

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Mrs Suzanna Dry

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Alfriston War Memorial Hall

Old School House

The Tye, Alfriston, BN26 5TL

Tuesday 22nd July 2024

Minutes of a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC), held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 15th July 2024 at 7.15pm

Present:

Cllr D Monteath-Wilson (Chair) Cllr N Parkinson

Cllr S Daw Cllr J Spring

Cllr A Harris Cllr J Watkins

In attendance:

Mrs Suzanna Dry – Parish Clerk & RFO

There were approximately 9 members of the public present.

61. Chairman's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded all that there is no meeting in August.

62. Public Questions

Katie Salmon asked if anything can be done about the excessively overgrown hedge from 1 Gwynne Gdns on to the footpath. The Chair confirmed that this is the responsibility of Highways and Cllr Harris commented that Cllr Rabagliati had informed Highways of this and it was on their programme to be carried out.

Nick Beechey referred to Cllr Parkinson's report on The Tye and the suggestion for two of the disabled bays being moved and a chain and padlock applied with a code given to local users. This would mean that not all disabled badge holders could access them and wouldn't look good if bays are empty and padlocked. The Chair advised this would be addressed fully in September's meeting. Cllr Parkinson commented that he had been going out regularly and there have always been disabled bays available and regular bays too. Possible compromise solution to be discussed and will refer to this further in his report at agenda item no. 79.

63. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Rabagliati who has covid.

64. Update from M.P.

Following the general election, our new member of parliament is Cllr James MacCleary for the Liberal Democrats. It is too early for an update this month.

65. Update from Cllr Stephen Shing – East Sussex County Council (ESCC)

Cllr Shing presented his report to the meeting, a copy is attached to the minutes ([Appendix A](#)).

66. Update from Cllr Greaves – Wealden District Council (WDC)

Cllr Greaves presented his report to the meeting. A copy is attached to the minutes ([Appendix B](#)).

67. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Daw declared an interest as she is a Churchwarden, member of the Patient Participation Group, trustee of Children with Cancer and a trustee of the Womens Institute. Cllr Watkins declared an interest in AEG, Cllr Parkinson declared an interest in the Dene Car Park, Allotments and has a relative with a disabled badge. Cllr Harris is a trustee of the Manifold Trust and honorary treasurer of Charities Property Association.

68. Minutes

Cllr Harris proposed and Cllr Parkinson seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC meeting held on 15th June 2024, were a true and accurate record. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Chair duly sign the minutes as an accurate record.

Cllr Daw proposed and Cllr Watkins seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC Annual meeting held on 20th May 2024, were a true and accurate record. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Chair duly sign the minutes as an accurate record.

69. Finance

To approve the statement of finance for July 2024 (as attached with the Agenda). Cllr Watkins proposed and Cllr Daw seconded a motion that the statement of finance for June 2024 be approved. This was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

Cllr Watkins proposed and Cllr Harris seconded a motion that the Quarterly Year to Date figures be approved. This was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

70. Coffeehouse Conversation

It was agreed that the next coffeehouse conversation would be on Environment & Transport, and held in September. This will be revisited in September.

71. Update on APC Noticeboard for Market Square – Cllr Daw

Cllr Daw reported that the board is up and in use, currently displaying the Horticultural Show and Music Festival. Same procedure as before, apply to APC for permission to use the board and give Cllr Daw the poster to put up. The total cost of the board was £75.11. This cost could be covered by asking the groups that use the board for a one off £5 fee or we could use funds raised at the Dog Show in August. Cllrs were asked to vote on this and it was unanimously **AGREED** to use funds received from the Dog Show. The Chair thanked Cllr Daw and her husband Chris Daw for organising the board.

72. APC Events

August Bank Holiday Event on The Tye - It was **AGREED** that this will be an APC run event, Cllr Daw reported that the Blessing of the Animals is being arranged by the Church and advertised in the Parish Magazine . The Dog Show will be judged by 'Paws to Perfection' from the village.

Car Boot Sale on The Recreation Ground - It was **AGREED** that the Car Boot Sale is an AEG event. Cllr Daw is arranging with the Cricket Club to provide refreshments and funds from the catering will go to the Cricket Club. All other funds raised will go to AEG.

