

# ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

[www.alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk)

## CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

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Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## Minutes of a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC) held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Present:

Cllr Beechey [Vice Chair]

Cllr Rabagliati

Cllr Monteath-Wilson

Cllr Daw

### In attendance:

Mrs Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 4 members of the public

### 34. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Beechey welcomed everyone to the meeting. He expressed his appreciation on behalf of all Parish Councillors and congratulations to all those who were involved in arranging the Jubilee event, it was a great success. Special thank you to those who manned the road closure points and particularly to Cllr Daw for everything she undertook. Cllr Beechey said that businesses might like to think about doing an annual summer evening with a street closure, allowing them to do activities on which they wanted to do but were not appropriate for the Jubilee. He thought APC would give support, so if anyone wishes to come forward, please speak to the Clerk. A special mention to everyone who has supported the fundraising for the Playground project, to date £9538 has been raised which is a great achievement. The grant application for Veolia is being submitted this week. Lastly, thank you to Mr Frank Fox-Wilson, Mrs Penny Ellis and AEG for their work on refurbishing the village sign on the Tye and getting it in place for the Jubilee, it looks spectacular.

### 35. Public Questions

No public questions.

### 36. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Watkins, Cllr Cooper and Cllr Bell.

### 37. Report from Maria Caulfield MP

Maria Caulfield was unable to attend but sent her apologies. Her report can be found under [Appendix B](#).

### 38. Report from Cllr Stephen Shing [ESCC]

No attendance.

### **39. Report from Cllr Michael Lunn [WDC]**

Cllr Lunn reported that he was delayed in attending the meeting due to receiving phone calls from residents who had a police car crash into their garden. He was pleased to announce that the bin strike is over. He is unhappy with how it was managed as there was a North and South difference in collections. There will be a lot of lessons to come from it. Cllr Lunn was not part of the negotiations but was shocked at the settlement. The refuse collectors received a 20% pay rise this year, 17% rise next year and a £600 bonus. It is not known what impact this will have on the precept next year. Cllr Lunn stated that he welcomes any feedback from the Parish Council and commended residents for putting up with the strike. The timescale to clear the backlog is predicted to be 2/3 cycles so likely a month. The timetable will revert back to how it used to be with an earlier time of 06:30 for collections, so parishioners should put bins out earlier, or the evening before.

Cllr Beechey said that if this was to happen again, the pop up was a good idea, but it only happened once in Alfriston, and the Parish Council were informed the day before which is not enough time to publish the information. Cllr Beechey asked whether there is likely to be any reimbursement of Council Tax as no service was received for 8 weeks, and also whether anyone is going to come and clean the bins after being over used for 8 weeks. Cllr Lunn said this is unlikely to happen, the admin costs would be too high to work this out. He would raise the idea of cleaning bins with WDC.

SDNPA opened up their new dedicated visitor centre at the Seven Sisters Country Park, this has been a £2million investment. Anyone can arrange to visit to discuss planning and meet with officers there. A recent meeting with the Water Board went well, dialogue with EA has remained positive, proof would be to see actual action. At present, EA have not done any work even though it is on their works programme. They have not spent any of the £90k for de-shingling. Cllr Beechey asked if there is an update on the WDC Local Plan? Cllr Lunn confirmed there has been no change whatsoever. They continue to lobby Michael Gove over allocations numbers. WDC have seen the planning white paper and WDC's legal counsel have had a look to review the legal implications. No briefing has been given out yet to WDC Cllrs.

### **40. 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 [AEG].

### **41. Minutes**

Clerk reported that the minutes had been updated as the land at the top of Kings Ride has not received Planning permission. This was a mistake, only pre-advice has been obtained.

Cllr. Rabagliati proposed and Cllr. Daw seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC meeting held on 16th May 2022 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Beechey duly signed the minutes.

### **42. Finance**

#### 42.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: June 2022

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Monteath-Wilson seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances for June 2022. [\[Appendix A\]](#). **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Daw signed the Invoices for Payment.

