

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

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Monday 25th October 2021

Minutes of a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC) held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 18th October 2021

Present:

Cllr Beechey [Vice Chair]

Cllr Rabagliati

Cllr Daw

In attendance:

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 8 members of the public

77. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Beechey welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for braving the weather to listen to what we have to say. He explained that the metal railing surrounding the Oak tree in the Square has been removed as it has served its purpose. It is being stored somewhere in case needed in the future. There are some concerns that the tree may have some disease at the bottom so Mr Dan Larkin has been asked to investigate; we await his report.

78. Public Questions

1. Ms Diana Monteath-Wilson said that Mr Richard Green promised to look after the tree for life. Cllr Beechey said we will await response from Mr Larkin before proceeding any further.
2. Mr Bill Rendall asked if there is any update following his email to the Clerk about lack of notification of the A27 closure last week at Drusillas roundabout. Clerk confirmed she has asked Highways why APC were not notified but no response as yet. Clerk will chase again this week as we must be notified of any closures. **Action 1.**

79. Apologies for absence

Apologies have been received and accepted from Cllr Watkins, Cllr Bell and Cllr Cooper.

80. Report from Maria Caulfield MP

Maria Caulfield MP was unable to attend the meeting and sent her apologies. She sent in a report which can be found in [Appendix B.](#)

81. Report from Cllr Stephen Shing [ESCC]

Cllr Shing reported that the Exceat Bridge application went to SDNPA in April 2021, they have just recently asked for the plan to be amended so there is now a further delay. Cllr Shing is very disappointed that it took them 6 months to look at it and ask for amendments. ESCC are working on the budget for next year and it looks certain there will be a high increase in Council Tax.

82. Report from Cllr Michael Lunn [WDC]

Cllr Lunn was unable to attend the meeting and sent his apologies. He sent in the following report: *'Regarding the Local plan, the suggested sites for housing allocation are delayed, it is likely to be mid-November now. There will be a public consultation. The local plan will consider the implications of climate change on future planning, this will be based either on localised policy or as being predicted national directives coming from the Government. Regarding the Cuckmere, the water board have been informed by the Environment Agency that there is room for joint working. This includes clearing a small channel of shingle. Discussions are continuing regarding management issues between EA and Water Board. WDC are prepared to use emergency powers to invoke clearing of shingle if immediate threat of flooding. Regarding the A27 work, Cllr Lunn has raised a complaint to Maria Caulfield MP about the length of time Highways England are taking to complete the works.'*

83. Declaration of interests

Cllr Daw declared an interest as she is a Churchwarden for St Andrews and is also part of the Alfriston Emergency Group.

84. Minutes

84.1 To agree as a true record the Minutes of the APC meeting held on 20th September 2021

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Beechey seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC meeting held on 20th September 2021 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.** Cllr. Beechey duly signed the minutes.

85. Finance

85.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: Oct 2021

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Rabagliati seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances for Oct 2021. [[Appendix A](#)]. **MOTION CARRIED**

Cllr. Daw signed the Invoices for Payment.

85.2 To confirm sight of the mid-year 2021/22 finance report

Cllr. Rabagliati proposed and Cllr. Daw seconded a motion to confirm sight of the mid-year finance report for 2021/22. **MOTION CARRIED**

85.3 To discuss and agree which internal auditor to proceed with for 2022

Clerk reported that the internal auditor APC has used for many years has announced his retirement, therefore a new internal auditor needs to be appointed ready for April 2022. Clerk attempted to get three quotes but due to the amount of Clerks looking to appoint someone there were not many with availability. Two quotes have been received and all Councillors have received. There is £15 difference between them. The Clerk explained that the majority of Parish Councils are with Mulberry and they come highly recommend.