CLERK'S NOTE: Since the meeting, AEG have advised they are unable to provide public liability insurance for the event. Cllrs have therefore agreed to make this a parish council event, covered by the council public liability insurance and run by AEG on the day. This will be ratified at the next council meeting.

73. Clerk's Attendance at Society of Local Council Clerks Annual Conference

All Cllrs had been sent the Clerk's report on this ([Appendix C](#)) It was **AGREED** unanimously to pay for the Clerk to attend the conference. **Action Point 1.** Cllr Parkinson asked that this be built into the budget for next year.

74. Report on Highways & Twittens – Cllr Rabagliati

We have had significant problems this month regarding road closures associated with both scheduled and emergency repairs by UK Power Network and South East Water. The UKPN closure in the lower High Street involved a badly planned, and even more poorly implemented, diversion through the village. The result was chaos, and our considerable efforts to improve the situation through improved signage were, effectively ignored. Residents in the Furlongs were outraged by the one-way system, and traders were, again, badly hit by road closure signage. Only a week or so later, SE Water decided at short notice to repair the longstanding leak by the footpath opposite Deans Place. They advertised a full road closure, and implemented signage but never, in fact, actually closed the road. Again, traders suffered from the perception by visitors that the village was inaccessible.

In an attempt to ensure that ALL future works that potentially require a road closure can be properly planned, and be guided by appropriate local knowledge, Diana and I will be meeting with East Sussex Highways next week. I would urge all those with an opinion on this matter, including residents and traders, to send their comments to me at my APC email address (highways@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk) as soon as possible, so that these views can be represented.

I have chased up on the similarly themed problem of our dialogue with East Sussex Highways regarding their Emergency Traffic Management Plan for flooding, and am expecting a revised plan shortly.

I have been advised by East Sussex Highways that cutting back of the footpath on the C39 road out of the village to the north has been scheduled imminently.

75. Report on Allotments and Recreation Ground - Cllr Daw

Recreation - Not a lot to report, there was a post on Face Book and APC was mentioned so I will reply. It was suggested that at this time of year football nets should be taken down as hedgehogs tend to get caught up in them along with birds and baby foxes, I have asked several people if they have rescued said animals from either the football or cricket nets, I'm happy to report the answer is no, also my friend works at the Hedgehog rescue centre and again no report of any rescues from nets, so I have not taken down the nets. Most nights & weekend children use the football post and while they doing this they are not on any devices getting fresh air and exercise, which is all good.

Playground - All is looking good and the flower beds are in full bloom thank you. When I was visiting and doing my checks some of the children from Alfriston School were there doing leaf rubbing and the sun was shining so the playground is being used very successfully, also please remember if you have children's books they would be most welcome for House Library. Cllr Daw handed the Clerk the weekly inspection reports to record. **Action Point 2.**

Allotments - I had an e mail from an allotment holder so I will answer this first, I stated I had a year plan, has this been published as they would like to read it. No I did not publish but I'm happy to share it.

1) sort the numbers out on the allotments.

This thanks to Lynn and Phil I have now done and as from today (Monday) all done it was a mammoth task taking days of walking checking and rechecking.

2) to set up Friends of Alfriston Allotments which I'm happy to say is also done with APC approval there is Lynn Pam Sue Persis and the lady from plot 1. I'm hoping that this will help the holders feel they have a part in what is happening with allotments, I have explained they pass their ideas to me and I bring it to APC. They are happy that APC agreed to the wild life section. It has been suggested that a communal compost bin/ heap, but the problem I see who will oversee what is put into the compost I don't feel this would be manageable. Someone has already offered to be allotment monitor which is a good idea, I would like to have group meeting as soon as possible if APC agree to starting the group. **Action Point 3.** Cllrs **AGREED** unanimously to the Friends of Alfriston Allotment Group.

3) to tidy up the allotments that have not been looked after, on this point I have made contact with Neil from Band of Brothers who would like to come and help us with allotments. I have e mailed regarding insurance health and safety first, all of which Suzanna is always copied into, they suggested August would be a good time for them. **Action Point 4.**

Thank you for your offer of help and this is very much appreciated and working as a team I feel sure our Allotments will be a wonderful place to be.

