

# ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2023]

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## Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council (Village Hall Management Committee) - meeting as the Trustee of the Albourne Village Hall held on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 in Albourne Village Hall.

Present: Councillor Graham Stafford (GS)  
Councillor Jerry Butler (JB) (Chairman)  
Councillor Suzi Sawyer (SS)  
Councillor John Drew (JD) (attending by zoom)  
Councillor Di Smith (DS)  
Mick Gratton (MG)  
Tina Ware (TW)  
Shane Axtell (SA) (from 7.25 p.m.)

In attendance: Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk); Jenny Gratton (VH Treasurer) (both attending by zoom).

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The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m.

1. **Apologies for absence.** There were no apologies for absence, and no declarations of interest from Councillors.
2. **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting.** The minutes of the last meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were formally approved by those present, and duly signed off as a true record by JB.
3. **Matters arising.** MG raised the matter of the Village Hall handyman, in order to take on routine maintenance jobs in the Village Hall on an as and when required basis. This would save the time and delay in obtaining estimates for such tasks. It was therefore proposed by MG and seconded by GS, and then unanimously ***RESOLVED*** to engage the recommended local person in the Village to carry out such work. Payment would be on an agreed rate for the job, rather than an hourly rate. MG will forward the details to members, and also to the VH Bookings Secretary, Jo Nolan.

4. **Domestic issues – Unwanted activity around the VH.** There are again no reports that the VHMC is aware of at the present time. However, there is a fly tipping issue at the Hall (also raised at Parish Council level), which the CCTV coverage may be able to help with. Also, the bins are periodically overflowing, and there is a concern about where the rubbish is coming from. Hirers are supposed to take their rubbish away with them, but the situation will be monitored. **Electrical work.** This has now been done, except for the guard rail around the thermostat. It is expected that this will be completed soon. It needs to be resolved if the electrician is also doing the work to add additional plug sockets (i.e. behind the pub bar), and at what cost. JB will check this out. **Decoration.** The Hall has now been deep cleaned, so the redecoration requirements were discussed. The lower parts of the walls, and the skirting boards need particular attention, and also parts of the ceiling, where there is some damp staining. The relevant areas were agreed, and JB will take this forward, in consultation with the Treasurer, in terms of obtaining the appropriate quotes. **Use of VH for Police Surgery.** As discussed in correspondence, it was formally proposed by JB and seconded by SS, and then unanimously **RESOLVED** that the VHMC would not charge for the use of the Hall for the Police Beat surgery, as this is an important community event. It was later confirmed that this has been booked in for the 26<sup>th</sup> February. It was also noted that MSDC wish to conduct an Energy Efficiency Survey at the Hall (as part of assessing all “their” buildings), and this prompted a discussion about the legal status of the Hall in terms of ownership. MG asked that the Clerk research the issue, and report back to members as soon as possible.
5. **Financial Statement.** The financial Statement provided by the Treasurer has been circulated, and is attached. The pub is doing well, but there may be a need to increase some drinks prices in line with retail cost increases. The Treasurer reported that there are no energy charges from EDF at present in the presented accounts, because meter readings have recently been taken, and the VH is currently in credit. There is some uncertainty about the Plus-net contract for the broadband connection at the VH, because the Company has indicated that it intends to drop commercial services, and only do domestic ones. The effect of this decision on the current 2 year contract is awaited.
6. **Projects. Garage current status and garage contents and their future.** It was noted that this still remains outstanding, and further inspections and clearing out of items, will be arranged as soon as possible, although JB has assessed some of the items that can be disposed of. It is hoped to take this forward when further time allows, and when the weather improves.
7. **Social activities. Albourne Arms.** As set out in 5 above. It was also noted that in terms of attendance, the Friday turn outs are quite varied. **King Charles III Coronation.** MG confirmed that the bookings (with deposit paid) have been made for the marquee, and the live performing bands. JB confirmed that the Hall has been booked. However, the Recreation Ground will need to be booked from MSDC, and it would have to be ensured that the grass has been cut. It was thought that

there will be enough tables and chairs, but other things may need to be hired. It was re-iterated that this is a “bring your own food and drink” event. JB will deal with the issue of the TENS Licence for the event. It was agreed that there needs to be a separate meeting of the Committee in order to progress this particular project, given that time is quite short, and so there will be a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.00 p.m. On a point raised by GS, the Clerk will research whether there are any grants available for these events. **Future Events.** The defibrillator refresher training has been arranged by John Parks, with a date fixed for Parish Councillors of 10<sup>th</sup> February commencing at 7.00 p.m.

8. **Any other business.** It was reported that there has been some good feedback recently about the VH, and bookings are healthy. TW raised an issue about the setting up of items for the Under 5s, e.g. with tables for toys, etc., and whether this might conflict with anything. However, it was agreed that there was currently no problem with regard to this.
  
9. **Date of next meeting.** This was agreed for Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall, and JB will book the Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

SIGNED as a true record.....

Chairman

DATED.....2023