Cllr Daw proposed to proceed with Mulberry as APC's new internal auditor from 2022 and this was seconded by Cllr Rabagliati. **MOTION CARRIED.**

85.4 To discuss and agree which payroll provider to proceed with for 2022

Clerk reported that the payroll provider that APC has used for many years has announced his retirement, therefore a new payroll administrator needs to be appointed ready to take over in April 2022. Some Parish Councils do their payroll in-house, but the Clerk would not be happy to do this and feels it is best for an external third party to undertake this role to avoid any issues. The Clerk explained that three quotes had been obtained and all Councillors have received copies. The 3 quotes were very different in price. Bryan Stevens came highly recommended, kindly was offering to do the work pro bono as a village contribution, and would only charge for

the software licence needed. Cllr Rabagliati proposed to proceed with Bryan Stevens as APC's new payroll provider from 2022 and this was seconded by Cllr Daw. **MOTION CARRIED.** Cllr Beechey expressed his thanks to Mr Stevens for offering to undertake this service for free.

86. To discuss access to and parking on Tye Road, to include consideration of request to make parking for residents only

Cllr Beechey explained that due to Councillor absences and Cllr Dawes having to declare an interest (resident who might benefit/Churchwarden), this agenda item was not quorate so needs to be deferred to the November 2021 meeting. He confirmed that proposed options for Tye Road have been circulated to all Councillors and the options will all be for discussion at the next meeting. AWMH and St Andrew's have previously been invited to submit comments.

87. To discuss and agree the timeline for the co-option process for a new Councillor

Cllr Beechey confirmed that following the Notice of Vacancy on the resignation of Mr Ray Savage, WDC have confirmed that no election has been called for, and therefore a new Councillor can be co-opted. The Clerk explained that an advert will be published widely tomorrow, Tuesday 19th October 2021, and any candidates will have 4 weeks to speak to the Clerk and make their expression of interest. At the APC meeting on Monday 15th November 2021, all candidates will have 2 minutes each to give a short speech on why they want to be a Parish Councillor and then all Councillors will vote by a show of hands.

88. Report on Highways and Twittens – Cllr Rabagliati

Cllr Rabagliati reported that ESCC Highways have sent in an update stating that they have now updated the drawings to reflect the comments from the APC as per the meeting (24th August 2021). The safety audit was undertaken by a member of the ESCC Road Safety Team this Monday (11th October) and they hope to have comments back for review in the next couple of weeks. Hopefully by the start of November they should have a full set of drawings. Cllr Rabagliati confirmed that we shall continue to press ESCC for this to enable some implementation in the current financial year. A number of loose pavements and kerb stones have been reported to ESH but, as yet, these have not been repaired. This week a light van suffered a puncture after driving over one of these. APC has been advised by the owners of The Star that the damage to the flint wall on Rope Walk will be repaired in the Spring. Cllr Daw said that she and Cllr Rabagliati are continuing to put the cones out on High Street but at the moment only on a Saturday, and half the number of cones; the parking situation generally seems to be better at weekends now. However, will continue to monitor.

89. Report on Allotments – Cllr Cooper

No report.

90. Report on Public Transport – Clerk

No report.

91. Report on Rights of Way and Countryside – Clerk

Clerk reported that a broken footpath sign at the bottom of Winton Street has been reported to ROW team at ESCC. Cllr Rabagliati said that the three week footpath closure at Plonk Barn seems to have finished as path reopened but the work does not seem finished. Cllr Beechey commented that it was a shame that the team doing the work did not clear the litter exposed when the scrub was cut back. Clerk to liaise with SDNPA and Cuckmere Valley Parish Council to see if the works have finished and if so ask them to clear the site. **Action 2.**

92. Report on Strategic Planning – Cllr Daw

92.1 To discuss and agree working party for Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Beechey confirmed this agenda item will be deferred to the meeting next month as we need all Councillors present to see who wishes to sit on the working party.

