

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2019]

Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 3rd September 2019, at 7.00 p.m.

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

In attendance: Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk), and 6 members of the public (for all or parts of the meeting).

1. **(2019/087) – Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Suzi Sawyer, and the reason accepted. Councillors Joy Dennis (WSCC), and Judy Llewellyn-Burke (MSDC) had also sent their apologies.
2. **(2019/088) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared on this occasion.
3. **(2019/089) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** No matters were raised on this occasion.
4. **(2019/090) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th August 2019 were duly approved and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman.
5. **(2019/091) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (JLB).** No reports were received as neither Councillor was present.
6. **(2019/092) – Planning matters.**
 - 6.1 There were no individual planning applications for the Parish Council to consider this monthly cycle.
 - 6.2 Cllr JD confirmed that of the various Ombudsman complaints into WSCC's handling of the Firmland planning applications, two are currently awaiting investigation. However, because of what seems a rather arbitrary interpretation of a 12 month cut off rule, one other

has not been accepted. He further reported that Olus will be sending the letter as drafted, to WSCC in support of the Parish Council's Highways Scheme. However, there is no update from WSCC on this as yet, in terms of a detailed response. Councillors JD and JB will be meeting soon in order to try and progress the Village Gateway proposal. It was also reported that the Olus green waste vehicles have not been coming though the Village, as promised by the operator at recent liaison meetings, and so this is very welcome.

6.3 On current planning, and planning enforcement matters, Cllr NE has chased up MSDC about the Equestrian Centre floodlighting issue, and the barn issue at the property in Twineham Lane, but there has been no response on either as yet. There is a briefing session at MSDC tomorrow (4th September 2019) when the new Development Plan Document (DPD) for the District Plan, setting out proposals for additional housing sites in the District, will be discussed. Both Cllr NE and the Clerk will be attending. The inter Parishes Group will be meeting on 5th September 2019. The Horsham District Plan review will be the main topic, and there is a big increase in their housing numbers to be found. They will need to find some significant sites, and their attitude towards the Mayfield Market Town proposal near Henfield, continues to be a subject that needs constant monitoring.

7. (2019/093) – Finance report and matters.

7.1 The financial summary and the Bank reconciliation for the month, were received, noted, and approved. The Bank balance was healthy, although this still included the Operation Watershed grant from WSCC of some £29K.

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 (August)	West Sussex County Council
£360-00	External audit fee (2018/19)	Moore Stephens

7.3 The external audit report for 2018/19 had been received from Moore Stephens. This gave the Parish Council a clean bill of financial health, although a comment had been made, which simply reflected the fact that as the Parish Council was exempt from making a full return in 2017/18, the auditor did not have the figures for that year. The report was therefore noted, and the Clerk confirmed that all the necessary paperwork had been published in accordance with the legal requirements.

8. (2019/094) – Current issues. (i) On the tidying up of the Millennium Garden, the Clerk had still not received a quote from Barcombe Landscapes Limited, and so will chase this up. In the meantime, Cllr JP said that she would be happy to obtain other quotes, (ii) on the Common Copse land, Cllr GS has emailed Richard Speller (WSCC) about the measurements of the site, but there has been no response so far, (iii) in regard to the burning of rubbish issue at the site in Church Lane, the land ownership issue is still being investigated, and the Clerk will chase this up with WSCC.

9. (2019/095) – Operation Watershed (OW). Councillor GS said that the contractor (Landbuild) had confirmed that the start date for the next phase of the OW work along the

B2116 (Henfield Road) was scheduled for 25th September 2019. There would be some road traffic management issues to be aware of.

10. (2018/096) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Cllr JP raised an issue, on behalf of Councillor Sawyer (SS), of the planting trees on the verge opposite Ernest Doe. A firm proposal needs to be worked up by SS for further consideration. The issue of the dumping of garden rubbish at the allotment site is still outstanding, and the Clerk will chase this up. This also needs to be done in respect of the proposal for a new dog waste bin near Church Lane on the corner. Cllr NE raised a query in respect of some work (mainly hard standing and brickwork) going on at a property in Barn Close. The Clerk will check with MSDC Planning enforcement. Cllr GS raised a number of issues, being (i) overgrown vegetation at Barleycroft near to the salt bin, (ii) overgrown hedges near the Equestrian Centre overhanging the B2116, (iii) the rubbish bag issue at the School being left out in the open, (iv) the broken post and rail fence alongside the footpath at the Village Hall. The Clerk will take up all these matters with the relevant authorities.

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 1st OCTOBER 2019 @ 7.00 p.m.