

# ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

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Alfriston War Memorial Hall

Old School House

The Tye, Alfriston, BN26 5TL

Tuesday 24th September 2024

## **Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC), held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.15pm**

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### **Present:**

Cllr D Monteath-Wilson (Chair) Cllr S Rabagliati

Cllr S Daw

Cllr J Spring

Cllr A Harris

Cllr J Watkins

Cllr N Parkinson

### **In attendance:**

Mrs Suzanna Dry – Parish Clerk & RFO

There were approximately 9 members of the public present.

### **85. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and hoped everyone had a good summer.

### **86. Public Questions**

Mr John Hurwood asked if there was any update on the post box. As requested at the last meeting, the Clerk had looked into the possibility of other sites for the post box. Royal Mail completed a survey in 2023, after a site visit to the village, which stated there were no other suitable sites for a post box. The Clerk was asked by Cllrs to ask Royal Mail why either Market Square or Dene's car park were not suitable sites or whether the old post box could be sealed off and a new one put in front. **Action point 1.**

### **87. Apologies for absence**

No apologies.

### **88. Update from M.P.**

No update had been received from our new member of parliament; Cllr James MacCleary. Cllrs asked the Clerk to send an invite to Cllr MacCleary to attend a future meeting. **Action point 2.**

### **89. 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](#)).

### **90. 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](#)).

**91. 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. Cllr Harris is a trustee of the Manifold Trust and honorary treasurer of Charities Property Association. Cllr Rabagliati has a business on the High Street.

**92. Minutes**

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

**93. Dates for 2025 Meetings.**

The dates for Council Meetings in 2025 were unanimously **AGREED**. These will be posted on the Website. ([Appendix C](#)).

**94. Finance**

To approve the statement of finances for August and September 2024 (as attached with the Agenda). Cllr Daw proposed and Cllr Spring seconded a motion that these be approved. This was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

Cllr Daw proposed and Cllr Rabagliati seconded a motion that the Quarterly 1 Audit figures be approved (as attached with the Agenda). This was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

Cllr Spring proposed and Cllr Harris seconded a motion that the Quarterly 1 VAT Return be approved (as attached with the Agenda). This was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

Cllr Rabagliati proposed and Cllr Parkinson seconded a motion that the External Auditor's Report & Conclusion of Audit be approved (as attached with the Agenda). This was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for the work in preparing the above figures and Cllr Watkins for carrying out the Quarterly Audit.

**95. Coffeehouse Conversation**

It was agreed that the next coffeehouse conversation would be on Environment & Transport, and will be arranged by Cllr Harris. Cllr Harris proposed the dates of 12<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> October. Cllrs were asked to let Cllr Harris know their availability.

**96. APC Events**

To ratify the decision that the August Bank Holiday Car Boot Sale was a Parish Council event, run by AEG, as per the Clerk's Report (attached to the Agenda). Cllr Rabagliati proposed and Cllr Spring seconded the motion which was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

Cllr Daw reported that both the Car Boot Sale and the Dog Show went well and the following monies were raised and have been deposited into the Parish Council bank account. Copies of the bank statements showing these deposits were distributed to Cllrs at the meeting.

£115.00 - Car parking at Car Boot Sale, run by AEG.

£140.00 - Food stall at Car Boot Sale, run by Cricket Club

£170.00 - Dog Show.

Cllr Spring proposed and Cllr Rabagliati seconded a motion to donate the £115.00 made from car parking, to Alfriston Emergency Group and £140.00 made from the food stall to Alfriston Cricket Club. This was unanimously **RESOLVED**. The Clerk was asked to make the donation to AEG and the Cricket Club. **Action point 3.**

Cllr Daw proposed and Cllr Parkinson seconded a motion to use the £170.00 made from the Dog Show to pay for clearing vacant allotment plots. This was unanimously **RESOLVED**. Cllr Daw will obtain a quote from Sue Woodgate. **Action point 4.**

**97. New Storage Space required for APC & AEG Road Signs**

Further to the Clerks Report (attached to the Agenda) the signs\barriers have now had to be removed from Deans Place and are temporarily being stored by AEG. Cllrs Daw and Parkinson will liaise with AEG regarding the temporary storage. It was **AGREED** that there is room for another shed at the allotments next to the current AEG shed, to store them on a permanent basis. Cllr Daw to pursue the possibility of a grant to pay for this, through the Wealden Community Infrastructure & Spaces Funding Programme. **Action point 5.**

**98. Consultation on Proposed Reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework**

It was unanimously **AGREED** that APC would not reply to the consultation, as being wholly within the SDNP, there will be no change to the level of protection or constraints on development which are given to the South Downs National Park.

