

# ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2022]

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

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

*In attendance:* Geoff Zeidler for the Parish Council (Planning), Councillor Joy Dennis (West Sussex County Council) and members of the public.

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- 1. (2022/048) - Councillor GS formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jerry Butler, and the reason accepted. Apologies for absence had also been received from the Clerk, Iain McLean.
- 2. (2022/049) – Declarations of interest.** Cllr NE declared a personal interest in the planning application for the land south of the Henfield Road, as her property neighbours the subject property.
- 3. (2022/50) - Inspired Villages – development of the former Hazeldens site as a retirement Village.** Inspired villages (IV): Small presentation, mainly a Q&A session involving first the council, then the public. IV is holding a meeting in the Village Hall on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 1830 for villagers to attend to answer more questions.
- 4. (2022/051) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** Cllr GS read a statement from the council which virtually mirrored the statement, which some villagers had commissioned from a consultant regarding the proposed development.
- 5. (2022/052) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were duly approved and will be signed off, as a true record, by the Chairman as soon as possible.
- 6. (2022/053) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Judy Llewellyn-Burke (JLB).** JD gave her report.

Speed policy out for consultation – residents will be consulted before Christmas. With regard to road works – there are 2,500 miles of road in West Sussex which makes it difficult to ‘police’. Propose a £10,000 daily penalty charge to utilities that go over the planned closure time. This is to try to make them plan their work more effectively. The money generated by the penalty charge is to be used mainly for more Enforcement Officers. This initiative is to be started in November. The consultation for Transport for South East, covering Kent through to Surrey has finished concerning the transport and plans for existing movements – road, rail, ports and the various issues around the above. Of concern to us is the improvement of the A23 and the A272/A23 and Hickstead junctions. At the moment it is ‘urban centric’ and mass transit is not suitable for rural transport. Trees: large loss of young trees – 10% loss due to adverse weather condition – severe heat and lack of rainfall. Communities with young trees have to own and look after the trees in their areas. Cost of living crisis and support – many questions and ideas around adult social care, heating, cooking etc. for the vulnerable members of the area – needs to be highlighted and actioned. Short-term energy cost saving issues, for example highways lighting to be switched off at a certain time. WSCC is still deliberating over actions to be taken etc.

## 7. (2022/054) – 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/22/2416 Land South of Henfield Road, Albourne	Outline planning permission for the erection of up to 120 residential dwellings including 30% affordable housing, public open space and community facilities. All matters are reserved except for access.	All council members against (Cllr NE did not vote, given the interest declared above). We need to know how far the proposed development has progressed and where do we stand. MSDC need to be asked.
AE/DM/22/2419 8 Council Cottages, Henfield Road	First floor rear dormer.	No objections.
AE/DM/22/2485 Site Of The Former Hazeldens Nursery, London Road	Reserved Matters Application following outline approval DM/19/1001 for an extra care development of up to 84 units (comprising of apartments and cottages) all within Use Class C2, associated communal facilities. 2 workshops, provision of vehicular and cycle parking together with all necessary internal roads and footpaths, provision of open space and associated landscape works, and ancillary works and structures. Works to include the demolition of the existing	Unanimous objections.

	bungalow on the site.	
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7.2 In terms of Cllr JD's report. HGV movements - Cllr JD explained that a TRO is to be put in place to include the speed of vehicles in Truslers Hill Lane. Redundant road signs – the new signs proposed by WSCC on the B2118 were deemed inappropriate by the Parish Council and not needed. The Road Safety Survey, which Steven O'Connell was supposed to be conducting during the last week in August, has not happened. JD to follow up.

7.3. There were no appeals or enforcement matters to discuss on this occasion.

## 8. (2022/055) – 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 (July 2022)	West Sussex County Council
£25-00 *	Bramble clearance at the Medieval Pound	Brian Truran
£652-08 *	Ground preparation work for tree planting at various locations	PHB (Contracting) Henfield Limited
£427-83	Clerk's salary + on costs (August 2022)	West Sussex County Council

\* Approved previously under delegated authority in email correspondence by Cllrs GS and JB (as no meeting was held in August) and invoices already paid.

**9. (2022/056) – Current issues.** The estimate for the repair of the Village Hall notice-board was approved, and Standing Orders waived in order to proceed on the basis of the one quote obtained, given the localised nature of the work.

**10. (2022/57) - Report from Village Hall Management Committee.** To follow from Cllr JB (meeting held via zoom on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022.)

## 11. (2022/058) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters.

Cllr JP spoke about the danger of speeding at the traffic lights on the B2118. The southbound lane is 2 lanes at the lights so traffic in the outside lane assume that the road is 2 lanes when it isn't, and the lanes merge into 1 just before the turning into Church Lane where the chevrons on the road have been obliterated. MSDC have been told about this and have promised to repaint the chevrons but nothing yet. It is extremely dangerous for cars turning right into church Lane. Cars have been estimate at speeds in excess of 70 mph, in fact a speed of 90 mph has been recorded. Cllr JD has data to discuss with Richard Speller. Cllr GS suggested blacking out the outside lane at the lights. A traffic island is another idea, running from the lights to the junction with church Lane. Cllr JP also alerted the council to the state of

the footpath in The Twitten – the trees are overgrown and obstructing the footpath, (this has been raised before but nothing has been done). Geoff Zeidler knows the owner of the land and said that he would speak to him. The woodchip footpath in the Millennium Garden has been re-surfaced. The hedges in the garden need attention. Cllr DS – the VH fence problem is still ongoing. Paul Marshall of WSCC was contacted who in return contacted someone else, who said that it was not the responsibility of the Council. A Mr Davey from WSCC should act as it is part of the safer routes to School initiative but no-one appears to want to take ownership of the problem, which is getting worse. Cars are now parking between the uprights, over the path, they (the council) have a duty and obligation to repair – Richard Speller knows and should act. The trees from the Queen’s Canopy initiative will need to be planted soon – we shall need volunteers. Cllr SS to organise. Cllr GS – the trees at the back of the allotments by the school are overgrown and obstructing the footpath – GS to find out who the owners are so they can be written to and prevailed upon to cut the trees back. It was mooted that we ask for a PROW’s inspection of our paths as many are substandard and dangerous with landowners/farmers not doing anything towards their upkeep and some have been ploughed over. GS/GZ will aim to find out the farmer/landowner of the fields in question, so that the relevant party can be contacted. Mr Geoff Zeidler was congratulated on his candidacy for the MSDC elections in May 2023, for a newly created Ward in Mid Sussex following the recent boundary review.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

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

***NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022 @ 7.00 p.m.***