There is an allotment watts app group which I joined and is very useful, but I have take myself off this as I found the comments personal and unkind I will always do my best but things take time and working together it will get done.

The rest of my report

Happy to report one of the vacant plots has been let to a couple who recently moved into the village and already they have made such a difference, so thank you and welcome. I think we have also let another plot but I'm just waiting to hear back.

November 1st is the renewal date for the allotments this is something decided by APC last year, I would like to put this on the agenda for September as I think we need to increase the cost per allotment, and also discuss about taking deposits from new allotments holder from November 1st. **Action Point 5.**

One of the Allotment holders has offered to cut holders paths with just the cost of petrol, so if anyone would like to e mail or phone me I'll pass on your request.

76. Report on Public Transport - Cllr Harris

I include the charging points in Willows Car Park here. The suppliers, 'Connected Kerb' have confirmed that these are indeed now connected, and that they will fail safe in in the vent of flooding. The technical detail of the safety measures is contained in their email dated 4th July 2024, and which is copied below, to be included in the minutes and as a formal record.

From [Belinda Cotter](#) on 2024-07-04 10:1

Re.: Charging Points at The Willows Car Park, Alfriston, E. Sussex ID 8435 CRM:0191641

Good Morning Adrian,

Thank you for your email regarding the charging units located at The Willows car park. All 3 units are operational. Unit numbers are 7363 / 5456 / 5457. All our charge points are safeguarded by Double Pole RCBOs in accordance with BS7671 standards. This ensures that, in the event of flooding at any of our sites, the protection device will automatically trip, thereby cutting the power to our units and eliminating any potential safety hazards.

Best regards

Belinda

Belinda Cotter, Customer Service

77. Environment and Countryside – Cllr Harris

All councillors will have seen the email from Revai Kinsella of Water Management Alliance, giving an update and timetable for the works on the Cuckmere between the White Bridge and Deans Place. It will be reproduced in the minutes.

Email from Revai Kinsella:-

Subject: Works on the Cuckmere River and Alfriston

Good afternoon,

I hope you are well.

Sincere apologies, I meant to give you an update on our revised plans for the works on the Cuckmere between the White Bridge and Deans Hotel.

We have now revised our programme as follows to ensure that all work is done prior to the onset of the rainy season:

- Full embankment repairs - starting on 15th July 2024, expected to last two weeks
- Silt removal from the river - will start on 16 September 2024

We have agreed the revised timing on the silt removal with the Environment Agency. However, we are still waiting for the MMO to confirm their acceptance to the new time and hope that this will be received by September since we submitted our request in March 2024.

The footpath will be closed to the public while we are carrying out the repairs, starting on the 15th July, with a diversion to the footpath on the opposite bank. I have attached a copy of the footpath closure notice for your information, we will display the notice at strategic places on the footpath.

Next week our team will be carrying out repairs on the culvert crossing the Freshwater Stream which also eroded this winter, to allow safe access for plant that will be used to carry out the embankment repairs.

From Wednesday next week we will also have another team spraying herbicide on a non-native invasive species we found in the ditch along the access to the field and the Freshwater Stream. This team will be wearing some protective clothing. We will put up some signs at the gate on the White Bridge to let people know, just to make sure people are not alarmed when they see them walking the stream in protective clothing.

We have also been working with Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council and East Sussex Highways on how we can help ensure the road drainage can drain effectively. The works we had all agreed are:

- WLMB removing silt from the ditch between the Willows Car Park and the Cuckmere on behalf of WDC, to ensure that the car park and highway drainage outfalls can effectively drain into the ditch – planned for September 2024
- WDC carrying out some clearance work on the car park drains once the ditch is cleared
- ESH to carry out their planned work as per their previous investigations

I understand that this week the Environment Agency might have tried to help us with the silt removal from the ditch between the Willows Car Park and the Cuckmere. We will assess next week if what has been done is sufficient for the drainage systems to discharge its water from the car park and road. If necessary, we will carry on with the silt removal in September as originally planned.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Revai

Revai Kinsella CEng MICE

Area Manager (Pevensey & Cuckmere Water Management Alliance)

The Chair asked if there is any danger to the public from the spraying, Cllr Harris will check.