#### 42.2 To confirm sight of Internal Audit Report – June 2022

The Clerk recently had an Internal Audit and all passed correctly. The report was circulated to all Councillors for their information. Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Rabagliati seconded that all Councillors have had sight of the Internal Audit report 2022. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### 42.3 To ratify and approve Asset Register 2022

Cllr. Rabagliati proposed and Cllr. Daw seconded that all Councillors have had sight and approve the updated Asset Register 2022. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### 42.4 To approve the Annual Return 2021/22

Cllr. Monteath-Wilson proposed and Cllr. Daw seconded that all Councillors have had sight and approve the Annual Return 2021/22. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr Beechey signed the Annual Return.

#### 42.5 To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Rabagliati seconded that all Councillors have had sight and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### 42.6 To review and approve the minor amendment to Financial Regulations

The Clerk explained that a minor amendment was made to the Financial Regulations to bridge the gap for Clerks expenditure. The Clerk can make payments under £500 and anything over needs to wait for the next meeting or seek approval from the Chair for an emergency payment. Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Monteath-Wilson seconded that all Councillors have had sight and approve the updated Finance Regulations 2022. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### 42.7 To review and approve the new Standing Orders

The Clerk reported that following the recent Internal Audit, it was recommended that APC adopt the NALC model Standing Orders. These have been worked on and all Councillors have reviewed. They will be updated on the APC website. Cllr. Rabagliati proposed and Cllr. Monteath-Wilson seconded that all Councillors have had sight and approve the updated Standing Orders 2022. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **43. To consider and agree how to proceed with the Cuckmere Support Network phone line**

Clerk reported that the Cuckmere Support Network phone line, which was set up to assist residents during lockdown with prescriptions etc, is only being used by one person now, who can liaise with Cllr Watkins direct for assistance. The line costs £4.99 a month. Cllrs discussed and agreed that the line is now redundant. Cllr Daw proposed to disconnect the Cuckmere Support Network phone line, this was seconded by Cllr Rabagliati. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Clerk to arrange for this to be disconnected and the final bill requested. All advertisement of the number will be removed from the APC website and the village shop. **Action 1.**

#### **44. To discuss and consider location of second waste bin in the Square**

Cllr Beechey updated that some years ago a second litter bin was required in the Square. The round concrete bin was installed beside the existing bin, and it proved worthwhile. After the first lockdown, there was an apparent need for a bin with greater volume, mostly due to the rubbish from takeaway businesses in the village square. In July 2020, the Clerk liaised with Mrs Lion at the Village Store about the proposed site of the new bin and no issues were raised. The new bin was installed in December 2020 with no issues, until now. When to the village store was re-painted, Mr Lion moved the bin from its usual location into the middle of the Square. Before the Jubilee celebration and due to the fact litter kept blowing out of the double opening, someone moved it to River Lane. This is not a good location as can't be seen and will not be emptied. Cllrs Beechey and Rabagliati moved it back to usual location. Mr Lion moved the bin again back to the Square. It was again moved back and Mr Lion was written to asking him to stop moving the bin. Mr Lion replied with a list of reasons he did not want the bin outside his property. The issues are listed below:

1. *The Village Store and attached house are grade 2 listed, built around 1406. We did not object at the time you asked about placement of the second bin as no one could foresee all the issues below.*
2. *2. The wind only affects overfilled bins. Most scattered rubbish is caused by foxes searching deep into bins at night. Both these things happen wherever the bins are located.*
3. *We already have an old waste bin at that location that we do not object to, we agree that the square and high street needs more rubbish capacity, but placing all bins in one location doesn't make sense, they should be "dotted" about. In time, will our home become the site for a 3rd bin too? or a line of recycling bins?*
4. *The bins overflow, meaning excess rubbish is then stacked on top of the bins and our window cill and doorstep.*
5. *The bins overflow due to village residents/businesses placing their rubbish in the bins to save them money and/or to remove the problem from their areas to ours. This has always been an issue, but is highlighted more recently due to general waste collection problems / costs.*
6. *With the second bin directly outside our house front room window, we are unable to open that window due to the smell and insects/flies the bin creates. This is a problem on warm days/evenings and was a problem during covid lockdowns.*
7. *People from the pub next door use the bin as a smoking area, they stand outside our front room and we have to endure listening to their foul language or inane drivel.*
8. *People stub their cigarettes out on our house wall before putting them into the bin.*
9. *A permanent bin right outside our window is illegal due to it being a fire risk; a cigarette not put out properly could easily set fire to the other contents of the bin, is the parish council going to pay to have fire proof glass and frames fitted to our listed building to keep us safe?*
10. *People lingering / using the bin look directly into our home, we are entitled to privacy.*
11. *The bin is emptied very early in the mornings around 4:00 am to 6 am which wakes up the whole household.*
12. *The bin is placed on top of our coal shoot / basement access point; this denies us access that has stood for over 600 years.*
13. *The pavement width at the bins locations are at the narrowest point of the pavement, reducing pavement width to less than a metre. WDC and The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 states it should be 1.2 metres minimum. This forces disabled and child buggy users to walk in the road.*
14. *Whilst we acknowledge that we have no rights to place our flower pots outside our windows to make the village / area / our home look more attractive, why are we being stopped from doing it when all other properties in the area do the same?*

Cllr Beechey asked Cllrs if they wish to comment on any points raised in the letter. Cllr Daw said the bins are emptied at 7am, commercial bins are emptied earlier sometimes but the Clerk confirmed with WDC that the earliest the Square's bins would be emptied is 06:30 as the depot does not open until 6am. Cllr Beechey stated that he has never seen excess rubbish on top of the bins, until very recently when one bin was not there because it was in River Lane, although he pointed out he doesn't check it daily. From the discussion with Mrs Lion in July 2020, the window has been sealed shut for years and not used. When the location was discussed about the coal shoot, this was confirmed as never being used.

People have not been seen smoking outside this window as they tend to stand outside the Smugglers door and use the ash tray. Regarding the fire risk, WDC did not raise any issue with the bin being there. Regarding people looking in, Cllr Beechey believes there are net curtains so wondered what can actually be seen? It was suggested that cars parked in the Square were a greater impediment to the disabled and those with buggies. Cllr Monteath-Wilson stated that

she had listed a number of points after receiving Mr Lion's letter and they are all the same as Cllr Beechey had set out. Cllr Rabagliati agrees with the points made this evening but doesn't disagree with moving the bin, although River Lane is not suitable. Having considered all the matters raised by Mr and Mrs Lion, Cllr Beechey asked if any Cllr wished to propose a new location for the bin. Cllr Monteath-Wilson proposed to leave the bin in its current location, this was seconded by Cllr Daw. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **45. Report on Highways and Twittens – Cllr Rabagliati**

Cllr Rabagliati thanked again those who stewarded the Jubilee event road closure points. Cllr Beechey reported that some dropped kerbs have been marked up along the Furlongs, the Clerk to enquire about these. **Action 2.** On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May, the traffic stakeholder meeting was held with ESCC. There is no conclusive update, the proposals were discussed in detail and each point commented on. Mr Karl Taylor, Assistant Director of Operations at ESCC, said that there is no point putting the proposal out to consultation unless APC agree it. Further works are being done on the proposal. The minutes from this meeting are on the APC website.

#### **46. Report on Allotments – Cllr Cooper**

Cllr Beechey asked about the gate post at the allotments. The Clerk reported that AEG have stated that a wooden bollard has been ordered but not installed yet. The concrete bollard has been removed so Clerk will liaise with AEG about this. **Action 3.**

#### **47. Report on Public Transport – Cllr Monteath-Wilson**

Cllr Monteath-Wilson stated that nothing new to report.

#### **48. Report on Rights of Way and Countryside – Cllr Monteath-Wilson**

Cllr Monteath-Wilson reported that she will visit the new SDNPA office at Seven Sister and report back at the next meeting.