**99. Report on Highways & Twittens – Cllr Rabagliati**

The Chair commented that Cllr Rabagliati is temporarily moving out of the village, but is entitled to remain a Cllr for the duration of his term. It will however make it harder to carry out his portfolio. As a temporary measure responsibility for the Traffic Calming section will be moved into Strategic Planning, which will allow Cllr Rabagliati to continue with the Highways portfolio. Cllr Parkinson will take on responsibility for Strategic Planning portfolio with Cllr Spring agreeing to take on responsibility for The Tye. These changes will be on the agenda for the next APC meeting, to be formally agreed. Cllr Spring will continue to develop the Emergency Plan document with AEG.

Cllr Rabagliati reported that since the last APC meeting in July myself and the Chair had an online meeting with our contact at East Sussex Highways, and two of her colleagues. The meeting was principally to discuss diversion routes through the village in the event of road works. The meeting was highly productive, and we felt we set the basis for a productive working relationship, however, the next week we learned that our contact had moved on, and that we now have a new liaison point. We have an SLR meeting on 4th October here in the village, with our new contact who, so far seems very keen to be helpful.

Shortly after the meeting there was a week long closure of the lower High Street by UK Power Networks, with some appallingly badly organised and managed diversion signage. This matter will be an agenda item at the SLR meeting.

The notices for the 20mph speed limit have been posted around the village, as have the notices for the double yellow lines between Star Lane and Rope Walk Twitten. With the advent of the 20mph limit, we should now take forward the conversation regarding village gateways.

I note that Wealden have cleared the gravel at the top of Kings Ride.

Speed Watch - we continue to run sessions at the Rathfinny entrance. Unfortunately, we will not be able to enforce the new 20mph limit until 6 months after its implementation, but at that time we expect to be able to enforce within the village itself, which should be more effective.

#### **100. Report on Allotments and Recreation Ground - Cllr Daw**

Update on ROSPA Annual Inspection – The Clerk advised that the annual inspection was carried out in July and all areas met the required standards. The full report can be viewed on the website.

Allotment Costs & Deposits – Cllrs asked the Clerk to look into the viability of taking deposits and if a separate account is needed. Clerk to research and report back at the next meeting. **Action point 6.**

Allotment Rent – Cllr Daw proposed a motion for the allotment rents to revert back to being collected in January, Cllr Rabagliati seconded the motion, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to collect the allotment rents in January, as has previously been the case.

Allotments - Cllr Daw reported that the first meeting of The Friends of Alfriston Allotments went well. The current noticeboard at the allotments belongs to the Horticultural Society, Cllr Daw requested that an APC noticeboard is erected in the wild section. Cllr Daw proposed and Cllr Harris seconded the motion, this was unanimously **RESOLVED**. Cllr Daw confirmed there would be no cost to the council, as a noticeboard has been offered free of charge.

Playground – over the next few weeks, Cllr Daw and Chris Daw will cut back the ivy to keep this in check. The no dogs allowed sign has been fixed by Aaron Tims and councillors expressed their thanks for this.

Recreation Ground – Cllr Daw would like to arrange a clean of the benches with warm soapy water, the Clerk was asked to check there are no restrictions on carrying this out. **Action point 7.** Cllr Daw thanked both the Clerk and Gerry Garnett for their work on the Bank Holiday Car Boot Sale. Gerry Garnett carried out the risk assessment for the event and cllrs unanimously **AGREED** they would like to show their appreciation, Clerk to arrange. **Action point 8.**

#### **101. Report on Public Transport - Cllr Harris**

A question was raised at the last meeting about the use of Concessionary Passes on services before 9.30. I can confirm, in particular, that passes are valid on the 125 service at all times (with the exception, for some reason of the 8.30 service, Ringmer to Lewes).