78. Report on Strategic Planning – Cllr Spring

To discuss storage of Wealden District Council sandbags for flooding. Cllr Spring reported that Wealden D.C. have approached APC to see if these can be stored and deployed locally. Cllr Spring will pick up with David Lewis of AEG on his return from holiday. These sandbags are gel ones that inflate on use and can only be used once. The Chair closed the meeting and opened it up to the public so that Steve Woodgate from Alfriston Emergency Group could speak. Steve Woodgate commented that AEG have 50 of these sandbags at the moment. The issue is with disposing of them after use – as Cllr Spring said, they can only be used once after inflation and become very heavy. Not sure AEG will have space to store any more. The Chair closed the meeting to the public. Cllr Spring will speak to Wealden D.C. this week and suggest we take some for any residents that are interested and ask how we dispose of them after use. Cllr Spring will report back to the council. **Action Point 6.**

Cllr Spring has met with David Lewis of AEG to discuss the emergency plan and will send David a draft of the plan. **Action Point 7.** AEG would like APC to endorse the plan as a local emergency plan and recognise it as the plan the council agree AEG will use. This was unanimously **AGREED.**

Cllr Spring will present a strategic plan to council in September and is liaising with Nathan on the website.

79. Report on The Tye - Cllr Parkinson

Updates from Cllr Parkinson's report that was attached to the Agenda.

Tye Road – re-painting of yellow lines. Cllr Parkinson has now given Cllr Spring the dates that this work can be carried out, avoiding any large events taking place on The Tye. Cllr Spring will work around these dates.

Tye Road – Potholes. Currently finalising risk assessments for the various work and insurance cover. APC will need to provide more PPE than first expected. Only had one person who has a diamond cutter, but now are unable to offer their services due to no insurance cover. Cllr Spring offered to look into using his company to provide this service for a nominal fee of say £1, they will then sub-contract it out. That way the sub-contractor will be covered under Cllr Spring's company insurance and risk assessment. Cllr Spring to look into this and report back to Cllr Parkinson and the Clerk.

Action Point 8. Otherwise only way forward is to apply for funding and get the job done professionally.

Tye Road – Disabled Parking. Since Cllr Parkinson's report, usage of the disabled bays and Tye Road parking has been monitored by Cllr Parkinson on at least a dozen times between 8am – 8pm. There is always at least one disabled bay available and on average one illegally parked vehicle. There is still a lot of capacity for disabled users. There have been 13 offenders, 83% of the time general parking bays are available. Given that there are spare spaces much of the time, Cllr Parkinson feels the priority is to get on with repairing the road first and look at parking after this and would like cllrs feedback on this. The Chair commented that APC policy has always been that dedicated spaces will not be granted. APC have looked at parking enforcement previously with clamping\removing vehicles and basically hit a brick wall. Parking in disabled bays is illegal and cannot be condoned. In light of the information gathered by Cllr Parkinson, It was **AGREED** unanimously to review the parking situation once the road repairs have been completed.

80. Report from Planning Committee

80.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

Ref. No: SDNP/24/02380/FUL The Six Bells, High St, Alfriston, BN26 5TD Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UY - **No objection**

Ref: No: SDNP/24/02440/FUL Former Allotment Site, North St, Alfriston.

Object. See Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting for full details.

Ref. No: SDNP/24/02506/LIS Cinders Cottage, 2 West St, Alfriston, BN26 5UX
No objection.

80.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

SDNP/24/01164/HOUS - Rosemary Cottage, High St, Alfriston, BN26 5TB.

Approved.

