

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2022]

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 1st November, 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Graham Stafford (GS) – Chairman
Cllr Jerry Butler (JB) – Vice Chairman
Cllr Di Smith (DS)
Cllr Suzanne Sawyer (SS)
Cllr Joy Parks (JP)
Cllr John Drew (JD)

In attendance: Iain McLean; Parish Council Clerk (via remote means), Councillor Kristy Adams (MSDC), Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC), Councillor Robert Salisbury (MSDC Cabinet member for Planning) and five members of the public.

- 1. (2022/068) - Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** There were no apologies for absence.
- 2. (2022/69) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared on this occasion.
- 3. (2022/070) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** There were none raised.
- 4. (2022/071) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th October 2022 were duly approved and will be signed off, as a true record, by the Chairman as soon as possible.
- 5. (2022/072) – Casual Vacancy on the Parish Council.** Following the resignation of former Councillor Nikki Ernest, it was noted that the date of expiry of the statutory notice advertising the vacancy expires today, and the Clerk is awaiting confirmation from MSDC that no by-election has been called. In that event, the Council **AGREED** to fill the vacancy by co-option at the next Parish Council meeting in December.
- 6. (2022/073) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Kristy Adams (KA). JD** Under JD's report, the removal of the redundant road signs was discussed. There has been a meeting with Richard Speller (RS) at WSCC, but the matter is still ongoing, and there is continued frustration

at the lack of any resolution. It was noted that one has at least been replaced, but another is still there. There is no date as yet for its removal. However, WSCC is generally supportive of what the Parish Council has been suggesting, and it is hoped that the whole matter can soon be satisfactorily concluded. The issue of the road markings at the junction of the B2118 with the B2116 at the traffic lights, which poses a potential danger for vehicles, was discussed. The priorities and lane merging need changing. RS is on board with this. The issue of the safer routes to School dilapidated fence issue is still ongoing, and both the Clerk and Cllr DS are involved in trying to get the matter resolved. It was noted that Operation Watershed funds could be used to deal with the issue of the road sets along the B2116, where there is regular flooding. There are a number of footpaths, where there is overhanging vegetation, and these need to be looked into. It has now been established who the owner is of the overgrown hedge that obstructs the footpath at the Twitten. WSCC's Traffic Speed Policy is going to their Scrutiny Committee, and the outcome of the Parish Council's application for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) (as discussed at previous meetings) may well hinge on that. In addition to ongoing highway improvement works, there are a lot of emergency highway works going on at present. The aim is to ensure that utility Companies and land developers co-ordinate disruptive highway works wherever possible. Staffing issues and delays in connection with the administration of the Blue Badge scheme were noted. Cllr SS highlighted two pot holes, one near the Twitten, and the other by the School, and these should be reported via the successor reporting webpage, previously Love Sussex, now known as Clean Streets. Cllr JP referred to the email she had sent to Cllr JD about the general state of the road condition along the B2116, and reiterated the need for the appropriate remedial action to be taken by WSCC Highways in this area. Cllr also JP raised the issue of reports being made to the Public Rights of Way (PROW) Team, with often no feedback or confirmation of the action taken. It was agreed that WSCC Legal Department need to take firmer action against landowners, who do not take their footpath maintenance responsibilities seriously. **KA** reported that Tom Clark, the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer at MSDC has now left the Council, but a replacement is already in post. She referred the Parish Council to the new master plan for outdoor sports, and said that this strategy is now coming together. ***DISTRICT PLAN***. It was confirmed that the Regulation 18 consultation for the review of the District Plan, which includes a large site for Albourne (known as Sayers Common Garden Village), has now been published. The consultation runs for the statutory 6 week period from 7th November to 19th December. Cllr Robert Salisbury explained the process, and the need to keep the District Plan up to date to 2038/9. All the relevant documents are published on the District Council's website, and there is a guide on how organisations and individuals can respond. There are also plans to have an exhibition of the proposals in various local venues. A question and answer session followed, after which Cllr Salisbury was thanked for his attendance.

7. (2022/074) – Planning matters.

7.1 Two 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/22/3044 - Lanehurst Stables, Twineham Lane	Erection of four bay Oak framed garage with workshop space following demolition of existing	Albourne Parish Council has no particular objections to the proposal, but it does share, and

	garage.	would support, the concerns of the owner of the adjoining property, and would urge that those matters are addressed.
DM/22/0345 - The Stables, Honeybourne Farm, Truslers Hill Lane	Proposed single storey extension with room in the roof (amended plans received 19/10 with amended proposed elevations received 24/10 and new description 24/10).	As previously, Albourne Parish Council has no particular comments to make on this application, subject to the ongoing input of the Conservation Officer. Indeed, we note that the Officer has submitted a detailed response, and we would defer to those comments and observations.