I have received details of the seasonal changes to bus services. As far as I can tell, the effect on Alfriston users is as follows:-

1. The 11x, Brighton to Eastbourne via Drusillas, ended on 15<sup>th</sup> September.
2. The 26. The 16.50 service from Seaford will finish at Berwick Station, not Eastbourne, and the 18.00 service from Eastbourne will finish for the Season from 27<sup>th</sup> October.
3. The Art Shuttle bus will finish on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **102. Environment and Countryside – Cllr Harris**

Cuckmere Embankment works.

Revai Kinsella of the Water Levels Management Authority has done a good job keeping the various parties informed of progress of the works to the eastern river bank, downstream from the White Bridge. For the record, I would repeat that this is outside the boundary of Alfriston Parish.

The footpath was closed for the duration of the works, but has now re-opened, with a diversion in place to the foot of the embankment, to allow for the seeded area at the top to become established.

De-silting works were due to start to 16<sup>th</sup> September, but this is dependant on the Marine Management Organisation issuing the appropriate licence in time. A letter of appreciation was sent by our Clerk in August.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> July, Revai Kinsella wrote:-

*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 do not know what progress has been made in respect of these works, but I do know that a number of the sluices have been cleared.

#### **103. Report on Strategic Planning – Cllr Spring**

Cllr Spring gave an update on his report that was circulated with the Agenda, after discussion with various community groups. Cllr Spring reported that as the green agenda is now so ingrained in everything we are doing, this is why it has not been mentioned as a separate objective. Cllr Spring is happy to take any feedback on the objectives.

Cllr Spring has been working on the Emergency Plan document and will send to AEG for their comments before reporting back at the next meeting.

Update on Wealden D.C. sandbags for flooding - Cllr Spring reported that Wealden are looking to store sandbags locally. After consultation with AEG storage space is limited and after use these sandbags are difficult to dispose of. Cllr Spring has liaised with Wealden and will wait to see what comes out of their consultation process.

#### **104. Report on The Tye - Cllr Parkinson**

The Chair thanked Cllr Parkinson, Cllr Spring and AEG for repairing the potholes on The Tye. This work was completed today with assistance from The Wingrove and Aaron Tims.

Cllr Parkinson's report was attached to the agenda and updated as follows:

Cllr Parkinson thanked David Lewis for cutting out the areas ready for the potholes to be filled and Andrew Savile for storing the materials. The Clerk was asked to write and thank Andrew Savile.

**Action point 9.** The pothole outside Andrew Savile's gallery is the only one that still needs to be filled.

Replacing the edge of The Tye Rd – Cllr Parkinson thanked the Clerk for providing all the necessary information on buried services. Hailsham Roadways will be starting this work on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October through to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October. It is critical that there is no parking on the Tye at this time. Although access will be required for some private driveways. A communication campaign will be

needed. Cllr Parkinson will be on site at the start of the works and some of the week and asked cllrs to make themselves available to cover this period.

Benches – we are awaiting a quote to repair the two benches on The Tye.

Cllr Parkinson thanked Wendy & Gerry Garnett and the hall committee for putting new arrangements in place to uphold the parking regulations at the hall.

#### **105. Report from Planning Committee - Cllr Watkins**

105.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting:

- Ref. No: SDNP/24/03011/HOUS** Hazeldene, West St, Alfriston, BN26 5UY - **No objection.**
- Ref. No: SDNP/24/02440/FUL** Former Allotment Site, North St, Alfriston - **Objected.**
- Ref. No: SDNP/24/03402/HOUS** Ticehurst, West Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UX - **No objection**
- Ref. No: SDNP/24/03312/TCA** Alfriston Clergy House, Alfriston, BN25 5TL - **No objection**
- Ref. No: SDNP/24/03493/LIS** Saddlers Hse, High Street, Alfriston, BN26 5SZ - **No objection**

