

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2021]

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 5th October, 2021 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

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

In attendance: Iain McLean; Parish Council Clerk (via remote means), and one member of the public.

- 1. (2021/076) - Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (MSDC), and Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC).
- 2. (2021/077) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared.
- 3. (2021/078) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** None were raised.
- 4. (2021/079) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th September 2021 were duly approved and will be signed, as a true record, by the Chairman, as soon as possible. Cllr JD mentioned that the minute concerning the signage for the Village Gateways would need to be revisited under Agenda item 6.2.
- 5. (2021/080) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (JLB).** Neither Councillor was present, but Cllr JD (WSCC) had sent a written report in advance of the meeting, which is available from the Clerk.
- 6. (2021/081) – Planning matters.**

6.1 Four planning applications were considered, and the plans and relevant policies Presented, and discussed. It was therefore **RESOLVED to comment to MSDC and to the South Downs National Park Authority, as follows:-**

PROPERTY	PROPOSAL	AGREED RESPONSE
AE/DM/21/3171 The Heblands, Henfield Road	Single storey rear extension with sky lights and internal Alterations.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.
SDNP/21/04564/HOUS Plantation House, Brighton Road	Ground floor rear extension and first floor rear balcony.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.
AE/DM/21/3339 Kingsfold, Truslers Hill Lane	Conversion of the former Village Hall (CF2b) into a new 3-bed dwelling (C3), with internal alterations.	The conversion needs to respect the fact that this is a heritage asset, and although the property is in an area of countryside development constraint there are exceptional circumstances to justify the proposal. In principle therefore, the Parish Council has no objections to the application.
SDNP/21/04565/HOUS Plantation House, Brighton Road	Replacement of existing Leylandii hedge with 2m high acoustic fence and native hedge, new bin store and planter.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.

6.2 (i) on the replacement of the redundant road signs, WSCC is reviewing the position, and is waiting on quotes from Balfour Beatty. After that, the intention is still to have an on-site meeting in order to try and progress the matter. However, the process is taking an inordinate amount of time, which the Parish Council finds unacceptable. The Clerk will take this up with Cllr Joy Dennis. (ii) on the speeding issues, there has been another serious accident near High Cross on the B2116, which further illustrates the need for the stalled Traffic Regulation Order (to reduce the speed limits along the road) to be put in place. The Clerk will take this up with Cllr Joy Dennis to see if there is any chance that the Parish Council's submitted scheme, which seeks to address this issue, could be resurrected. (iii) on the Village Gateways, the issue of the signage to have on the gates was again discussed, as this needs to be clarified. In terms of the discussion that followed, it was noted that the primary aim of the Gateways is to help reduce traffic speeds, not necessarily to mark out the boundaries of the Village. There are "Albourne" signs elsewhere in the Village, and there was therefore a concern not to have too much duplication of information on the gates. Specifically on the Gateway near Magnolia Court, there was a further concern about limiting the information, so as not to interfere with the visibility of traffic turning in and out of the estate. A resolution was therefore proposed by JD and seconded by DS that the signage for the Gateway near Magnolia Court should simply read "*Mind your speed – 30 mph*". **It was unanimously RESOLVED to agree with the proposal.** The Clerk will inform the resident(s) at Magnolia Court, who had wanted to see "Albourne" on the signs. (For the record, the signage for the western approach Gateway will read "*Albourne – Mind your speed.*")

6.3. Yet again, it is reported that there is still no planning application on the issue of the planning breaches at the Equestrian Centre. It was noted that there a lot of Browns lorries travelling through the Village at present. They are making quite a mess of the roads (mud), and these may need to be cleaned by WSCC in due course.

7. (2021/82) – Finance report and matters.

7.1 The financial summary and the Bank reconciliation for the month, were received, noted, and approved. It was noted that the second tranche of the precept in the sum of £7,511 had been received from MSDC.