7.2 Cllr JD reported on his meeting with Steve O’Connell at Sussex Police about a traffic survey, which will hopefully support the Parish Council’s TRO application. It was agreed that a local, Albourne Speedwatch scheme needs setting up, despite attempts in the past not being successful, due to a lack of volunteers. A request for people to come forward will therefore be put on the Albourne Connected face book page. Such a group needs at least 4 people, and the Police will provide the equipment and training. There was then a discussion on installing traffic speed loops on the B2118 near the kennels, in order to prove the speed of traffic in that section of the London Road. However, there is the Speed Indication Device (SID) data already, and there was some doubt about the effectiveness of the loops. Nonetheless, one resident is particularly keen on the idea and Cllr JD will try and find out who this is, so as to have a discussion about how the Parish Council is itself addressing these concerns. Other regular issues under this item had been discussed under minute 6 above.

7.3. There were no appeals or enforcement matters to discuss on this occasion, although some updates were still awaited from MSDC. The Clerk will report back in due course as appropriate.

8. (2022/075) – Finance report and matters.

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

8.2 The invoices were presented for payment, and it **was RESOLVED to agree and to make the following payments:-**

AMOUNT	PROCUREMENT	PAYEE
£427-83	Clerk’s salary + on costs (October 2022)	West Sussex County Council
£48-96	Payroll administration charges 01/04/22 to 30/09/22	West Sussex County Council
£206-99	Annual Street Lighting maintenance contract – payment 2 of 2	Streetlights
£300-00	Seasonal cutting of hedges in	Adie Rowe

8.3 The half yearly budget monitoring report for the period 01.04.22 to 30.09.22 was noted and approved. The Council has only spent about a third of its budget so far, and is unlikely to overspend for the year. It was noted however, that many of the budget heads are contingent on events, and so may not need to be used. The Clerk has indicated that as 2023 is an election year, a budget for this will need to be set in case of a contested election.

9. (2022/076) – Calendar of Parish Council meetings for 2023. The calendar was noted and approved, maintaining the tradition of meeting on the first Tuesday in each month. However, the Clerk mentioned that the date of the Annual Parish Council meeting is affected by the Council elections being held on 4th May 2023. The law requires this to be held within 14 days of the date of the election of the new Parish Council.

10. (2022/077) – Current issues. There were no updates reported at the present time.

11. (2022/078) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Cllr JP raised an issue regarding an overhanging hedge on the east side of the B2118 London Road. It is not known who the relevant landowner is, but RS could be asked to do a highways land search in order to try and find out. The pavement also needs clearing. The toxic Black Locust plant issue invading the Beech hedge alongside the safer routes to School footpath at the Village Hall still needs resolving, and although the Clerk explained that because of technical problems there had been a delay in contacting the relevant officer at MSDC, he is now able to do so. It was noted that leaf blowing onto the paths/roads at Holders is an issue, and the Clerk will write to the estate owners in order to ask them to desist. Cllr SS referred to the LAMBS meeting tomorrow evening (2nd November) to discuss the revisions to the District Plan, and the large development proposed for Albourne, and it was agreed that she and Cllr DS will attend on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr DS mentioned the possibility of marking the coronation of King Charles III next year, and it was agreed that refurbishing the Village Albourne sign would be one good way of doing this. The Silent Soldier would once again be moved to a prominent position in the Village to mark the coming Remembrance Sunday. The mounting rubbish at Hunters Mead needs removing, and MSDC will be contacted. Cllr DS moved that flowers are sent to former Councillor Nikki Ernest in order to thank her for all her work for the Parish, and this was unanimously agreed. Cllr DS said that she would arrange for this. It was noted that the gap in the hedge issue (see previous minutes) still needs closing off. A further overgrown footpath issue was reported, but it was noted that the path actually falls within the Parish of Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common. On the question of opening up the Village pub (Albourne Arms) after the Church Carol concert on 21st December it was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would purchase the TENS License which was needed in regard to the sale of alcohol for this additional date, subject to the Village Hall Management Committee concurring.

The meeting closed at 9.32 p.m.

SIGNED.....Graham Stafford/Jerry Butler
Chairman/Vice Chairman

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 6th DECEMBER 2022 @ 7.00 p.m.