#### **49. Report on Strategic Planning – Cllr Daw**

##### 49.1 NDP Committee update

Cllr Beechey opened up the meeting so Mr Nick Guyatt (appointed Chairman of the NDP sub-committee) could read his report. Mr Guyatt apologised for the delay in attending this meeting as he has been unwell. At the first meeting of the sub-committee, it was agreed that the Terms of Reference [TOR] would be written up and members would start to engage with the community to see what they are hoping for. The TOR were circulated but are yet to be agreed. Following the APC meeting in May 2022, My Guyatt saw in the minutes that Cllrs are unsure whether to continue with the NDP. Mr Guyatt confirmed he has spoken to the non-Cllrs on the sub-committee about it and they believe the decision should be APC's. Mr Guyatt explained that you can set up a series of recommendations within your NDP that has no force with planning but will have force around planning design.

Cllr Beechey explained the context of how this sub-committee came about. APC have concerns regarding the over development of existing properties. There is a tendency to increase the size of smaller properties with the result that soon there will be few less, leading to an impossible situation for younger people wanting to live in the village. SDNPA have already identified two sites for development. APC were considering whether it is worth the volunteers' time and any potential expense to continue with a NDP, and the volunteers should consider this and have a say in the decision. Mr Guyatt explained that there are people who want to progress the NDP and he suggested having a weekend to publish the information and have a large map of Alfriston, so residents can identify possible areas for development. Cllr Beechey explained that SDNPA suggested that a NDP can't control the development of

existing properties, therefore for APC the rationale for the plan doesn't exist, also Alfriston is largely protected to an extent as we are in a National Park and the boundary is defined. Cllr Lunn said that some very good points have been raised and there were some benefits to a NDP. Looking at planning appeals, developers are winning at appeal when they are putting developments on the edge of a village boundary. The Parish defining where they want development can be good [but they have constraints in housing growth]. Cllr Beechey confirmed that it is still a decision of the sub-committee to make. A subcommittee meeting needs to be arranged so this can be discussed in full. Clerk to arrange.

#### **Action 4**

Cllr Daw thanked the AWMH for the use of the tables for the Jubilee and gave her thanks to everyone who made the Jubilee celebrations happen. Special thanks to AEG for lending us their barriers and to Mr Gerry Garnett for completing the risk assessment.

### **50. Report on Tye and Recreation Ground – Cllr Beechey**

#### 50.1 Update on the goal post on the Recreation Ground

The Clerk confirmed there is no update as Mr Woodgate has been busy with a personal issue. APC do want it back up for the summer holidays so Clerk will chase this again. **Action 5**

### **51. Report from Planning Committee – Cllr Bell**

#### 51.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

SDNP/22/02413/HOUS Timbers, Sloe Lane, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5UU **APC support**

#### 51.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

SDNP/22/01476/HOUS Little Dene, North Street, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5UG **Granted**

SDNP/22/01423/HOUS The Bakehouse, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TS **Ongoing**

SDNP/22/01721/CND White Walls, North Road, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5XD **Granted**

#### 51.3 Enforcement updates

No report.

### **52. Reports from Outside Bodies**

52.1 Volunteer Task Force: no report.

52.2 Heartstart: no report

52.3 Alfriston Emergency Group: no report.

52.4 Flood Forum – no report.

52.5 Neighbourhood Watch – no report.

52.6 Twinning Committee – Mr Michael Anderson sent in a report. *'The Twinning Association has bounced back into full health and has held a couple more lively group activities (Quiz & Garden Party). Reciprocal visits are confirmed with Veules - we have just put out the last call for boarding for July's visit'*.

52.7 St Andrew's Church – Cllr Daw reported that there is no update on the bells, awaiting some additional work. A lot of weddings have been held which has been wonderful. Trees need to be cut back and this will be arranged.

