

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2016]

Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 12th July 2016, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr Meg Price (MP) - Chairman
Cllr Nikki Ernest (NE)
Cllr Heather Jordan (HJ)
Cllr Di Howard (DH)
Cllr Nick Wergan (from 7.30 p.m.)
Cllr Jerry Butler (from item 6)

In attendance: Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk), and 2 members of the public (for parts or all of the meeting).

- 1. (2016/081) – Councillor MP formally opens the meeting, welcomes those present, and receives apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from Councillor Graham Stafford, and subsequently from Councillor Peter Griffiths (WSCC) and John Allen (MSDC).
- 2. (2016/082) – Declarations of interest.** NE declared a personal interest in item 7 regarding the planning application DM/16/2196 (Gretta Gate), as she is a near neighbour to the subject property.
- 3. (2016/083 – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public** – Regarding the drain outside the Village Hall, it was reported that some work had been done by Conways just recently, but that the drain cover had been put back incorrectly. However, that issue has now been resolved. It was reported that two drains in the Henfield Road had been cleared personally by a local resident (Bill), but it was not clear if these should also have been done by Conways. There is still some flooding outside Ernest Doe along the B2118. There were also some problems along the road to Hurstpierpoint. It seems that adequate drainage maintenance is not being done by WSCC. It was reported that the light in the Street by the entrance to the School is still permanently on – the Clerk to chase up again.
- 4. (2016/084) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th June 2016 were duly approved and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman. The issue of the ownership of the land north of 1 Butts Cottage was discussed, and although

some progress had been made in terms of establishing that it does not appear to be WSCC land, it was agreed that no further action is required at present.

5. (2016/085) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Peter Griffiths (PG), and MSDC Councillor John Allen (JA). No reports, as neither Councillor was present. However, NE updated the Council on the meeting she had attended on 8th July 2016 at MSDC on the progress of the District Plan. The submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State is now expected later in the summer. The delay is due to the fact that further work needs to be done on the Pease Pottage site. The final meeting with the QC advising is on 5th August 2016. There may still be the need for the Plan to find some more sites for housing over the Plan period, if the 5 year housing land supply issue is to be met. A review of the Plan will be required in 2019. This won't be as regards the numbers, but just the sites to make up any shortfall. There is much concern about the adverse effect that MSDC's position is having on Neighbourhood Plans. The weight being attached to these is very light.

6. (2016/086) – Vacancy on Council. Having been through the required statutory process, and there being no other candidates, DH proposed that former Councillor, Jerry Butler, be co-opted on to the Parish Council as the new member, and this was seconded by NE. **Accordingly, it was unanimously resolved to co-opt Jerry Butler on to the Parish Council,** so as to bring the number of Councillors back up to its full complement of seven members. Councillor Butler duly took his place at the table. He also signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office in front of the Clerk, who also signed.

7. (2016/087) – Planning matters.

7.1 Three planning applications were 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/16/2287 Gallops, The Street	Installation of external flue to first floor western elevation.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application, provided that it meets with the approval of Mid Sussex District Council's Conservation Officer.
AE/DM/16/2499 High Cross Farm, Henfield Road	Re-establish the previously approved application of the erection of a two storey office building under reference 13/03012/FUL.	Albourne Parish Council objects to this application, on the same grounds as it did for the original application under reference number 13/03012/FUL. In the Parish Council's view the proposal does not meet Local Plan policy, or the Parish Council's emerging Neighbourhood Plan. The proposal is now clearly outside the built up area of the site, which we believe was not the position with regard to the

		original application, and so presumably, one of the reasons why it was ultimately granted. As such, the Parish Council is of the view that the proposal represents over-development of the site, and this cannot be supported. Furthermore, in the Parish Council's submission, this application is not a small change to an existing permission, but should be seen as a completely different proposal, within a different context.
AE/DM/16/2196 Gretta Gate, Henfield Road	Retrospective change of use from agricultural land to use within residential curtilage.	Albourne Parish Council is concerned about the precedent of taking away agricultural land in this predominately rural area, particularly in circumstances where proper planning applications have not been made prior to any approval. This is generally not supported by Local Plan policy. The Parish Council would also make the point that there is no discernible boundary, simply because it is understood that this was removed by the applicant.

(In accordance with her declaration of interest above NE took no part in the discussion or decision relating to Gretta gate.)

7.2 To note the response agreed under delegated authority for DM/16/2413 (Hamiltons, Church Lane) as sent to MSDC on 17th June 2016, in order to meet the deadline for comment (1st July 2016). This was "Albourne Parish Council does not object to this application on condition that there are no concerns raised by the MSDC Tree Officer. However, we would request that the work to the Scots pines be done in the autumn, as we understand they would bleed heavily if the work is done in the summer."