105.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

- Ref. No: SDNP/24/02380/FUL & LIS** Six Bells, High St, Alfriston, BN26 5TD **Approved.**
- Ref. No: SDNP/24/02506/LIS** Cinders Cottage, 3 West St, Alfriston, BN26 5UX **Approved**
- Ref. No: SDNP/24/02680/HOUS** Comp Barn, Winton St, Alfriston, BN26 5UL. **Approved.**
- Ref. No: SDNP/24/01355/HOUS** Deans Barn, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TP. **Approved.**

105.3 Enforcement updates from SDNPA

- Ref. No: SDNP/24/00281/GENER** 23 Deans Rd, Alfriston - **No enforcement required.**

East Sussex Highways believe they own the land bordering the pavement and this is currently being taken up by the Highways Enforcement Dept.

#### **106. Reports from Outside Bodies**

106.1 Heartstart – Nothing to report.

106.2 Alfriston Emergency Group – AEG reported that the Environment Agency have cleared the sluice by the Tye Road, AEG had a meeting with National Trust and now have a licence to put pipes the other side of the ditch on the meadowland. AEG are struggling for volunteers, Steve Woodgate will put a notice out in Cuckmere News asking for support.

106.3 Flood Forum - Nothing to report.

106.4 Neighbourhood Watch –No report.

106.5 Twinning Committee - The Chair summarised the report at the meeting, which was attached to the Agenda.

106.6 St Andrew's Church – Several weddings have been carried out. The Dog Show on August Bank Holiday went well, as did the blessing of the animals. The Ride & Stride for historic churches took place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September and raised £447.25 in total. Harry Savage's funeral is being held on Thur 19<sup>th</sup> September at midday, the church is expected to be full so speakers will be put outside too.

106.7 Clergy House –Report was read out by the Clerk and is attached. (**Appendix D**).

106.8 Cuckmere Buses – This is now covered by Cllr Harris under item no. 101.

106.9 Alfriston War Memorial Hall – Adrian Butcher sent in the following report: As far as the War Memorial Hall is concerned, all is well, activities are in full swing, and commercial bookings for next year are looking very healthy. Look out for the posters with details of the Race Night we're organising which will be a fun evening fund raiser on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November. A reminder that if anyone wants to advertise a village event (including village businesses), needs help organising a village event or would like to hear about such events then let me know via the Alfriston Hub - email [Alfristonhub@gmail.com](mailto:Alfristonhub@gmail.com)



106.10 Speedwatch - Cllr Rabagliati reported that they will not be able to enforce the new 20mph speed limit until 6 months after it is installed, this is to allow people to get used to it. Cllr Rabagliati thanked all the volunteers. Hannah Parkinson will be helping with the admin and Cllr Daw will be helping with storing the equipment.

106.11 Events - Live Nativity - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Gayle Hudson and Liz O'Neill reported on plans for the Live Nativity event. This year everything will be kept on The Tye, AWM Hall, Old Chapel Centre and the Church. There will be fund raising events to support this event. Looking at having mini Christmas trees along the Tye Road, and will liaise with the Parish Council on this. Notices will go out in Alfriston Hub and Cuckmere News. There will be no road closures this year. The date has been changed to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. The committee have asked the Parish Council for permission to use the Tye and also for the Parish Council to be the official organisers, so that the event can be covered under APC public liability insurance. A risk assessment has been carried out and the committee will work within the parameters of APC insurers – this will be covered under agenda item no. 107. The Chair thanked the committee for their work.

### **107. Correspondence – Asking for permission from the Council**

Live Nativity - 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Cllrs **AGREED** unanimously for the Live Nativity to have permission to use The Tye. Cllrs **AGREED** unanimously for APC to be the official organisers of the event and that it will therefore be covered by APC Public Liability Insurance.