SDNP/24/01673/DCOND – Flint Cottage, 12 North St, Alfriston, BN26 5UG

Approved

SDNP/24/01675/DCOND –11 North St, Alfriston, BN26 5UG

Approved

SDNP/24/02077/NMA – Palin House, 6 Kings Ride, Alfriston, BN26 5XP

Refused

80.3 Enforcement updates - None

81. Reports from Outside Bodies

- 81.1 Heartstart – No report.
- 81.2 Alfriston Emergency Group – Steve Woodgate reported AEG have not heard back from Russell Long at the Environment Agency regarding work on the sluice gates at Deans Place and the Clergy House. Cllr Spring commented that Deans Place sluice gate has been done. AEG still hoping to work with the E.A. on future work.
- 81.3 Flood Forum - no report.
- 81.4 Neighbourhood Watch – no report.
- 81.5 Twinning Committee - Clerk summarised the report at the meeting. Copy attached. ([Appendix D](#)).
- 81.6 St Andrew’s Church – Cllr Daw reported the music festival starts on Wednesday. Cllr Daw will send the Clerk a list of wedding dates for consideration re Tye Rd repairs.
- 81.7 Clergy House – No report. Cllr Spring reported the Gardeners Question Time was very successful and they are considering doing a winter one.
- 81.8 Cuckmere Buses – No report.
- 81.9 Alfriston War Memorial Hall – Nothing to report.
- 81.10 Speedwatch - Nothing to report.
- 81.11 Events - No report.

82. Correspondence – Asking for permission from the Council

South Downs Summer Music Festival Banner – as a courtesy wanted to let APC know they would be hanging a banner on the Church wall. Cllrs were happy with this.

Running Event Sat 7th December – organisers wanted to let APC know runners will have a refreshment station at the OCC and will be running through the village. Cllrs happy with this in conjunction with previous comments APC made to the organisers. Clerk to advise. **Action Point 9.**

Hailsham Artist Event 27th & 28th July at the OCC. Request use of noticeboard in village square. Cllr Daw confirmed that unfortunately the noticeboard is already being used on these dates. The Clerk to advise. **Action Point 10.**

Alfriston W.I. Noticeboard for Table Top Sale on 19th October. **AGREED.** Clerk to advise. **Action Point 11.**

83. Public Questions

The meeting was adjourned at 8.54pm by the Chair before Public Questions commenced.

84. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 16th September 2024 in the AWMH at 7:15pm. Please note there will be no meeting in August.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 8.57pm.

Appendices, as referred to in the minutes, attached below.

[Appendix A – Cllr Shing’s Report, East Sussex County Council](#)

Good evening,

We just have a full county council meeting last Tuesday in county hall.

On the agenda of the report is over 450 pages, therefore I am highlight a couple items in the agenda to you.

BUS SERVICE Improvements have been implemented in 2023/24 using the £41.4m of funding assigned to East Sussex as part of the Government’s Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) including:

- £13m of bus service improvements, including the Flexi bus, Digital Demand Responsive Transport service covering over 90% of East Sussex. The service has seen continued passenger growth due to continued marketing and improvements to the service.
- £5m for reduced fares in the county which are scheduled to run until April 2025.
- improvements have been made to the bus stop Infrastructure, including the installation of 2,560 QR code plates, new hard standing areas and the installation of new Real Time Information signs at a number of stops.
- 32 traffic light junctions have been identified for bus priority improvements and these schemes are due to commence in 2024/25.

Following the council approval of a business plan and draft contract submitted in November 2023, the County Council has now received 90% of the £4.441m allocated to East Sussex from the Government’s Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund.

The remaining 10% will be paid once the final contract has been approved. The funding will support the delivery of on street electric vehicle charge points in the county.

It is expected that procurement of the contract will begin in Quarter 2 2024/25, and that initial work to deliver charge points will follow in Quarter 4 2024/25.

Property

The sale of Hindslands, Polegate, is progressing through the legal process, with conditional contracts now expected to be signed in Q1 2024/25. The capital receipt is dependent on the purchaser securing planning consent which will need to be approved by Wealden District Council.

East Sussex Children’s Services INSPECTION OF EAST SUSSEX CHILDREN’S SERVICES

This was a short inspection of the Council Local Authority Children’s Services by the Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (Ofsted) took place from 11 – 15 December 2023. Ofsted published the inspection report 6 February 2024, and Children’s Services was awarded an overall effectiveness grading of Good with the experiences and progress of children in care graded as Outstanding. The report notes that ‘Children in East Sussex continue to receive consistently strong and effective support’ and ‘Social workers know the children they support exceptionally well’. An action plan addressing the issues identified has been submitted to Ofsted.

Waste - Household Waste and Recycling Sites

Changes were made to the chargeable waste service in January 2024, allowing residents to bring small amounts of DIY waste for free to all of our Household Waste and Recycling Sites in East Sussex County Council area. Hard plastic recycling was introduced at Seaford and Eastbourne, meaning half the sites in the county now offer this.