7.3 On the Neighbourhood Plan, it should be becoming known by now that the referendum is confirmed for **THURSDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2016**. The final version of the Plan has incorporated all the feedback, and NE had circulated the final draft for approval. Copies will be available from MSDC or on the APC website. Councillors will be canvassing in the week before the referendum, and NE will propose an allocation of properties for each Councillor. NE will also provide a brief to all Councillors, so that this can be relayed to residents. It was noted that the banners will be about £100 each, and it was **AGREED** that about 6 would be needed to be placed around the Parish, and that this number would be sourced from Sussex Signs in Burgess Hill. NW suggested that the bullet points on the banner were reversed for

more effect, and to give a stronger message, and this was agreed.

7.4 On the Firsland Industrial Estate Park planning application, NE confirmed that she had received a response from the leader of WSCC, Louise Goldsmith, to the email that she had sent to Sir Nicholas Soames, and Nick Herbert (the local MPs), but that this had not really added anything to the Parish Council's concerns. The correspondence has been circulated. She had also received a helpful response from the Environment Agency. Although there is no condition attached to the planning consents regarding the movement/management of HGVs, MP suggested that the two firms involved, Viridor and Olus Environmental, could be written to, so as to try and appeal to a sense of reasonableness, and a wish to be locally co-operative. The Clerk will draft a letter accordingly. This should also cover ensuring that they do not operate out of the approved hours.

7.5 On current planning and planning enforcement matters, it was noted that whilst a number of issues were ongoing, the Clerk needed to chase progress on Copyhold Farm, and the track at Bishops Place. The updated schedule would be available for the September meeting.

8. (2016/088) – Finance report and matters.

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

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

AMOUNT	PROCUREMENT	PAYEE
£410-63	Clerk's salary + on costs (June 2016)	West Sussex County Council
£150-00	Annual fee for Parish Council website support	Vision ICT Limited
£92-00	Village Hall hire	Albourne Village Hall
£43-92	Payroll administration charges (first half for 206/17)	West Sussex County Council

NE asked if the Parish Council was on budget generally, and the Clerk responded that at present budgets were either on target or under. The bank balance is healthy, and the Council must be careful not to "hoard" the precept monies. There are a number of projects potentially in the pipe line, but it was agreed not to do anything until the final costs of the Neighbourhood Plan project were known and paid for.

9. (2016/089) – Recreation Ground (play area). MP had written to Councillor Pru Moore . It was noted that a zip wire would cost in the region of £7,000. The Council could consider a climbing tower, but this could be around £12,000. It would be necessary to look into making grant applications, e.g. from the National Lottery, but it would be important not to clash with other applications in relation to the Village Hall, e.g. as to the replacement garage. Therefore, different pots of possible funding would be needed. The matter would be moved on pending a response from Councillor Moore. In the context of the school parking collection and delivery issue, it was suggested that possible the Ground could be used for parking to try and relieve the pressure. However, this would need to involve MSD, and would be likely to need a

hardstanding membrane, if the grass was not to be damaged. MP said that she would take this up with Councillor Moore also. The Clerk was also requested to invite to the next meeting, in addition to the Head teacher, a parent governor, in order to try and take the resolution of this perennial problem forward.

10 (2016/090) – Operation Watershed. Councillor GS was not at the meeting, but the Clerk reported that GS had sought tenders for the scheme that didn't need a scoping report, and so could go forward. The returns should be coming in shortly. The grant applications for the others had been submitted, and the scoping reports were awaited from WSCC before tenders could also be sought for those projects.

11. (2016/091) – Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC). It was noted that the VHMC needed a new Chairman, as Ann Higginson had resigned at the last meeting, both as a member and as the Chair. It was agreed that Jerry Butler be put forward as the new interim Chair until the situation on co-opted members, and the constitution of the VHMC had been resolved. The request from the under 5's Group for an additional free slot in the Hall in the afternoons was being dealt with in correspondence, as the matter was urgent. It was noted that the finish time needs not to clash with the school finish time, as this could exacerbate the parking issues. It was noted that the proposed film nights could cost around £275 per session. It was hoped to source some acoustic panelling for the Hall to help with echo and sound.

12. (2016/092) – Current issues. (i) On traffic issue, and (ii) roadside signage, MP is having a meeting with Richard Speller from WSCC tomorrow (13th July 2016) and these matters will be raised again then. A broken kerb stone in the Twitten (at the junction with the Street) also needs to be reported.

13. (2016/093) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. JB reported an all-day partying issue. The police had been called to deal with the noise, and hopefully it is just a one-off. DH commented on the erection of a couple of large sheds on a property, but there was no record of this having gone through planning. If there is any evidence of residential use, then this needs to be recorded and produced. Otherwise, it was likely that they were permitted development. MP raised the issue of the provision of a defibrillator and reiterated that appropriate training would be needed of one was to be acquired (see previous minutes). DH noted that Twineham Church now has one. There is also one on the Community Shop in Sayers Common. NW noted the issue of the underground cabling being installed on some land to the south of Church Lane by a local farmer, and would be interested in the response as to why this was being done.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 6th SEPTEMBER 2016 @ 7.00 p.m.