93. Report on Tye and Recreation Ground – Cllr Beechey

93.1 To agree and adopt the amended Tye vehicle access policy

Cllr Beechey confirmed this agenda item will be deferred to the meeting next month as AWMH have not been provided with a copy to comment on. Clerk to let AWMH have sight of the policy first to ensure they are happy with the amendments. **Action 3.**

93.2 To consider revocation of permission from the Shot Coffee House to trade from their side door on the Tye

Cllr Beechey suggested that this matter should be decided by a significant body of Councillors, therefore it was agreed to defer this agenda item to next month.

Cllr Beechey updated that a few months ago an application was submitted to ESCC for two dropped kerbs at the Recreation Ground. APC received notification today that the application has been approved and work will be done in next few months. He explained that some may have noticed two new wooden posts at the bottom of the Tye near the Wingrove, this is a temporary measure before putting in new bollards after an existing one suffered significant damage. Clerk to purchase a new padlock. **Action 4.**

94. Report from Planning Committee – Cllr Bell

94.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

SDNP/21/04801/HOUS White Walls, North Road, Alfriston, BN26 5XD

SDNP/21/04871/HOUS Heartsease, Sloe Lane, Alfriston, BN26 5UR

These applications are now being discussed on Friday 22nd October as meeting had to be rescheduled.

94.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

SDNP/21/01727/FUL Mistila, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TP **Granted**

SDNP/21/03869/HOUS White Walls, North Road, Alfriston, BN26 5XD **Withdrawn and new**

SDNP/21/03803/HOUS Little Winton, Alfriston Road, Alfriston, BN26 5UH **Granted**

SDNP/21/03796/HOUS Pailin House, 6 Kings Ride, Alfriston, BN26 5XP **Granted**

SDNP/21/04438/HOUS Timbers, Sloe Lane, Alfriston, BN26 5UU **Ongoing**

SDNP/21/04630/HOUS 6 The Broadway, Alfriston, BN26 5XL **Ongoing**

94.3 Enforcement updates

Clerk explained that there have been no new updates from SDNPA on outstanding enforcement issues.

94. Reports from Outside Bodies

94.1 Volunteer Task Force: no update.

94.2 Heartstart: no update.

94.3 Alfriston Emergency Group: no update

94.4 Flood Forum – Mr Hurwood confirmed there is a meeting on 1st November 2021. Cllr Beechey referenced WDC saying they could invoke their emergency powers to clear the river mouth, and asked if Mr Hurwood and anyone else could keep an eye on it and report back if needs be. Mr Hurwood said he would. He has also not yet spoken to the EA about the pump

but he will as in previous years they have stored their pump next to the Willows/it has been very helpful.

94.5 Neighbourhood Watch – no report.

94.6 Twinning Committee – Mr Michael Anderson confirmed that a committee meeting is due to be arranged to discuss activities for 2022. Cllr Daw explained that the meeting took place today and they are desperate for members. Cllr Beechey said when Twinning first was discussed there were internal politics on the Parish Council and so it was agreed that ‘Twinned with Veules-les-Rose’ would not feature on the village signs. Cllr Beechey suggested it was worth putting on the agenda, nearer the time, for discussion when we install new gateway; he feels it would be appropriate to put something on the signs as per every other town/village that is twinned. Both Cllr’s Daw and Rabagliati strongly agreed.

94.7 Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect – ACC is temporarily suspended at the moment.

94.8 St Andrew’s Church – Cllr Daw explained services are very busy. Money for the bells has been raised, date to be confirmed.

94.9 Clergy House – Ms Holly Jones sent in the following report – *“The open season for visitors to the Clergy House draws to a close on the 28th October. It has been great to open again this year, after closure all last year, even though on a reduced capacity. Once more we couldn’t have opened without the wonderful support and time of our volunteers whether welcoming visitors, sharing our story or working in the garden they have been fantastic this year. It has been an unusual way of opening for us with just two open days a week, no shop and pre-booked visitors only and this will most likely carry on next year. We aim to open again in March 2022 with not long after thatching work taking place on the house which should be fascinating, so do expect the house to have some scaffolding on it for no more than a month while the restoration work on the thatch ridge takes place. Lastly thank you to all our visitors this year for letting us share our story with them particularly in this our 125th anniversary year of the being the first property purchased and restored by the National Trust.”*

94.10 Cuckmere Buses – no report.

94.11 AWMH – Mr Adrian Butcher was unable to attend meeting this evening so sent his apologies and confirmed nothing new to report.