The recycling of hard plastics, rather than sending them to the Newhaven Energy Recovery Facility, has reduced our carbon impact by an estimated 125.5 tonnes in 2023/24. Eastbourne Household Waste and Recycling Sites began to open early as part of a trial to help residents recycle more and reduce queues at the site in 2023/24.

The trial proved a success and early opening has continued, allowing residents access 30 minutes earlier than previously on Monday to Friday. Recycling containers for vapes were added to all East Sussex Household Waste and Recycling Sites in 2023/24.

The projected 2023/24 outturn for the amount of waste re-used, recycled or composted or used beneficially is 56.0%, based on the outturn at the end of December 2023 (reported in arrears).

Residual waste and kerbside recycling rates are slightly lower than forecast. This might be partly due to cost-of-living increases. However, green waste and waste sent for beneficial use are higher than forecast, which has helped

[Appendix B – Cllr Greaves Report, Wealden District Council.](#)

Report – Alfriston PC - Monday 15th July 2024

1) Expenditure of over £1m to improve Wealden's sports facilities

Last month I mentioned that WDC had committed significant funding (up to £216,406) to improve hockey facilities at Hailsham Community College – feeling that this was an inappropriate use of taxpayers funds supporting an Academy Trust school (a Company limited by Guarantee) which owns the asset and should maintain it from their own budget.

This is in addition to £311,000 paid for similar work at Beacon Academy in Crowborough as well as a commitment to pay some £300,000 to support the installation of a new 3G football pitch.

I think that this expenditure (some £800,000 detailed here) is totally inappropriate as Academies can apply to the ESFA's (Education and Schools Funding Agency) 'Condition Improvement Fund' to assist with expenditure of this sort (scarce funds I know). The ESFA decide on funding allocation for valid projects each year.

I have found out, however, that this is 'within the rules' and I can't challenge it. However, in my view it is inappropriate and I feel that better use could be made of CIL monies. It should be used for capital projects that will benefit significant numbers of the tax-paying population for essential projects – not a limited number of keen field hockey players. About 166,000 people in the UK participate in this sport on a monthly basis - clearly a minority sport. The assets are owned by the Academy Trusts and should be maintained by them and not WDC.

2) **Cuckoo trail to temporarily partially close in the summer** Sections of the trail will be closed in June and July so essential work can be carried out before the start of the summer holidays. The work is already underway and should be completed by 20th July. Bypass routes and diversions will be made available where possible. It might be an idea to check on the progress with this project before embarking on a visit.

3) Hailsham Swimming Pool

Work to replace the pool surround was completed by 20th May. Further problems have, however, been uncovered and further closures will be required. I have no information regarding the works required or the dates that this will be carried out but shall look out for this and feed back information once known.

4) Third round of funding available for physical activity groups

Organisations within the Wealden district are being encouraged to apply for funding

East Sussex Public Health has released funds to Wealden District Council to deliver a third round of grant funding to support organisations which specifically work towards reducing inequalities and aim to deliver better health outcomes within the district. The funding can support existing projects or new ideas, which provide direct support to the local community. It includes anything from gardening clubs to seated exercise sessions and more.

Previous rounds of funding over the past two years have provided funding to 11 organisations within the district. They include programmes to increase fitness levels through exercise for over 65s; The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), which provides residents with practical conservation activities to increase mental wellbeing through a Green Gym project, and Rotherfield St Martin which has used the funding to support hydrotherapy sessions helping those with arthritis, stiffness of joints and those recovering from hip or knee surgery.

To apply for funding, email wellbeing@wealden.gov.uk.

Allocations will be prioritised in order of the ability to deliver activities and interventions to Wealden. Applications open from 8 July 2024 and must be submitted by 3 September 2024 and can be made for amounts between £1,000 and £15,000.

**5) New funding STILL available to help community spaces and facilities
Funding is still apparently available for the below (as mentioned at previous meeting):**

The Wealden Community Infrastructure and Spaces Funding Programme to help partners improve local rural green spaces and community infrastructure within the district is being launched by Wealden District Council.

