

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL [2021]

Minutes of the meeting of Albourne Parish Council (Village Hall Management Committee) - meeting as the Trustee of the Albourne Village Hall held on Tuesday, 28th September 2021 **held via Zoom in the interests of safety.**

Present: Councillor Graham Stafford (GS)
Councillor Jerry Butler (JB) (Acting Chairman)
Councillor Suzi Sawyer (SS)
Councillor Di Smith (DS)
Councillor John Drew (JD)
Mick Gratton (MG)
Tina Ware (TW)

In attendance: Iain McLean (Parish Council Clerk); Jenny Gratton (VH Treasurer)

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 29th June 2021 were formally approved by those present, and duly signed off as a true record by JB.
3. **Matters arising.** There were none, not otherwise covered on the Agenda and in these minutes.
4. **Membership – vacancy for a new Committee member.** The vacancy for the third co-opted member on the Committee still exists, and no one has yet come forward. JB will continue to try and progress this, and will tap into the Albourne Connected resource in order to try and find a suitable person.
5. **Domestic issues – reopening of the Village Hall to hirers.** JB confirmed that the Hall has now re-opened, subject to the appropriate Covid health and safety measures, although it was noted that some previous hirers have not returned.

However, there are some new ones. **Unwanted activity around the VH.** There are no reports, which the VHMC is aware of at the present time, and it may be that the recently installed CCTV cameras are making a difference. **CCTV.** This all seems to be working OK, and JB will be checking the function every 6 weeks or so. He will be recording the inspections in the Book, which is kept in the Hall for that purpose. **Village Hall Floor.** As previously reported by JB (with photos) the new floor has been put down over the summer holiday, and everyone agreed that it is a great improvement. **The under 5s play area.** There are no further issues to report at the present time, although it was noted that there is now an outside storage box on the site. The location of this seems fine, although it was mentioned that it is not big enough to store the Under 5s items currently stored in the garage (see further below). **Wi-fi Internet access.** JB has carried out some testing, and there are problems with the broadband speed in the Hall, making this difficult. It will need a landline. Any such set up will incur a one-off installation cost, and the service will need unlimited data. JB has looked into the costs, and there would also be a monthly charge of about £20-25. Wi-fi in the Hall could be useful for hirers, although currently there is no great demand for it. However, further work could be done in order to assess the demand for the future, given the way that the use of technology ever increases these days. It would enable card payments to be taken for the pub (when it re-opens), which is especially appropriate from a hygiene point of view at the present time. However, it would also benefit the Parish Council in terms of remote attendance at meetings by Councillors and others, and so MG felt that this was more a matter for the PC to take forward. It was therefore agreed that the principle and the expense, would be referred up to the PC at its next meeting on 5th October 2021. The Clerk will therefore put an item on the Agenda accordingly. JB will also hope to come to the meeting with some more specific cost estimates for the project.

6. **Financial Statement.** The financial Statement provided by the Treasurer has been circulated, and is attached.
7. **Projects. Chairs.** It was noted that there are now 60 good chairs, which would be enough for most functions in the Hall. If any more were needed for a particular function, they could be fairly easily hired in. It was therefore agreed not to purchase any more chairs for the time being, but to keep the matter under review. **Garage and garage roof.** MG reported that the garage has been tidied up, but there are still quite a few items left in it. The Under 5s are unsure whether all their equipment could be stored in the VH, and this will need to be looked into further. There is additional storage space in the Hall, but the frequency and ease of access to items, in terms of the safety requirements, could be an issue. It was thought that the PC/VHMC's items could either be disposed of or stored in the Hall. This led on to a further discussion about the future of the garage. The options are to demolish it and not replace it, or to demolish it and replace with a new, more modern structure (as per the work that has already been done, in terms of providing a suitable alternative structure, along with the associated costs). GS confirmed his view that it should be replaced, as once it was gone, it might never be possible to replace it, if the storage requirements for the Hall ever increased. There is a view that if that

happened, the PC/VHMC could either rent additional storage space, or look into building a small extension onto the VH itself. It was noted that any of these options will need input (and ultimately consent) from MSDC as the PC's landlord, and so the Clerk will run these past MSDC in order to gauge what their views are, as this will inform the discussion, if not resolve it (depending on what the outcome is).

8. **Social Groups feedback. Albourne Arms.** The pub still remains closed, in view of the ongoing situation, and safety issues. There is no fixed date for re-opening at the present time, but it was felt that this will not happen until at least early next year. Alternative Friday evening bookings could therefore be accepted if they come up. There are some drinks supply/delivery issues that will need to be resolved before any opening, and the options for this will be considered further. **Future Events.** There are still none planned, given the ongoing uncertainty about re-opening, but in principle, it was agreed that if possible, the VHMC would try and do something for the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June next year. JB asked that all ideas should be sent to him for further discussion, so as to take this forward.
9. **Any other business.** There was none.
10. **Date of next meeting.** This was agreed for Tuesday, 30th November 2021 at 7.00 p.m. (In order to avoid a meeting in late December, it was agreed to have the next meeting in two months rather than three, and then revert to the normal three monthly cycle.)

The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.

SIGNED as a true record.....

Chairman

DATED.....2021