94.12 Speedwatch – The Clerk firstly wanted to record her thanks to the 6 Speedwatch members who have been working so hard on making the Speedwatch go smoothly and on getting out rain or shine! There are 3 confirmed working sites, they are Tye Road, Whiteway and bottom of North Street. There is one site awaiting risk assessment which is at the top of Deans Road, capturing cars along the Broadway. The Clerk has reduced the sessions as there is a concern that will burn out the volunteers; if we could get more members this would mean there would be fewer sessions per member. An advert will be going out shortly, please consider becoming a member. It would entail around 1 session a month which is 1.5 hours long. The Clerk did report that unfortunately when the new 20mph zone is introduced, the law states that no speedwatch can be held in the new speed zone for the first 6 months to ensure drivers are aware of the changes. This used to be one year and only recently got changed to 6 months. This will be frustrating but Speedwatch can still run at Whiteway. The Clerk thanked members again and another plea for anyone interested to please contact the Clerk.

95. Correspondence to the Clerk

1. Clerk reported that organisers of a running event which took place in May 2021 have asked for permission again to have a small drink station next to the White Bridge. Firstly one on 29th May 2022 and second on 6th August 2022. The May one will be daytime and the August one will be overnight. The organisers confirmed all litter will be removed and there will be no noise. All Councillors agreed as long as it is clear that there is to be absolutely no noise on the night one.

2. Mr Graham Harper from Alfriston Arts asked for his email to be read out in full. *“Having read the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting, and seen that decorating the square for Christmas was mentioned, I would like to point out, mention and thank those who generously supported the village last December when ‘the chips were down’. Sylvia Daw very kindly got a small group of people together to install and decorate a Christmas tree in the village square. The tree was supplied and installed by Alfriston Arts as it has been for 4 out of the last 5 Christmases. The battery lights were paid for by Norvetts. The batteries for the lights were very generously provided by The Village Store (to keep the lights going), and the batteries for the lights were changed on a regular/almost daily basis by Sylvia, who also took it on to liaise with the school to decorate the tree making some people very happy. This might not have been to everyone’s liking but I think well worth a mention to have a lit, decorated tree in the village square at a time when things weren’t great and the chips were down.”*
3. The Clerk explained that the PCSO assigned to Alfriston contacted her about alleged ‘drug dealing’ in Willows car park. The Clerk had not heard anything about this so after investigating found out which residents this information came from. Having received a report from one of the concerned residents and discussions with the PCSO, it is felt that there is not an issue but it is going to be closely monitored by Sussex Police, and the Clerk has asked WDC if they would be willing to cut back the bramble area where the alleged ‘suspicious activity’ might be taking place.

96. Public Questions

1. Cllr Daw raised that there has been great feedback on the Dene car park toilets and how clean they are.

97. Date of next meeting

The date of the next APC meeting is Monday 15th November 2021 in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall at 19:15.

Signed:



Mrs Victoria Rutt – Clerk and RFO

APPENDIX A

Alfriston Parish Council Finance Report 18th October 2021

Authority is sought to make the following payments:-

89	BACS	Victoria Rutt - October salary	£1,576.44
90	DD	NEST pension	£138.04
91	BACS	John O'Connor	£361.50
92	BACS	WDC - Q2 bins	£624.00
93	BACS	WDALC - subs	£18.00
94	BACS	AWMH	£33.50
95	BACS	Biffa	£120.53
96	BACS	Latitude	£93.60