Use of Glebeland for Wedding Vows – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026. APC has been asked for permission to allow a wedding blessing on the Glebeland, with chairs placed under the tree. The Chair reminded Cllrs that the principle of the Glebeland is that it is an open space for everyone to enjoy at all times. Cllrs discussed the request and it was unanimously **AGREED** to refuse permission, on the grounds that APC cannot exclude public access and it would set a precedent going forwards. It was noted that there was nothing stopping the wedding party from gathering in the area and standing for the blessing, but the general public would still have access. The Clerk was asked to write back and advise accordingly. **Action point 9.**

MG Club Classic Car Event on The Tye – 2025. This was an initial enquiry with a date to be agreed. The MG Club have offered to pay to use The Tye for a public event. Cllrs discussed this request and **AGREED** to the request in principle, depending on the date and there being a limit of 40 classic cars. A Saturday would be preferred, so that there is the possibility of using the Recreation Ground for extra car parking, assuming no cricket is being played that day. The organisers would need to arrange toilets facilities and refreshments and commit to repairing any damage to the ground caused by the event. The Clerk was asked to respond accordingly and mention that the Saturday of the August Bank Holiday would be preferred. **Action point 10.**

Christmas Tree on Market Square - Update on permission. Since Highways have confirmed they in fact own the land, APC have to get permission to erect a Christmas Tree on Market Square. The Clerk has written to Highways asking for permission, stating that this has been custom & practice for many years. Highways advised that permission must be requested from the Enforcement Dept., The Clerk has duly written to the Enforcement Dept and chased this up. We are currently awaiting a response.

### **108. Public Questions**

The meeting was adjourned at 9.10pm by the Chair before Public Questions commenced.

### **109. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 in the AWMH at 7:15pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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

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

Since the last meeting, there has been no county council meeting. I have attended the East Sussex Fire authority meeting last week. On the agenda was about inadequate funding needed to continue to provide the current services. The proposed closures of Mayfield fire station is in public consultation. The Grenfell Tower fire public enquiry report was published day before our meeting, chief officer provided a briefing of the report and the fire authority is working on those recommendations. Potholes and county financial position continues high on my agenda. ESCC’s ‘The State of the County’ report was published shows a forecast financial deficit of £55.3 million rising to £83.6 million by 2027/28. There are unallocated financial reserves of £16.7 million. Even with their scenario modelling there is a budget gap of around £26.6 million for the next financial year. ESCC is therefore seeking opportunities within all its departments to reduce this budget gap, which includes a review of their capital programme to reduce borrowing by scaling back projects as the cost of borrowing, which is £750,000 for every £10 million borrowed, has an impact on the revenue budget. There is also a high degree of uncertainty regarding future funding, including from central Government. If there is no additional funding from central government to ESCC, this could potentially result in a reduction of essential services or a very high council tax increase just to maintain current levels of service. Neither of the potential outcomes is ideal. East Sussex County Councillor Stephen Shing

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

#### **1) Funding available to help improve green spaces and community facilities in Wealden**

**Organisations and town and parish councils can now apply for grants to improve local rural green spaces and community facilities within Wealden district.**

The Wealden Community Infrastructure and Spaces Funding Programme is now open for applications and organisations such as Not for Profit organisations – along with town and parish councils – can apply for grants between £1,000 and £20,000.

The funding – offered by Wealden District Council in association with the government – is for projects that will improve accessibility and energy efficiency for community facilities and infrastructure as well as improving green spaces and active travel routes.

Examples of projects can include installing seating areas and bike racks within green spaces, creating new or additional accessible footpaths and cycle routes, upgrading energy efficient boilers, LED lighting or improving accessibility within village halls and community areas.

A total funding pot of £120K is available and has been made available through the government’s Rural England Prosperity Fund. The funding is a good opportunity for organisations within the district to adapt or improve existing facilities or to create new ones.

This is 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 England-wide initiative is a new £110million, two-year capital fund from the Department for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs, complementary to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund – run by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. 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](mailto:communitygrants@wealden.gov.uk)

## **2) Wealden partners with The Conservation Volunteers to deliver free Green Gym sessions and health walks**

**Wealden District Council has recently partnered with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) to deliver a series of health and wellbeing focused conservation activities**

From July, TCV will begin delivering weekly guided health walks and Green Gym sessions along the Cuckoo Trail, completely free for residents to join and get involved in. The programme of activities will be running until 31 March 2025.

Every Tuesday, the Cuckoo Trail group health walk will begin at 10.30am, starting at different points along the trail each week. These walks will be a great way to get outside, meet new people, and learn a thing or two about the local area. Each walk will be an hour long and suitable for any ability.

