by the applicant was not sufficiently independent, and doesn't cover the issues requested by WSCC. PG also raised the air pollution issue of increased HGV traffic as a further matter that needs to be taken into account. (ii) PG confirmed that following his intervention, WSCC would be looking at the land ownership issue of the common "Copse" land in the Street as regards work being carried out by a nearby property owner. HJ will chase up the trees TPO issue with MSDC. WSCC need to treat this as an enforcement issue; (iii) HGVs were an issue right across Parishes in Mid Sussex, and WSCC needed to look at solutions in the round. It also needs addressing at national level. There is also the issue of enforcement, and the possibility of delegating this to Parish Councils was something that needed to be looked at. PG is waiting for information from other Local Authorities who have grappled with the issue. PG is a member of a WSCC "Task and Finish" Group looking at this whole issue.
- 6. (2015/065) – Dog waste bins.** The Clerk reported that MSDC was about to retender the contract and build in extra capacity. It was likely that it could resource about a further 50 bins across all the Parishes in Mid Sussex. MSDC would be meeting with Parish Councils shortly to assess their respective requirements and APC needed to consider what further bins might be needed and where they should be located. The main priorities were at the entrance to the footpath near Yew Tree Farmhouse, and the footpath near to the Gospel Hall. The Clerk reported that WSCC would expect Parishes to deal with any highways License issues that might arise directly with WSCC.
- 7. (2015/066) – Millennium Garden Bench.** The damage to the bench was formally noted, and the in principle decision on the part of the Parish Council taken in correspondence, to repair it recorded. However thus needed further liaison with the family involved, and MP would be taking this up after the Village Show on 5th September.
- 8. (2015/67) - Winter maintenance and management 2015/16.** The salt audit email from WSCC was referred to, along with the Chairman's response to Councillors. It was noted that some of the references in the Winter Management Plan need updating, and MP was especially concerned about any reference to trained volunteers. It was noted that the bins are $\frac{3}{4}$ full, and GS will make the

return to WSCC. The Clerk will amend the Plan and re-circulate to Councillors.

9. **(2015/68) – Traffic issue in Albourne.** MP and GS updated the Council on their meeting with Richard Speller from WSCC. Follow up emails have not however, been responded to, and this will be chased up. The biggest issue is the frequency of HGV movements up and down narrow, rural lanes in the Parish.
10. **(2015/69) – Roadside signage in Albourne.** This issue was discussed in the context of the recent meeting with Richard Speller at WSCC. MP will keep chasing the issue for a complete response. PG has a monthly meeting with the officer, and will report back further.
11. **(2015/70) – New bench for Parish.** The Clerk reported on the insurance position, and that most importantly, WSCC in granting the necessary highways License, will require APC to take ownership and responsibility for the bench. It was proposed that the Council should not accept these conditions and so the Chairman called for a vote. By 4 votes to 1, with 1 abstention, **it was resolved not to accept ownership or responsibility for the bench.** Instead, it was suggested that this might be better placed on land owned by the Gospel Hall, near to the bus stop. This would avoid the need for the highways License from WSCC altogether. The Clerk will therefore find out from Peter Holding whether this is a possible and practicable solution.
12. **(2015/71) – Albourne Recreation Ground.** It was noted that as regards the attempts to prevent unauthorised access, the placing of the two cones at the high bar gate had had a dramatic deterrent effect. It was a much cheaper and practical option than the suggestion for a lockable gate. However, this needs to be kept under review. There is also the litter issue that needs to be considered. NW mentioned that as the younger generation of Albourne increases, there needs to be something for them to do, and he is still looking at options for providing further facilities (e.g. an outdoor gym) on the recreation ground, hopefully by accessing some grant monies.
13. **(2015/72) – Planning matters.**
13.1 Two planning applications were considered, and the plans and relevant policies discussed. It was therefore **RESOLVED to comment to MSDC as follows:-**

PROPERTY	PROPOSAL	AGREED RESPONSE
AE/15/3162 – Hunters Cottage, The Street	Single storey side and rear extension and 3 replacement windows.	Albourne Parish Council has no objection to these applications, provided that the Conservation Officer for MSDC approves of the proposals, and that matching materials and finishes

		are used.
AE/15/3179 – Hunters Cottage, The Street	Single storey side and rear extension, 3 replacement windows and conversion of the ground floor wc to a shower room.	Ditto above

Note: HJ left the room for the duration of the discussion of this item in accordance with her declaration of interest above.

