

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2014]

Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

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

Present: 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 of the meeting) and 2 members of the public.

- 1. (2014/206) – Chairman formally opens meeting and receives any apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from Councillor Meg Price. In the absence of the Chairman, GS took the Chair as Vice-Chairman of Council.
- 2. (2014/207) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** No issues were raised.
- 3. (2014/208) – Declarations of interest.** EM declared a substantial, personal interest in the planning application below, as she was both the owner of the property and the applicant.
- 4. (2014/209) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th January 2014 (as amended in correspondence) were approved and signed, as a true record, by the acting Chairman. Updates: There were none that would not be coming up on the Agenda.
- 5. (2014/210) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Peter Griffiths and MSDC Councillor Gordon Marples/Sue Seward.** Peter Griffiths (PG) said that there was no progress on the “diverted” footpath issue, but that the response received from the new Ranger at WSCC indicated that there is a resource issue for these matters. However, she would try and treat it as a priority. PG will send the Clerk a note about the gully maintenance and jetting programme. He mentioned that there was still no firm date for the clapperboards,

but was pleased to note that the wandering barriers issue in Church Lane had been dealt with. PG was thanked for his work in this regard. PG will keep the Council further posted on this. He mentioned that WSCC is looking at a programme of maintenance of B & C roads, and that these would be surveyed and done over the course of the next few years. It was acknowledged that patch repairing was not economic. On gypsies and travellers, it was reported that a new transit site had been found near Chichester, and that the issue needs to be addressed on a multi agency basis. He asked about winter planning, and GS said that he will check the salt bin levels, but there have been no requirements so far this winter. The rural broad-band issue is very much ongoing with BT Open-reach. NE raised the issue of the broken and dangerous sign (see previous minutes) and PG said that he would look into this - the sign needs to be taken away as the first priority. NE also mentioned the perennial issue of the quiet road resurfacing on the A23. There appears to be some confusion now as to whether this is happening or not, and PG will investigate the matter further. Finally PG mentioned the successful visit to the Parish of the Bishop of Chichester, and mentioned that PG is now a governor of the School in Albourne.

Gordon Marples (GM) mentioned that Mayfields were on a charm offensive with MSDC at present, in an attempt to get MSDC on board with the proposed development. He referred to the ongoing involvement at high level of the two local MPs, Nicholas Soames and Nick Herbert. He mentioned that there was a Neighbourhood Plan workshop at MSDC for 11th March, and that this would look at some of the issues surrounding the District Plan. In the meantime, it was noted that the current planning pressures in Mid Sussex will remain. The current contractual arrangements with MSDC for planning in the South Downs National Park will continue. JG raised the issue of the second runway at Gatwick, but GM confirmed that MSDC had not yet decided on its formal position, but that there would be bound to be implications - Gatwick was a major employer in the area. MG raised the issue of the planners' definition of "sustainability" as regards planning approaches and decisions, particularly as regards bus routes and time tables. It was noted that there is no one definition of this, and consistency was a difficult issue. Finally, he mentioned the letter to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the way the Inspector had approached the duty to co-operate issue over the District Plan. The lack of dialogue between the parties was an on-going concern.

Sue Seward mentioned the technical communications problems she had been having recently, and the Clerk was asked to ensure that her new personal contact details are used in future. She asked if Mayfields had been lobbying Parish Councils, and the work of the inter Parishes Group was referred to in response. There had been no real follow up from the Company since their presentation to the Council last year. The Council expressed how pleased they were to see Sue

at the meeting.

6. **(2014/211) – Tree Warden.** *It was formally resolved (MG proposing and EM seconding) to formally appoint Heather Jordan as the Parish Council’s Tree Warden.* The Clerk would notify WSCC accordingly.

7. **(2014/212) – Project Updates.** (i) The issue of the clapperboards had been dealt with in Councillor Peter Griffiths’ report above; (ii) the installation of the newly refurbished substitute Noticeboard was noted, and JG confirmed that the dilapidated Noticeboard outside Western Cottages on the Henfield Road, had been taken down in accordance with the Council’s previous agreement; (iii) the Clerk expressed concern at the apparent lack of communication from Heritage Fingerpost Signs, as the updates requested had not been forthcoming. The Clerk should write again saying that if there was no reported progress, the contract might have to be cancelled; (iv) the footpath “diversion”, and the stiles issues had also been covered in Peter Griffiths’ report above.

