

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2023]

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 5th September 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr John Drew (JD) – Chairman
Cllr Joy Parks (JP) – Vice Chairman
Cllr Di Smith (DS)
Cllr Suzanne Sawyer (SS)
Cllr Shane Axtell (SA)
Cllr John Spencer (JS)

In attendance: Iain McLean; Parish Council Clerk, (via remote means), Councillor Joy Dennis (WSCC), and 4 members of the public.

- 1. (2023/085) - Councillor JD formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Imelda Spencer, and the reason accepted. Councillor Geoff Zeidler (MSDC) had also sent his apologies.
- 2. (2023/086) – Declarations of interest.** There were none declared on this occasion.
- 3. (2023/087) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** A resident raised the issue of the Sayers Village proposal in the review of MSDC's District Plan, and the proposal to form a successor campaign Group to LAMBS, being WILD, in order to ensure that residents are aware of what is going on. It is not a NIMBY organisation, but needs to hold MSDC to account in terms of the proposal. The challenge is different to the Mayfield's proposal, but there still needs to be a local voice, and there is a need for new people to take over the baton. The Group will hope to engage with the Parish Council and enlist its support as the District Plan unfolds. This will involve spreading the word and getting people to sign up. Cllr JD mentioned that the Parish Council has been invited to a District Plan update meeting at MSDC on 14th September.
- 4. (2023/088) – Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting (Planning only) held on 8th August 2023 were duly approved and will be signed off, as a true record, by the Chairman as soon as possible.
- 5. (2023/089) – To receive reports (if any) from WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis (JD), and MSDC Councillor Geoff Zeidler (GZ).** Cllr JD gave her report. The main

points were (i) the ongoing consultation on the Gatwick airport second runway proposal, (ii) the autumn Covid booster campaign, (iii) the trial of the School Street Opportunities scheme now taking place at a number of West Sussex schools, in order to try and alleviate traffic issues outside schools, (iv) the issue of RACC concrete in schools, as currently highlighted in the national press. However, it is not considered to be a major problem in West Sussex, and should be manageable. There was then a discussion on the Parish Council's TRO application, and the view that whilst it was now with the relevant Traffic Officer, it should be fast tracked in view of the inordinate length of time it has so far taken. Also, it was pointed out that there need to be time frames attached to the various other projects, as otherwise there is a danger that they will all just drift. Cllr JD (WSCC) will see what she can do to help things along.

6. (2023/90) - Councillor Email addresses. The Clerk has circulated a paper setting out the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal, and after discussion, it was **AGREED** that it would be appropriate for Councillors to have their own dedicated Albourne Parish Council email addresses, rather than using their personal accounts. The Clerk will investigate the options and costs, and report back in due course.

7. (2023/091) – Planning and traffic matters.

7.1 One planning application was considered, and the plans and relevant policies presented and discussed. It was therefore **RESOLVED to comment to MSDC as follows:-**

PROPERTY	PROPOSAL	AGREED RESPONSE
DM/23/2160 - Truslers Well, Truslers Hill Lane	Part demolition of existing side single storey extension; proposed one new porch, two-storey side and rear extensions together with associated internal and external alterations.	Albourne Parish Council has no objections to this application.

7.2 Cllr JD deferred this item (highway and traffic issues) to the rolling list of actions due for discussion under item 11.

7.3. Cllr JS gave a report on the Croudace planning appeal held in August, regarding the application to develop the land to the south of Henfield Road (DM/22/2416). He has circulated a written summary to members, but overall, MSDC set out a good and robust case as to why they had refused the application. The outcome is due later this month.

7.4 The Clerk indicated the outcome on a number of recent planning applications submitted to the Parish Council for comment. DM/23/1341 Truslers Well, Truslers Hill Lane (proposed garage conversion, etc.) - approved. DM/23/1676 Starley properties (new gate, etc.) – approved. DM/23/1376 – Squirrels, the Street (various tree work) – no objections. DM/23/1510 Souches, the Street (various tree work) – no objections.

8. (2023/092) – 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 (August)	West Sussex County Council
£643-74	Speedwatch equipment (Community Speedwatch)	Imelda Spencer (reimbursement)

8.3 The decision taken in correspondence to continue to use Mulberry & Co for internal financial audits, and to sign up to this arrangement for 3 years, in order to obtain the benefit of a fixed hourly rate, was duly confirmed for the record.

8.4 As recommended by the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, and in accordance with previous practice, it was agreed not to have an interim internal audit in 2023/24.

9. (2023/093) – Report from the Village Hall Management Committee. The latest meeting had taken place on the 29th August. Councillor DS gave her report. The main points were (i) the appointment of a new Bookings Clerk, (ii) a forthcoming interview for the vacant Treasurer's role, (iii) action to be taken on cleanliness and decoration issues relating to the Hall, (iv) the emptying out of the garage, and what to do with the land afterwards, e.g. the possibility of obtaining a grant, if it is laid out as a seating or recreation area, (v) the co-option of Christopher Davies onto the Committee to fill one of the vacancies (there is still one vacancy to fill), (vi) the Hall cleaner has resigned, and a replacement is being sought, (vii) on the forthcoming Harvest Festival event, it was proposed and **AGREED** to contribute in full, the bar profits (from Albourne Arms pub) from the event to the Church charities concerned, and the VHMC will also be recommended to endorse this.

10. (2023/094) - Street light issue. The Clerk explained the situation, and after discussion, it was proposed by Cllr SS and seconded by Cllr DS, and then unanimously **RESOLVED** to replace the streetlamp bulb in Church Lane with an SL8 LED lantern at a cost of £350 + VAT (which will be reclaimed) in order to prevent a tripping problem to the electricity supply at a nearby property, and which will also reduce the energy use by 65%. It was agreed to defer the recently circulated list of other work that Streetlights recommend need to be done, to the meeting in October, when there may be more information available, particularly as regards the costs.

11. (2023/095) – Current issues. Cllr JD went through the rolling list of actions that had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The main action points to note were (i) the complaint about the flooding issue on the B2116 has not been upheld. It is therefore being escalated to the Chief Executive of WSCC, (ii) the School head-teacher has endorsed the proposal to park the school bus at the bust stop lay be on the B2118, and to use the safer route to schools footpath, in order to help with the traffic congestion issue outside the school at the relevant times, (iii) the issues with the Recreation Ground (mainly the grass cutting) are hopefully being pursued by Cllr Geoff Zeidler (MSDC), (iv) on the traffic and highway issues some good progress has been made with dates from WSCC for action, e.g. road markings on the southbound carriageway of the B2118, but the main issue continues to relate to the time

being taken to resolve the TRO speed reduction issue on the B2116. (v) some of the issues reported by the Parish Council to WSCC relating to excessive vegetation overhanging highways and footpaths have been resolved, (vi) on the Speedwatch programme, two sessions have been carried out on the B2118 and B2116, and eight drivers have been sent warning letters. Finally, it was agreed to add to the action list the schedule of recommended work (as recently provided by Streetlights) to be carried out to those streetlamps in the Parish, and for which the Parish Council is responsible.

12. (2023/096) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. Most matters had been covered under item 11 above, but Cllr SS raised an issue about the gate being left open at the school end of the Millennium Garden. The Clerk will look into this. It was also reported by a member of the public that an offensive notice regarding dog fouling had been posted on a footpath near Hunters Mead. This will be investigated further.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

SIGNED.....John Drew/Joy Parks
Chairman/Vice Chairman

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 3rd OCTOBER 2023 @ 7.00 p.m.