

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2024]

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Albourne Parish Council

held on: Tuesday, 3rd September, 2024 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 John Spencer (JS)

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

- 1. (2024/079) - Councillor JD formally opened the meeting, welcomed those present, and received apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Imelda Spencer and Shane Axtell and the reasons accepted. Apologies were also received from Councillor Geoff Zeidler (MSDC).
- 2. (2024/080) – Declarations of interest.** There were no declarations on this occasion.
- 3. (2024/081) – Adjournment for any questions or issues raised by members of the public.** **(A)** A brief update was given by WILD (Watchdog for Intrusive Local Development) regarding the Sayers Village proposal in the revised District Plan. The main points were (i) the Plan has been submitted to the Inspector, and the examination will start on the 22nd October (ii) she has identified 6 preliminary issues that she wants to look into at the outset, (iii) WILD will be inputting the process with a response, (iv) there is a public meeting on the 3rd October for further updates, (v) WILD is looking for more donations to help with the cost of the work (vi) it was noted that the banner on the London Road has been taken down and the Clerk will look into this further, although the Council has no information regarding it, (vii) the concern is that the new Government's planning proposals will create a developers' charter, but the effect on the current Plan remains uncertain for now, although the Plan should be dealt with under the existing National Planning Policy Framework. **(B)** There is an issue with the road markings on the B2116 from Albourne along the Henfield Road. Councillor JD (WSCC) will look into this. **(C)** The illegally parked car on the Street has been reported. There is another, but this one seems to be legally parked. **(D)** The remaining pallets "dumped" on the Street will be reported as fly-tipping. **(E)** Phil Docherty from Inspired Villages gave an update on the Wellcroft development. The main points were (i) a new builder is actively being sought,

and there is some progress, (ii) the pilings were not quite finished, but the work should still be validated, (iii) once a new programme/timetable is in place, this will be shared with the Parish Council, (iv) the site needs to be tidied up as it looks a mess. The Parish Council through an offer from a resident, will send some photos to Phil in order to show the situation, (iv) it is still anticipated that the speed limit outside the development will be reduced from 40 to 30 mph once the road improvements have been implemented (v) WSCC is not keen on the permanent Vehicle Activation Signs proposed for the London Road. However, Cllr JD (WSCC) supports the idea and will take this up with the officers

4. (2024/082) – Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd July 2024 were duly approved and will be signed off, as a true record, by the Chairman as soon as possible.

5. (2024/083) – 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) budgetary pressures on WSCC services, particularly adult and children’s social services, e.g. the costs of specialist schools. There are increased costs as a result of statutory obligations, (ii) there is a new road safety policy being worked on, (iii) there is an asset management review ongoing within WSCC, (iii) there is a water summit coming up with Southern Water to discuss e.g. high density rainfall and flooding, (iv) WSCC will be responding to the Gatwick second runway consultation, and associated infrastructure requirements, (v) WSCC is inputting applications for battery storages and solar farms, (vi) the concerns about the state of the footpaths over the spring and summer was discussed, and although a response has been received from the Public Rights of Way Team, many of the concerns remain. The main one is lack of feedback on reports made, even when some action is taken. It is understood that work has to be prioritised. It is possible that the volunteer Monday Group could become involved, e.g. with repairs to finger posts. (vii) Cllr JD will chase up the need to arrange a further meeting with Adam Denby (WSCC) in order to discuss all the outstanding traffic and highway issues.

6. (2024/084) – Planning matters.

6.1 One planning application was considered, and the plans and relevant policies presented and discussed. It was therefore **RESOLVED to comment to MSDC as follows** – (with Cllr JS proposing and Cllr SS seconding)

PROPERTY	PROPOSAL	AGREED RESPONSE
DM/24/1740 - North Park Farm, Church Lane *	Proposed infilling of existing slurry and dirty water lagoon (including importation of material) and provision of hard standing for storage of haylage This is an application to establish whether development is lawful. This will be a legal decision where the planning merits of the proposed use cannot be taken into account. *	APC had no issue with planning application DM/23/1029, which was approved just over a year ago in June 2023. We do however, have a number of concerns with regard to this latest application, in that there is an additional proposal to concrete an area of 1,848ms (33x56m). This is a major change, and should be the subject of a separate planning application. For example, the effects on drainage need to be assessed, with the