Total £2,965.61

Authority is sought to make the following payments made since last meeting:-

85	DD	Santander	£20.00
86	DD	O2	£19.99
87	BACS	Viking	£26.57
88	BACS	Inland Revenue	£1,450.76

Total £1,517.32

GRAND TOTAL £4,482.93

Summary of Bank Balances 18th October 2021

Business Current Account	£7,035.84
Business Savings Account	£48,098.72
TOTAL	£55,134.56

RESERVE INFORMATION				
<i>Project</i>	<i>Opening balance</i>	<i>Budget 21/22</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Closing Balance</i>
General Reserves	£10,000.00	add £5,520		£15,520.00
Tye Rd surface	£8,000.00	add £3,500		£11,500.00
Tye path	£10,440.00		<i>£10,440.00</i>	£0.00
Playground	£4,500.00	add £1,500		£6,000.00
CIL money	£1,749.07			£1,749.07
TOTAL	£34,689.07			£34,769.07



Signed by:
Victoria Rutt - Clerk & RFO

APPENDIX B

Update from Maria Caulfield MP

Parking in Wealden

Last week I met with Sussex Police and Wealden District Council to discuss the ongoing issues surrounding civil parking enforcement in Wealden. We are still at a standstill I am afraid with Wealden not keen on taking on the management of this so further meetings are planned.

Under 18s banned from Botox injection

Far too many young people have been left emotionally and physically scarred by botched cosmetic procedures, often requiring further invasive procedures to fix them. As the new health minister, I was pleased to introduce the new law that under 18s have been banned from getting Botox injections or lip fillers for cosmetic reasons.

Clinics and beauty salons can no longer do cosmetic procedures on under-18s unless it is for medical reasons and approved by a doctor. Outlawing these procedures is a watershed moment in protecting young people. I know it can feel like there is constant pressure to look a certain way — especially when we are bombarded with unrealistic body standards through ads and social media.

GP access package

Last week the government announced the package of support to enable GPs to offer more face-to-face appointments and better telephone reception facilities. It would be great to have any feedback as these changes come in relatively quickly and so residents should be noticing the difference quickly.

Winter Support Fund

I am very pleased to back the new Household Support Fund will support millions of households in England and will be distributed by councils in England, who know their local areas best and can directly help those who need it most, including for example, through small grants to meet daily needs such as food, clothing, and utilities. Vulnerable households across the country will be able to access a new £500m support fund to help them with essentials over the coming months.

During the pandemic the government have helped millions of people through a number of schemes including 14,000 people in the Lewes constituency being furloughed. We are going further to help vulnerable people this winter with the Household Support Fund that will provide £500m of support to help with daily needs such as food, clothing, and utilities.

Cash will be made available to Local Authorities in October 2021.

With more people in work and the economy bouncing back, the Government is focused on investing in jobs and skills – increasing prospects and wages across the country – whilst ensuring those in greatest need can access vital support to help cover everyday costs. Alongside this, the government's Plan for Jobs is helping people move back into employment so they can earn a regular wage, progress, and increase their financial resilience.

Cuckmere Art Exhibition

I was thrilled to join artists at the Celebrate Cuckmere Haven art exhibition to raise funds to protect the world-renowned coastguard cottages. Cuckmere Haven SOS need to raise £250, 000 to pay for phase 1 works to safeguard the iconic coastguard cottages where 75 artists, including Seaford based artist Patrick Goff, were chosen from 220 submissions to showcase Cuckmere Haven inspired artwork that is to be sold to raise funds to help protect the area.

Cuckmere Haven is recognised for its beauty the world over and appears in many major films, TV shows and adverts. It is clearly a big inspiration for so many talented artists who visit it. I was so pleased to see some of their work at the Celebrate Cuckmere Haven art exhibition and see the works

raising so much vital funds to help keep this natural landscape as beautiful as it is now for future generations to come.

Flooding in Cuckmere

I met with the EA on Friday and raised the issues of the late start to the winter dredging as I am aware flooding has started already this year particularly the garden at Deans Place. As soon as I have the dates, I will let you know