The Green Gym sessions will take place every Wednesday and Thursday 10am-1pm, from July. Green Gyms are a fantastic way to get active in the great outdoors and meet people in your community whilst improving the local area. Each Green Gym session will be three hours long with a range of activities at varying locations along the Cuckoo Trail. Whether you have been involved in conservation or never done it before, all abilities are welcome.

To find out more or book onto an activity, contact Becky Lewis on 07483045706 or email [rebecca.lewis@tcv.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.lewis@tcv.org.uk). Alternatively check out the TCV website <https://www.tcv.org.uk/southeast/volunteer-south-east/day-projects/east-sussex-biodiversity-action-team/> or find TCV Sussex on Facebook.

## **3) 'One You' East Sussex roadshow returns to Wealden in September and October**

Free NHS Health Checks are returning to towns across Wealden after high demand.

The health checks are provided by One You East Sussex, a free holistic lifestyle service for residents of East Sussex, helping people make simple changes that can lead to a longer, healthier and happier life. The service helps residents to lose weight, be smoke free, move more, eat well, drink less and delivers the NHS health checks.

Please book your NHS health check in advance by contacting [hello@oneyoueastsussex.org.uk](mailto:hello@oneyoueastsussex.org.uk) or calling 01323 404600. Appointments take between 30-40 minutes and your results will be discussed with on the day. Cancellations should be made 24 hours in advance to allow for appointments to be re-allocated.

### **Dates and locations:**

- Thursday 19th September - Uckfield, Luxford Field car park
- Thursday 26th September - Heathfield, Station Road East car park
- Thursday 3rd October - Crowborough, Croft Road car park
- Thursday 17th October - Hailsham, Vicarage Lane car park

- Thursday 31st October - Heathfield, Station Road East car park

Residents wanting to book an NHS health check must meet the following criteria:

- Be aged between 40-74.
- Are not currently prescribed blood pressure or cholesterol medications.
- Do not suffer from Diabetes OR Heart/Circulatory/Kidney conditions or previously suffered from any cardiovascular events.
- Be an East Sussex resident.
- Have not previously had an NHS health check in the last 5 years.

If you'd like more information on the free healthy lifestyle services available through One You East Sussex, or to complete a self-referral, then please visit [www.oneyoueastsussex.org.uk](http://www.oneyoueastsussex.org.uk).

**For further information please contact:**

Nichola Watters  
Head of Planning Policy, Climate Change and  
Economy  
Wealden District Council  
Email: [Nichola.watters@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:Nichola.watters@wealden.gov.uk)

Sian Killean  
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Wealden District Council  
Or Tel: 07970 233231  
Email: [Sian.killean@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:Sian.killean@wealden.gov.uk)

**4) Wealden Community Sports Hub receives £3.5million funding from Football Foundation**

**The new Community Sports Hub to be located on the outskirts of Hailsham has received a grant of £3.5million from the Premier League, The FA and government's Football Foundation.**

Construction on the new Hub is expected to start this autumn and be completed by 2026. The construction of the build has been appointed to Sunninghill Construction.

Wealden District Council has been working with the Football Foundation, a charity which delivers outstanding grassroots facilities, on the plans and construction of the new Community Sports Hub.

The Hub will provide new facilities in the district and offer high-quality sports and community facilities which can be used all year-round.

The funding has been awarded to the council through the Football Foundation's Hubs Programme, which has already seen over 20 multi-pitch Hubs delivered across the country.

As part of the funding agreement, the site will be operated on a not-for-profit basis by the charity, Leisure United and managed by The National Football Trust. Leisure United currently operates 18 sites across the country. It will be a new partnership arrangement involving the council and any surplus income generated from the facility will be reinvested into local grassroots sports.

The state-of-the art Hub will consist of two floodlit full size 3G pitches, four dual use floodlit netball/tennis courts and two padel tennis courts plus other community facilities such as a café and meeting space, skate park, a children's play area and a perimeter pathway around the site – that will provide opportunities for all residents to participate in sports, health and wellbeing, and leisure activities.