Action:	Clerk
---------	-------

8. **(2013/213) – Planning matters).**

8.1 One planning application was considered, and the plans and relevant policies discussed. It was *resolved to comment to MSDC as follows:-*

APPLICATION/PROPERTY	PROPOSAL	AGREED RESPONSE
AE/13/04141/FUL – Hogs Bottom, Truslers Hill Lane	Locate a shepherd’s hut in the location of Blossom Cottage (a holiday Cottage) to provide additional and separate holiday accommodation.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections subject to the attachment of conditions restricting use and future permitted development rights.

Note: In accordance with her declaration of interest above, EM left the room for the duration of the discussion of this item, and took no part in the decision.

8.2. On (i) MG recommended that Councillors have a look at the planning officer’s decision report on the approval for High Cross Farm (03012), recently reported by the Clerk. MG said that progress was being made with the Neighbourhood Plan, and that further reports would be coming back to Council as soon as possible; on (ii) it was agreed that the Hazeldens matter was still the subject of too many uncertainties, including the progress of the District Plan, and that it was still therefore too premature to be making any firm decisions about it. It would therefore need to be

discussed again later in the year, when hopefully some of the issues may be clearer. The Clerk was asked to respond to David Heron at Vortal Properties accordingly.

Action:	Cllr MG/Clerk
---------	---------------

9. (2014/214) – Finance report.

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

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

AMOUNT	PROCUREMENT	PAYEE
£108	Mowing grass at Albourne (cuts, 9,10, and 11 out of 12)	Barcombe Landscapes Limited
£133-20	Mowing grass at Albourne (cut 12 out of 12) + trimming roadside hedges*	Barcombe Landscapes Limited
£321-55	Clerk's salary plus on costs (December 2013)	WSCC

* The Clerk was asked to find out more detail from the contractor as to the nature of the hedging work.

10. (2014/215) - Operation Watershed. Concern was expressed the lack of information from WSCC, and that the requested plans accompanying the Balfour Beatty report/estimate had not materialised. There did not seem to be much point in meeting further with BB in the circumstances. **It was therefore resolved to proceed with the three other estimates for the camera and jetting work, and that GS and BC would take this forward as soon as possible.** Progress will be reported back to the March meeting.

Action:	Cllrs GS/BC
---------	-------------

11. (2014/216) - Village Hall. EM referred to the meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee, which had taken place on 21st January, and outlined the main points. The minutes would be available in due course. There was nothing to add at this stage, other than the fact that there will be no Zumba class for the time being.

12. (2014/217) – Clerk's report. The Clerk mentioned the issue of the VAT matter referred to in correspondence regarding building/improvement works to the Village Hall, and it was agreed that this would need to be the subject of a separate report to

both the Council and the VH Management Committee in due course. The Clerk would action this in the next month or so.

13. (2014/218) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Cllr NE mentioned that she and MG were going to a meeting of Locals against Mayfields Building Sprawl (LAMBS) on 5th February, and would be meeting the planning consultant, Richard Walker. She also raised an issue about a caravan being parked on Church Lane, which Cllr MG said that he would take up with the owner. Cllr EM mentioned the unlawful use of footpaths by groups of cyclists often late at night. This was an issue that could be brought to the attention of the local PCSO. Cllr MG mentioned the issue of the school sign that had still not been dealt with. PG would be asked to check this out. Cllr GS mentioned the issue of the white posts that had appeared alongside the verge of a private property, apparently at the initiative of WSCC. These were not particularly in keeping, and it was noted that there had been no consultation with the Parish Council. There was some correspondence on this, which would be forwarded to MG (and copied round) for further investigation. He also mentioned the issue of horses going down Church Lane on a circular route, and then cutting through by the Rectory, which was not an authorised route, nor a public bridleway. MG will look into this. Finally, he mentioned the issue of the increasing incidents of dogs being out of control on footpaths going through farm land, and that this needed to be monitored. Cllr JG announced his intention to step down from the Council in March, and said that the meeting in March would be his last one.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 4th MARCH 2014 @ 7.00 p.m.