

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

26th November 2024

Minutes of a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC), held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 18th November 2024 at 7.15pm

Present:

Cllr D Monteath-Wilson (Chair) Cllr J Watkiins (Vice Chair)

Cllr S Daw

Cllr N Parkinson

Cllr A Harris

In attendance:

Mrs Suzanna Dry – Parish Clerk & RFO

There were approximately 6 members of the public present.

133. Chairman's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked those that had turned out on such a horrible night.

134. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

135. Apologies for absence

Cllr Rabagliati and Cllr Spring had given their apologies.

136. Update from MP

No report was received this month. The Clerk was asked to remind James MacCleary's office to send a report in time for the meeting and also re-iterate our invitation for him to attend a meeting.

Action point 1.

137. Update from Cllr Stephen Shing – East Sussex County Council

Cllr Shing was delayed travelling back from London and not able to be present. A summary of his report was read out at the meeting and a copy is attached to the minutes. ([Appendix A](#)).

138. Update from Cllr David Greaves - Wealden District Council

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

139. Declaration of interest

Cllr Daw declared an interest as she is a Church Warden, trustee of Children with Cancer, the Women's Institute and a member of the Patient Participation Group. Cllr Parkinson declared an interest in the Allotments and Cllr Watkins declared an interest in AEG & Heartstart.

140. Minutes

Cllr Harris proposed and Cllr Daw seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC meeting held on 21st October 2024, were a true and accurate record. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Chair duly sign the minutes as an accurate record.

141. Finance

To approve the Statement of Finances November 2024 as attached to the Agenda. Cllr Daw proposed & Cllr Watkins seconded a motion these be approved. This was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

142. Coffeehouse Conversations

To discuss date of next coffeehouse conversation – topic to be Environment & Transport. Cllr Harris suggested Saturday 18th January 2025. Cllr Harris to book OCC and advertise. **Action Point 2.**

143. East Sussex Association of Local Councils (ESALC) Conference – 4th November 2024.

Cllr Daw and the Clerk attended. The Clerk reported back on the seminars and exhibitors present and that both Cllr Daw and the Clerk felt it was a very useful and informative event. ([Appendix C](#)).

144. Urban Grass Cutting

To decide on the level of Urban Grass Cutting carried out by East Sussex County Council in 2025/26. Details were attached to the Agenda. It was unanimously **AGREED** that APC would choose Option 1 = standard two cuts per year, at no cost to APC. . **Action Point 3.**

145. Government Consultation on Remote Meetings & Proxy Voting.

To decide on APC's response to the consultation, details of which were circulated with the Agenda. It was unanimously **AGREED** that APC would only support remote meetings in exceptional circumstances. As Cllrs felt it is important to communicate directly with villagers who attend the meetings. Another consideration was I.T. issues experienced in the village. Proxy Voting - it was unanimously **AGREED** that APC did not support proxy voting. It was felt there was a minefield of issues, particularly if Cllrs were not present for the open discussion at meetings before voting. The Clerk was asked to complete the survey on APC's behalf. **Action Point 4.** The Clerk mentioned that Cllrs may also respond to the consultation individually if they wish, as can members of the public.

146. Update on Abbeyfield House, Sheltered Housing, North Street.

The Chair closed the meeting in order for invited guest Anthony David, to speak regarding the closure and sale of Abbeyfield House in North Street. Mr David was previously a trustee for both Abbeyfield District Society and Abbeyfield South Downs. Mr David advised that this property was originally financed by the village and handed over as a going concern to Abbeyfield. With Abbeyfield owning the property. The sale presents an opportunity for social housing on the site. It was **AGREED** that APC would engage with Abbeyfield to discuss their intentions and propose bringing a housing association on board. The Clerk was asked to write to Abbeyfield requesting a meeting. The Chair and Cllr Harris would be happy to attend. **Action Point 5.** Jon Hurwood suggested advising SDNPA of the sale together with the need for social housing. It was **AGREED** to pick this up after an initial meeting with Abbeyfield. The Chair thanked Anthony David for his comments and re-opened the meeting.

147. Report on Highways & Twittens – Cllr Rabagliati

Cllr Rabagliati had nothing to report.

Update on Post Box – Clerk’s Report attached ([Appendix D](#)). It was **AGREED** that APC would log a formal complaint with the Post Office as there had still been no action on the post box. The Clerk was asked to make the complaint and also copy in James MacCleary, our MP. **Action Point 6.**

The Chair mentioned that the Traffic Management Scheme has now gone over to Strategic Planning, and sits with Cllr Parkinson.

148. Report on Allotments & Recreation Ground – Cllr Daw.

Allotments - This week has been a busy week at the allotments we have three residents of Alfriston who have taken on an allotment one of which a full size one, so welcome.

