

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2013]

Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council held on:

Tuesday, 8th January 2013, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr Jerry Butler (JB) (Chairman)
Cllr Meg Price (MP) (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Graham Stafford (GS)
Cllr Robert Dunckley (RD)
Cllr Elaine Makey (EM)
Cllr John Gooch (JG)

In attendance: Iain McLean (Parish Clerk), Cllr Sue Seward (MSDC) and 3 members of the public

- 1. (2012/148 – Chairman opens meeting and receives any apologies for absence).** Apologies were received from Councillor Mick Gratton (MG), and Councillor Peter Griffiths (WSCC) (Cllr PG).
- 2. (2012/149 - Acceptance of office of Chairman).** The Chairman signed the acceptance of office in the presence of the Clerk.
- 3. (2012/150 - Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public).** (i) Mr Barry Compton updated the Council on the flooding issue at his premises. The drains have been rodded and the blockage located. Gulu Sibanda from WSCC Highways has raised a works order for further investigation, but there is considerable disappointment at the delay. The Clerk to write to Cllr PG and Gulu Sibanda, in order to try and seek a firm commitment that the work will be done by 28/02/13. (ii) Lee Goosens from the Wickwoods Country Club and Spa had expected the re-application for planning permission on the site, to be considered. However, the Clerk confirmed that the application had not as yet, been notified to the Council by MSDC. The matter would be looked into further.
- 4. (2012/151 – Declarations of interest).** None were received.
- 5. (2012/152 - Approval of Minutes).** The minutes of the last meetings of the Council held on 6th November, 20th November, 4th December, and 11th December (2012) were formally approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman and

Vice-Chairman.

6. (2012/153 - To receive reports (if any) from WSCC and MSDC) Councillor Sue Seward (MSDC) gave her report.

She asked whether the Council had received a copy of WSCC's Transport Study. The Council was not aware of this, but it may have gone to Cllr MG. This would be checked. However, it is on their website. She referred to a couple of traffic management issues. The issue of planning enforcement was raised in terms of recent building projects, i.e. reinstatement of the grass verges at Leyfield. She said that she would take these up as appropriate with WSCC or planning enforcement officers. This was to include the issue of the protruding sheds (see previous minutes). Cllr RD was of the view that these infringed the building line by much more than the minimum, in which case MSDC should take the appropriate action. It had been previously noted that if the protrusion was within certain limits, then it was likely to be permitted development, and so MSDC would not take any issue with it.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Seward for her attendance.

[Note: This item was taken later in the meeting]

7. (2012/154 – Planning matters)

1. Cllr MP confirmed that the application at Greenmead had been withdrawn, but that a further application could be expected in due course.
2. It was noted that The Pear Tree and the Gallops applications had been approved, and these notifications had been circulated to Members.
3. On the Neighbourhood plan progress, it was reported that the revised sustainability objectives, with input from MSDC, would be tabled at the next meeting. It was noted that there had been no responses to the consultation letter, which Cllr MP had sent/delivered to all the businesses in the Parish.

8. (2012/155 - Finance report).

1. The financial summary was received and noted.
2. Invoices were presented for payment, and it was **resolved** to agree and to make the following payments (Cllrs GS and JB as signatories):

| AMOUNT | PROCUREMENT | PAYEE |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| £114-00 | Grass mowing & hedge maintenance | Barcombe Landscapes Limited |
| £110-00 | Village Hall hire | APC Village Hall Committee |

| | | |
|--------|---|-------|
| £47-46 | Stationery items | Clerk |
| £93-60 | Street light maintenance Lamp-post K | DTS |

9. (2012/156 – To formally approve the Council’s budget for 2013/14, and to approve the level of precept request to MSDC). A discussion ensued on whether the budget should be put on an Excel spread-sheet, since it was possible that not every Councillor would be able to work with this. On balance it was decided that it was appropriate to present the papers in this format. The budget was then discussed item by item. A number of entries were revised and agreed. The Clerk would incorporate these, and re-circulate the document. The position over the precept was noted, given the tax base changes notified by MSDC.

It was unanimously resolved to agree the budget, with the changes referred to above. The total budget now came to £15,990.

It was further unanimously agreed to request MSDC to set the precept at the recommended figure of £14,054 , which for this year, would be made up from grant from MSDC of £579 taking the figure up to £14,633. This represented no change in the figure for the current year.

10. (2012/157 – Street Lighting issue). This item was discussed in the context also of setting the budget (above). The report from Direct Technical Services into the general condition of the street lighting, which APC is responsible for, was noted and discussed. The total cost of the work was noted, and it was agreed that the work needed to be done in phases, according to priority. It was agreed to proceed with the repair of lamp “O”. It was noted that the replacement of the mercury units, which needed to be done legally anyway, would in time, save the Council money on energy costs.

It was resolved that the Clerk would ask DTS to prioritise the work, but that the repair of the failed light “O” should go ahead at the cost estimated.

11. (2012/158 – Parish Council Notice-boards). The kind offer from Peter Holding of sourcing a new board, free of charge, was noted by the Council. However, the Council wanted to be sure about what this would look like. It was felt that a new Board outside the VH needed to fit, and blend in with the setting. The alternative was that the other board (currently residing in Cllrs GS’s garage), which would be more or less a like for like replacement, could be repaired at fairly minimal cost.

It was resolved that Cllr MP would arrange to have a look at the aesthetic nature of the new board, and Cllr GS would explore, and report back on the costs of renovating the alternative board.

12. (2012/159 – Village Hall). Cllr EM reported that she had tendered the work to 3 contractors; 2 have responded. There had been a request for an extension of time for submission for some further information. There will be site visits to look at the plans, and specifications, with Cliff Emery. It was noted that the garage door issue (not shutting properly) had been resolved.

13. (2012/160 – Councillors Exchange of Information/new matters raised by Councillors). Cllr MP noted that the finalised risk assessment still needed to be formally signed off. The Clerk would present this at the next meeting. Cllr MP also referred to the fact that the footpaths report from WSCC (as circulated by the Clerk to Members) was very poor, as it contained no detail. The Clerk was asked to make representations to this effect. Cllr EM referred to a road traffic accident along Shaves Wood Lane, which had led to the closure of the road. The issue of road dangers in this area, particularly as regards vegetation overgrowth, needed to be pursued with Cllr PG (WSCC). Cllr JG enquired about progress with the clapperboards, as the flooding along the lane at Christmas had caused a carol service to be moved to another Church. The Clerk will chase this up with WSCC, and put an item on the next Agenda for formal discussion. Cllr GS also raised the footpaths issue, and asked whether it is possible to obtain from WSCC, a map of all the numbered footpaths in the Parish. The Clerk would pursue this further.

14. (2012/161 – Any other business). There was none. However, at the end of the meeting Cllr JB announced his resignation both as Chairman of the Council and as a Councillor, and handed round letters of resignation.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

SIGNED.....Jerry Butler/Meg Price
Chairman/Vice Chairman

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, 5th FEBRUARY 2013 @ 7.00 p.m.