52.8 Clergy House – Ms Holly Jones sent in the following report. *'We have welcomed 2081 visitors so far this year to the Clergy House on Fridays and Saturdays. From week beginning 11th July we change our opening days to Wednesday and Thursday until the end of October. We swap our opening days with our sister property Monks House (in Rodmell) who will move to being open on Fridays and Saturdays. We share staff so can't be open on the same day. From the 11th of July we will also stop using the visitor booking system so people can turn up on the day to visit without having the need to pre-book. We no longer have a*

*National Trust ranged shop but do sell second handbooks and a small property souvenir range including guidebooks and postcards. The rethatch of the ridge work went well with the bonus of finishing earlier than expected. Some visitors have wondered why we didn't remove the moss growing on the roof while they were up there working well this is because moss is good for the house forming an extra layer of protection from the elements. We are planning a complete rethatch the whole roof again in ten years' time. Shortly we hope to start paint investigation work inside the building due to the discovery of some drawings hidden under the paint in the bedroom. It will be exciting to see if these historic drawings are also in other parts of the house.'*

52.9 Cuckmere Buses – no update.

52.10 AWMH – Mr Adrian Butcher sent his apologies and confirmed nothing new to report.

52.11 Speedwatch – Clerk confirmed nothing new to report. Just the usual mention that there is always a need for new members so please let Clerk know if interested.

### **53. Correspondence to the Clerk**

1. Clerk reported that a request has come in for the Tye to be used on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August for the Blessing of the animals and the Recreation Ground used on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August for a boot fair. All Councillors agreed and permission was granted.
2. A request has come in from a production team asking if they could do an open air ballet performance on the Tye on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September. The show is 40 mins long and involves 6 people, there is no requirement for a stage and they just need access to power for the PA system and somewhere to change. Permission was granted for them to use the Tye but the Clerk will ensure they liaise with Cllr Daw about possibly using the Church room for setting up. **Action 6.**
3. A request has come in, like previous years, for the horse box mobile bar to be on the Tye during the evenings for the Summer Music Festival, 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> July. All Councillors agreed and permission was granted.
4. A request has come in for a group to do some Morris Dancing on the Tye on either 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> July. All Councillors agreed and permission was granted.
5. A grant request for £240 was received from St Wilfred's. This would cover the cost of 30 visits to Alfriston until April 2023. The Clerk explained that the budget for grants was set at £600 this year. £360 has been spent so far so there is £240 remaining. This would mean the pot would be empty but those who usually request have done so already. All Cllrs agreed that it is a worthy cause and agreed the S137 grant of £240. **Action 7.**
6. An email was received from Rector Stephen Stuckes saying a sport event held in Mr John Harmer's field on Sunday was very loud and they were using their PA system at 7am. Cllr Beechey confirmed that a letter from the organisers had been dropped through his door and other adjacent properties to apologise for the noise as they did not appreciate how far the noise would travel. This was in fact an event in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

### **54. Public Questions**

1. Mr John Hurwood asked when the plaque will go up on the tree at the bottom of Kings Ride. Cllr Daw apologised for the delay but confirmed it will be done by the next meeting.

### **55. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next APC meeting is Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall at 19:15.



Signed:

Mrs Victoria Rutt [Clerk and RFO]

### APPENDIX A

#### Alfriston Parish Council Finance Report 20th June 2022

*Authority is sought to make the following payments:-*

42	BACS	Victoria Rutt - June salary	£1,617.26
43	DD	NEST pension	£144.78
44	BACS	John O'Connor	£372.35
45	BACS	Wealden District Council - Q1 bins	£624.00
46	BACS	Chris Bonus - decommissioning water fountain	£95.00
47	BACS	Mrs Penelope Ellis [works on the village sign]	£382.24
48	BACS	Rev Frank Fox-Wilson [works on the village sign]	£280.34
49	BACS	Mulberry and Co [internal audit]	£212.04
50	BACS	Biffa	£248.89
51	BACS	AWMH - hall hire	£34.50