		<p>relevant Drainage Department of MSDC being properly consulted. In addition, there will be significant tipper vehicle movements on site, and we believe there needs to be temporary warning signs at the exit point in order to warn other traffic, as otherwise conflicts could occur. Similarly, if the ground operation is subject to wet weather, there may be significant accumulations of mud on the highway, and so there needs to be sufficient wheel washing facilities in place in order to prevent this. We do appreciate that this is a further application for a Lawful Development Certificate, but that it is not a grant of planning consent. We are not therefore sure the extent to which conditions can be attached, other than the standard, but in terms of how the operation is implemented (if the Certificate is to be granted) we would want to see a formal planning application being made so that these concerns can be fully addressed. *</p>
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** Note: In view of the fact that the deadline for the response was prior to the date of the meeting, this application was dealt with under the delegated authority provisions of Standing Orders, and the agreed response was submitted to MSDC before the meeting.*

6.2 Cllr JD reiterated the need to meet with Adam Denby (WSCC) as referred to in item 5. In addition, other solutions to the speeding issues, now that the Traffic Regulation Order application has been turned down, need to be investigated. These could include low cost measures, such as voluntary speed limit indicators

6.3. Cllr JS attended a briefing on the District Plan and Sayers Village proposal with MSDC officers. The Plan now includes a “Vision and Objectives for Growth at Sayers Common” to ensure the proposed sites are considered and planned for collectively. One of the objectives is that the District Council will facilitate collaboration between the site promoters of the sites at Sayers Common to ensure a cohesive, integrated and master-planned development. As a result, there is now a Master-plan prepared, which cannot yet be shared until signed off by the developers. However, there is still a concern that community engagement is not being taken seriously enough, and that to leave it to the planning application stage is not acceptable. It is also proposed that Cllr JS will meet with WILD in order to discuss matters of common interest.

7. (2024/085) – Finance report and matters.

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

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

AMOUNT	PROCUREMENT	PAYEE
£577-45 *	Clerk's salary + on costs (July)	West Sussex County Council
£9-00 *	Photocopying for annual Parish meeting (Agendas and Minutes)	Lindfield Parish Council
£54-00 *	Training course for Clerk – Charity and Trustee Management (October)	Mulberry LAS Limited
£60-00 *	Training course for Cllr John Spencer – planning update (October)	Mulberry LAS Limited
£155-88 *	Previous Zoom subscription fee	Jerry Butler (reimbursement)
£577-45	Clerk's salary + on costs (August)	West Sussex County Council

* Note: As there was no meeting in August, these payments were authorised and made under the provisions of delegated authority, and are reported retrospectively.

8. (2024/086) – Current issues. Cllr JD went through the rolling list of actions, and updated the document as necessary. This will be published separately. The main points were (i) there has been another Operation Speed-watch session resulting in the issue of a number of warning letters to drivers, (ii) the goalposts on the Recreation Ground have finally been installed, and the Clerk will send a thank you to the relevant people, (iii) there is still no response from the School regarding the Millennium Garden gate, so this will now be secured, (iv) the gap in the hedge at Hunters Mead continues to be used, and the Clerk will raise this with MSDC, (v) prices for the additional Silent Soldier have been obtained and circulated by Councillor IS, and it was **AGREED** to go ahead with the purchase of the Airman, (vi) MSDC need to be asked to undertake a survey of all the trees bordering the Recreation Ground. Two damaged trees have been reported, but there may be others, (vii) the Millennium Garden paths need doing, and Adie Rowe will be asked to carry this out, along with the autumn hedge cutting (now due), (viii) the purchase of a strimmer for Brian Truran is ongoing, and his input is awaited, (ix) the Clerk will find out what the latest is on the installation of the bird boxes, etc., in the Recreation Ground, (x) Councillor JP has a possible contact who could help with the nesting boxes, etc., for the Millennium Garden, (xi) the broken springs on the access gate to the children's play area in the Recreation Ground need to be dealt with, and the Clerk will chase this up with MSDC, (xii) the hedge alongside the Street road by Barleycroft/Hunters Mead is very overgrown (making it difficult for drivers), and the Clerk will check the position with Clarion Housing, as it is believed this may be their responsibility.

9. (2024/087) – Allotments. (i) The vacancy for the one plot has not been filled despite the recent advertising campaign, and it was noted that the unkempt nature of the site may be putting people off. (ii) The overgrown state of some of the allotments was again noted, and the Clerk will be writing to the allotment plot holders in order to remind them of their responsibilities to properly cultivate their plots. (iii) Cllr JP has just received a quote for the repairs to the gate and fence from Adie Rowe, and she will circulate this round as soon as possible. (iv) The Clerk will contact Clarion Housing in order to try and find out who is responsible for the vegetation overhanging the footpath on the southern boundary of the site.

10. (2024/088) Footpaths. This item was dealt with in the context of the discussion at 5 above.

11. (2024/089) - Councillors exchange of information/new matters. No additional matters were raised.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: TUESDAY, 8th OCTOBER 2024 @ 7.00 p.m.