13.2 NE has met with Mick Gratton to review the Neighbourhood Plan and associated documentation. The document is now with MSDC for final review and we are awaiting any feedback they may have. There may be some more external fees to pay, but there is no detail on this at present.

13.3 The Firsland Industrial estate planning application was discussed under item 5 above.

13.4 The Clerk had sent round a copy of the notification, but NE noted that the planning application at 2 Greenmead had been granted by MSDC, but is was a limited approval, subject to conditions, which had met some of the Parish Council's concerns.

14. (2015/073) – Finance report and matters.

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

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

AMOUNT	PROCUREMENT	PAYEE
£358-05	Clerk's salary & on costs (July 2015)	WSCC
£46-44	Reimbursement for fence panels from Beacon Fencing Ltd	Graham Stafford (reimbursement)
£16,740	Works under Operation Watershed (final account)	Edburton Contractors Ltd
£77-88	Village Hall hire charges	Albourne Village Hall
£72	Grass cutting 4 and 5 of 12 (12/06/15 and 29/06/15)	Barcombe Landscapes Limited
£192	Leaning pine in Millennium Garden - remove	The F A Bartlett Tree Expert Co. Ltd.

14.3 The commission action taken in correspondence, along with the agreed expenditure of £312 (inclusive of VAT) in respect of the repair work at the Millennium Garden (fences, etc.) was formally noted for the records. The Clerk also reported that under the delegated power provision (the urgency ground) within Standing Orders, he had authorised expenditure of £30 on the preparatory work, prior to decoration, of the internal parts of the Village Hall. This had been in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair.

14.4 The budget monitoring report to end September was received and approved. It was noted that the Parish Council is well within budget on most heads, and that overall the financial position was quite healthy. It was agreed that no virements, or major expenditure would take place, until the final costs of the Neighbourhood Plan had been ascertained. It was also agreed that the budget heads need to be reviewed when setting the budget for 2016/17, as some of these may not be appropriate.

15. (2015/074) – Operation Watershed. GS is still waiting to hear about the northern gullies on the B2116 - also as to the provision of a future maintenance schedule from WSCC. This is not part of OW, but may form part of WSCC's investigations. It was noted that part of the A23 had flooded recently, but this might be to do with the nearby ground being waterlogged because of heavy rain. The Operation Watershed work being undertaken by the Parish Council is now substantially complete, but there are a few outstanding issues, so will be kept on the Agenda for the time being. The final invoice for payment to Edburtons is approved as above. *The Parish Council gave a formal vote of thanks to GS and BS for all their hard work on this project, and a successful outcome.*

16. (2015/075) – Village Hall Management Committee. The next meeting of the Committee is on 29th September at 7.00 p.m. The internal refurbishment/decoration of the Hall is ongoing. Acoustic panels should help with sound projection. The curtains will be back soon. The Albourne Arms pop up pub is breaking even. The numbers of people attending is very variable (50+ was the maximum so far) and so it will continue to run until September, and then change to a Friday evening for the winter. It may be an idea to align this with e.g. quiz nights or music nights.

17. (2015/076) – Current issues. The common copse land in the Street had already been discussed above.

18. (2015/077) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. GS mentioned the case of a vehicle that appeared to have been abandoned. However, DH mentioned that the owner was identifiable and had a connection with Albourne. DH said that she would try and find out more. MP asked about the senior goalposts in the Recreation Ground. It is believed that they were taken away for refurbishment, and the Clerk will try and find out when they will be put back. HJ was awaiting a response from the footpaths ranger, Sue Philipson, at WSCC about the cutting back required to some

of the footpaths. It was noted that "Monday Club" had done some recent work. She raised the issue of the gap in the hedge at the Millennium Garden. It was agreed that this should be replanted using about 12 hawthorn plants at about £1-49 a plant. HJ will therefore pursue this further.

The meeting closed at 8.54 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 6th OCTOBER 2015 @ 7.00 p.m.