The council is inviting organisations such as Not-for-Profit organisations and town and parish councils to apply for grants between £1,000 and £20,000 for projects that will help Wealden residents improve and enhance green spaces and community assets, and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups. A total funding pot of £120K is available.

This will be a rolling programme and applications will be processed on a first come first served basis. The fund closes in autumn 2024, or sooner if all funds are allocated.

The funding programme has been made available through the government's Rural England Prosperity Fund. The England-wide initiative is a new £110 million, two-year capital fund from the Department for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs, complementary to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund - run by the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities. It will enable the council to support projects in rural areas of the district.

Further details about the grant scheme and information on how to access the application can be found at <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/information-for-businesses/economic-development-and-growth/rural-england-prosperity-fund/wealden-community-infrastructure-and-spaces-fund/>

For organisations wishing to register their interest, please contact the council via email on communitygrants@wealden.gov.uk.

For further information please contact:

Nichola Watters

Head of Planning Policy, Economy & Climate
Change

Wealden District Council

Or Annemarie Field

Senior Media and Communications

officer

Email: Nichola.watters@wealden.gov.uk

Wealden District Council

Tel: 07985 812076

Email: Annemarie.field@wealden.gov.uk

David Greaves

15th July 2024

[Appendix C - Clerk's Report on Conference](#)

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Date: 11th July 2024

Report Subject: **Clerk's Attendance at SLCC Annual Conference – Agenda Item No. 73**

By: Suzanna Dry, Clerk & RFO

The purpose of this report is to request approval to attend the 2024 National Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), scheduled to take place on 8th & 9th October 2024 at Leonardo Hotel and Conference Venue, Hinckley Island, Leicestershire.

Background

As the Clerk to Alfriston Parish Council, I believe that attending this event is vital for our council's interests and my professional development. I am also very conscious that attending the annual conference is one of the conditions in my contract of appointment.

Analysis

The benefits of attendance are as follows:-

Policy Updates – national conference will feature sessions dedicated to policy updates, legislative changes and emerging trends in the local council sector. Staying informed about these developments is essential for ensuring our council remains compliant and proactive in serving our community.

Industry Insights – national conference gathers sector experts and leaders who will share insights and best practices relevant to my work. Helping us address challenges more effectively and identify opportunities for improvement.

Professional Development – the event offers workshops, seminars and networking opportunities tailored to local council clerks. Attending these sessions will enhance my skills and knowledge.

Networking opportunities - networking with clerks from across England will provide invaluable opportunity to share solutions to common issues and discuss best practices.

The cost to attend the conference and one nights accommodation is £435.00 +vat. There will be no mileage costs as I can lift share.

Recommendation

That APC agree to the cost of attending the conference, using the remaining £225 from the courses budget line and £210 from 'Other' budget line.

Appendix D – Twinning Committee Report

Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Twinning Association

After much planning by the committee, the official visit to Sussex by our friends from Veules-les-Roses was a great success! Our guests were welcomed with Friday evening drinks in the lovely Alfriston garden of two members, and then taken by their hosts to eat in village hostelryes.

Saturday's sunshine ensured a great day for our sporting themed weekend, with a morning start at Seaford Bowling Club for a Lawn Bowls taster session. Club members welcomed us warmly, and taught us some basics with great patience. The French visitors, having practised before their visit, showed great promise and quickly adjusted from French Boules to English Lawn Bowls!

We whisked them off to The View in Seaford for a superb lunch of classic English dishes, delicious food which was efficiently served. In the afternoon we were off to Compton Croquet Club in Eastbourne for a taster croquet lesson in a beautiful setting. Again, friendly and patient club members did a wonderful job of teaching us, and then fresh fish and chips, wrapped traditionally in paper, revived our French guests for the evening.

Sunday morning was time for hosts to organise, with visits made around the area, before we all met together again for a big Alfriston picnic. Hosts then arranged the afternoon, before meeting in Hailsham, where a final meal together and more laughter and chatting were enjoyed at the home of two ACVTA members.

Many thanks are due to the volunteer club members at both Seaford Bowling Club and the Compton Croquet Club, for giving up their time to teach us, and being so friendly and encouraging. Compliments are also due to the staff at The View and the Alfriston hostelryes for superb food we were proud to offer our guests all weekend

Wendy Little