Throughout the process, the council has engaged with a range of partners including sport's governing bodies, local sports clubs and a public consultation event was held to help shape and inform the facilities at the site.

Visit [footballfoundation.org.uk](http://footballfoundation.org.uk) for more information on the Foundation.

**5) Employment sessions available in Hailsham**

**Drop-in sessions are available to residents in Wealden district needing help and guidance on employment.**

Wealden District Council has been working in partnership with the Job Centre Plus Eastbourne to bring the sessions to residents.

Job Centre Plus staff are available in the public access area of the council offices in Vicarage Field, Hailsham, every Monday and Thursday between 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 3pm. Residents can book an appointment with their employment advisor or walk in for general career advice.

This initiative helps many Wealden residents who would have had to travel far distances, often by public transport, to attend employment meetings and receive career advice from their appointed Job Centre Plus employment advisor. For example, claimants living in Hailsham and surrounding areas would have needed to travel to Eastbourne.

Wealden District Council has also worked closely with other neighbouring Job Centre Plus venues to deliver employment events and is continuing to work together to explore the expansion of the outreach service to other areas of the district.

**6) Rural businesses urged to apply for funding**

Businesses in Rother and Wealden have a final chance to apply for grant funding under the Rother and Wealden Business Grants Programme.

The scheme uses money from Wealden District Council's allocation of the Rural England Prosperity Funding to support businesses with capital funding for projects including the purchase of equipment and machinery, adaptation of premises, the creation or expansion of rural leisure and tourism businesses and farm diversification outside of agriculture.

The programme offers grants of up to £35,000 with 50% match funding to support capital expenditure projects. Seventeen projects have been approved through the scheme to date with three having been delivered already.

There are several businesses within Wealden which have already benefitted from funding received through the programme.

Branching Out Adventures, located near Halland, has purchased and installed a new continuous safety wire, using new technology to make the adventure course more user-friendly and safer.

The UK's leading children's nursery catering company, Zebedee's purchased a new high-capacity industrial dishwasher – which enables cooking equipment and containers to be cleaned quickly and efficiently. The new machine also uses less water and energy to run, reducing the environmental impact and running costs.

Alfriston Woodland Cabins is a family run business which was successful at gaining grant funding to purchase a new shepherds hut - called 'Owls Nest' - to add to its existing business to increase guest capacity. The huts and cabins are situated in private woodlands and orchards in Alfriston within the South Downs National Park - and have recently achieved a gold award through the Green South Downs Award

The Rother and Wealden Business Grants programme is funded by the Rural England Prosperity Fund, Rother District Council and Wealden District Council, it is delivered by East Sussex County Council.

Apply now by visiting

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/support/grants/ruralbusinessgrants/rural-business-grants-guidance-note> or emailing [ruralbusinessgrants@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:ruralbusinessgrants@eastsussex.gov.uk)

For further information please contact:

email: [Nichola.watters@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:Nichola.watters@wealden.gov.uk) email: [Sian.killean@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:Sian.killean@wealden.gov.uk)

[Appendix C – APC Meeting Dates 2025](#)

# ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Meeting Dates for 2025

All meetings commence at 19.15 hrs in the AWMH  
Planning meetings are arranged on an adhoc basis

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 (Annual Assembly)
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 (Annual Meeting)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025
No meeting in August
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
No meeting in December

[Appendix D - Report from The Clergy House, Aug. 2024](#)

We have recently had a Building Surveyor firm, who specialise in the environment, carry out a survey of the Clergy House to help give us a holistic understanding of the damp, heating and ventilation concerns here. This in turn will inform us on how best to tackle the issues moving forward and help with problems such as Death Watch Beetle. We received the survey results this week and it seems the chalk floor (installed in the 1990's - not historic) in the hall is the main culprit so we will look into possibly removing that.

We have welcomed 5471 visitors so far this year to the property.

A popular event is back at the Clergy House this month so do come along

Hidden Secrets of Alfriston Guided Tour - Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> & Friday 30<sup>th</sup>. 11.45am and 2pm (small charge)

Enjoy a guided stroll around the beautiful village of Alfriston learning about all the history from Saxon times to present day. Booking essential on 01323 871961.

Thanks

Holly