**Total** **£4,011.40**

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

26	BACS	BHIB insurance 2022/23	£1,097.30
27	BACS	Cuckmere Flood Forum - S137 grant	£110.00
28	BACS	Tansleys Printers - advance road closure signs	£60.00
29	BACS	Emmett & White Ltd - play fund donation return	£500.00
30	BACS	OCC - play fund donation return	£485.00
31	DD	Business Stream - waste water to Pavilion	£25.38
32	DD	Santander	£20.00
33	DD	O2	£21.54
34	BACS	Inland Revenue - Tax and NI May 2022	£368.38
35	BACS	Chris Bonus - allotment trough repair	£50.00
36	BACS	iNTERBIZ - May 2022 payroll	£20.40
37	BACS	John O'Connor	£372.35
38	CARD	Amazon UK - padlock for Tye chain	£10.71
39	CARD	Memorial Benches - order for M.Larlham	£449.90
40	DD	HP Instant Ink	£9.99
41	DD	BT	£130.98

**Total** **£3,731.93**

#### Summary of Bank Balances 20th June 2022

Business Current Account	£12,607.62
Business Savings Account	£51,726.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£64,333.62</b>

<b>RESERVE INFORMATION</b>				
<b>Project</b>	<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>Budget 22/23</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>
General Reserves	£15,520.00	add £1,620		£17,140.00
Tye Rd surface	£11,500.00	add £3,500		£15,000.00
Playground	£6,000.00	add £2,000		£8,000.00
NDP	£0.00	add £500		£500.00
High St Traffic Plan	£0.00	add £5,000		£5,000.00
CIL money	£1,749.07			£1,749.07
Play Project	£200.00	donations £9338		£9,538.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£34,969.07</b>	<b>add £11,000</b>		<b>£56,927.07</b>



Signed by:

Victoria Rutt - Clerk & RFO



## APPENDIX B

### **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

#### **Bin Strike Resolved**

It is fantastic news that the bin strike has been resolved, I congratulate all parties for getting back round the table and negotiating this agreement. This has been highly disruptive for residents in Alfriston and across Wealden and I am glad that services are now resuming. Updates on scheduled collections and efforts to catch up on collections can be found on the Wealden District Council Website: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/waste-industrial-action/>

#### **Platinum Jubilee Funding for Village Halls**

I am encouraging village halls in the Lewes constituency to apply for part of a £3 million fund to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I have been to hundreds of community events at the many village halls across my Lewes constituency and I know just how vital they are to the communities that they serve. Whether it is modern toilets, new Wi-Fi, or an extension this fund could really help make a difference to village halls.

#### **Additional Support with Cost of Living**

I welcome the extra £15 billion of additional support announced by the Chancellor, on top of the previously announced £22 billion worth of support, which will be a huge help to people across my Lewes constituency. Measures include:

- £650 cost of living payment to over 8 million households (with payments coming in July and the autumn automatically from DWP or HMRC)
- Pensioners will receive an extra £300 on top of the winter fuel payment
- Disabled people will receive £150 (many will also be receiving the £650)
- Benefits will be uprated next year by September's CPI
- Triple lock will be protected
- The Household Support Fund will receive an extra £500 million from September allowing Councils to provide additional support
- The previously announced £200 support for energy bills will be doubled to £400 and the need to pay back removed

#### **Levelling up funding available for Museums**

I am encouraging museums, galleries, libraries, and cultural venues across the Lewes constituency to bid for £16.9 million in new funding from the Museum Estate and Development Fund to level up access to culture in our communities. Museums can enter Round 2 from 9 May 2022 and bid for grants of between £50,000 and £5 million. 31 museums across England were supported by the fund in its first round.

#### **New measures to Improve Roads**

Motorists will benefit from smoother journeys, better-connected communities, and reduced congestion as the government introduces new measures to penalise companies responsible for leaving potholes on the country's roads after carrying out street works. It is expected the new law change could prevent thousands of potholes from being left behind by utility companies nationwide and will ensure more roads are resurfaced to a high standard.