7.2 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 (September 2021)	West Sussex County Council
£20-00	Grass cutting in the Millennium Garden.	Brian Truran
£127-50	Replacement of streetlight lamp - Column F, Barleycroft	Streetlights
£2,968-26	Installation of Village Gateways and associated traffic works	PHB Contractors Limited
£35-98 *	Purchase of recording equipment for PC meetings, etc.	Jerry Butler (reimbursement for purchase via Amazon)

* The Clerk reported this one additional, late invoice to be added to the list that was previously circulated.

8. (2021/083) - Report from Village Hall Management Committee. There is still a vacancy for the third co-opted member, and JB is looking at how best to get this filled. The Hall has now reopened to hirers, although some have not returned. The issue of the state of the garage is ongoing, and the options of demolishing and not replacing, or of demolishing and replacing with a suitable alternative, are still under discussion. MSDC is also being consulted. Given the ongoing safety concerns, the "Albourne Arms" Village pub has not yet reopened, and is not likely to do so until next year. It was reported that the soffits around the structure of the Hall, need replacing but there is an asbestos issue. They could be over-boarded but JB is looking into the matter further. JB is also looking into installing Broadband in the Village Hall. This will benefit both the Parish Council and the VHMC (e.g. it would facilitate cashless payments for the Village pub, and could increase the interest of potential hirers), and so it could be that the costs are shared equally. There will be an installation charge, and then a monthly contract fee. There are a number of options depending on which provider is selected, but the installation cost is like to be between £80-100, and the monthly fee between £18-30. The Council **AGREED** in principle that it would be a good idea to install Broadband in the Hall. JB will therefore firm up on the costs, and will get back to both the Parish Council and VHMC at their next meetings.

9. (2021/084) – Current issues. The issue of the state of the footpath near the disused entrance at Softech House was raised. The Clerk will pursue this again with the owners. The Black Locust plant infestation in the beech hedge alongside the footpath by the Village Hall continues, and the Clerk will take this up again with MSDC. It was recalled that MSDC was going to liaise with the owner of the garden from where the spread is coming, in order to try and get the matter resolved. The Council was reminded that the overgrown footpath issues at both the footway that leads up from Butts Cottages to just before the traffic lights on the B2118, and the footway that goes from the bridge on the B2116 towards Hurstpierpoint remain unresolved, and the Clerk will pursue these further as appropriate.

10. (2021/085) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters.

Cllr DS mentioned a concern about the difficulty of access to a property by an individual who had raised the matter with her. It needs to be established if the property is owned or rented, but unfortunately, there is nothing the Parish Council can do about it directly, as it is more of a private matter. Cllr JP has obtained a further quote for the various works agreed to be carried out in the Millennium Garden (MG). However, it has only been possible to obtain two quotes, and so in the circumstances, the Parish Council **AGREED** to waive the Standing Order that requires three quotes to be obtained. In the light of some missing information, and the need to include some further work (i.e. to provide some additional hedge whips) it was **RESOLVED in principle, (as proposed by JP and seconded by SS) to accept the quote received from Arbor Cura to carry out the works.** JP will therefore circulate the information by email, and the final go ahead dealt with in correspondence. There is also the condition of an Ash tree in the MG that needs to be monitored. Cllr SS mentioned the issue of the state of a footpath, which has tree roots growing out of it, and is potentially unsafe. Cllr JP said that this has been previously reported (with photos), and that The Public Rights of Way (PROW) team at WSCC, is supposed to be on the case, but nothing has been done so far. Cllr NE mentioned that she wished to raise an issue after the meeting. Cllr JD wondered if the Silent Soldier (currently in the Millennium Garden) should be put back in its spot for the forthcoming Remembrance Day commemorations. This was agreed, and Cllr GS said that he would be happy lead on this. Cllr GS referred to the Queen's canopy tree planting scheme for the Jubilee next year, and it was agreed that members would think about this, as a possible means of celebrating the event.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 2nd November 2021 @ 7.00 p.m.