Sue Woodgate has trimmed the top of the nature allotment and I’ve trimmed the brambles but not too much. Sue also mowed the main pathway so thank you Sue, thank you to all the allotments that have been tidied and are looking amazing we are getting there but still a way to go. Cllr Daw will now turn the Allotment water off for the winter. **Action Point 7.**

Playground - The new residents in the house next to the playground have had all new fencing erected and it looks so much better and thank you because you cleared all the ivy broken glass and rubbish that had been there for so long. I will endeavour to keep the ivy back and hopefully our parents will make sure no rubbish is allowed to be left in the playground. The equipment is all in working order.

Recreation ground - Thank you to councillor John for fixing the manhole cover, when the grass was recently cut marks were left in the mud but the grass has grown and it all looks good but after the awful rain we’ve had it wasn’t surprising. I had a meeting nearly everyday at the allotments this week and some were early morning, so I checked the rec for dog poo and they were fresh so please clean up after your dog or dogs, this is a family area. Children walk to school across the rec and it was built for people to use not as a dog toilet, so please again clean up after your dog thank you.

To discuss and decide on the price of allotments for Jan 2026 - Cllrs had received the Clerk’s Report ([Appendix E](#)). In view of the grass strimming and bins being stopped and the introduction of a refundable deposit in 2026, Cllr Daw proposed and Cllr Watkins seconded a motion that there be no increase in allotment charges for Jan 2026. This was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

Report back on signs for each allotment gate - Cllrs had received the Clerk’s Report ([Appendix D](#)). It was unanimously **AGREED** to purchase 4 signs for the allotment gates, as per the report. The Clerk was asked to make the purchases. **Action Point 8.** Cllr Daw will arrange to have the signs put up. **Action Point 9.**

149. Report on Public Transport – Cllr Harris

Winter schedules now apply on various routes across the county, and in particular, the Art Shuttle finished for the year at the end of October. I understand it will resume in spring next year.

Richard Price has since advised the Arts Bus was very popular during the summer and will now be running throughout the winter season.

150. Report on Environment & Countryside – Cllr Harris

Not a lot to report. September saw the heaviest rainfall on our records – back to 1976, but flooding was generally limited to fields on the east side of the Cuckmere. The area of repaired bank south of the White bridge was not breached – the breaches occurred elsewhere.

There is still desilting work to be done, and we have received an email from Richard Brown, , Vice Chairman of Cuckmere Valley District Council, which includes the information that, and I quote, *‘The*

Water Levels Management Board should be working on the (twice postponed) channel restoration at Alfriston before the end of the month, making good use of the dry weather spell...I hope'

On which subject, bearing in mind September's record, today was the first day of measurable rainfall since 29th October

With regard to Rights of Way, I have reported various matters regarding damaged stiles, particularly those on the west bank of the Cuckmere between the White Bridge and the Stone Bridge, on the East Sussex Rights of Way website.

I have recently received an email from East Sussex Rights of Way' which reads:-

Original submitted problem / comment: There is a fallen tree across the path approximately 100 metres west of this gate. Adrian Harris (councillor)

Dear Cllr Harris

Your report submitted on the East Sussex Rights of Way online reporting system has been updated with the following information: This report has been resolved to our satisfaction and has now been closed.

Thank you for taking the time to contact us regarding this issue.

151. Report on Strategic Planning – Cllr Parkinson

Cllr Parkinson reported he'd had a handover from Cllr Rabagliati on the traffic calming measures and has written to ESCC to introduce himself and ask for an update. Balfour Beatty is liaising with Highways re signs and pricing, due to give us an update on this end of November. 20 mph Signs – no objections were received from the ESCC consultation. Gateways - Cllr Parkinson has re-iterated to ESCC that APC wish to be consulted before designs and pricing are considered. ESCC will arrange a meeting with APC once they have the outcome of their Stage 2 Safety Audit and are in a position to proceed.

Cllr Parkinson had received an e-mail from a resident requesting better give way signs on the high street and a mirror by the eight bells. This will be raised at the forthcoming SLR meeting, although it was noted that previous requests for a mirror have been refused by ESCC.

E-mail addresses for Cllr Parkinson and Cllr Spring have been changed, to reflect the change in portfolios, this came into effect today. The Clerk will now change this on the APC website. **Action point 10.**

The Chair clarified that the work on the Emergency Plan will now fall under Strategic Planning. Cllr Parkinson will take this forward with AEG and report back at the January meeting. **Action point 11.**

152. Report on Tye – Cllr Spring

Update on options to grit footpath on The Tye this winter – Cllrs had received the Clerk's Report ([Appendix F](#)). It was unanimously **AGREED** to set up a group of volunteers to grit the Tye footpaths this winter, and for the Clerk to purchase the necessary salt. **Action point 12.** Cllr Spring has confirmed he is happy to set up and administer the group. **Action point 13.** Cllrs decided not to purchase a spreader at this point and to pursue the possibility of using the Church salt bin to store salt supplies. Cllr Daw will follow this up. **Action point 14.**

153. Report from Planning Committee – Cllr Watkins

153.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting:

Ref. No: SDNP/24/04384/LDE The Bakehouse, Whiteway, BN26 5TS **No comment.**
Confirmation of the commencement of works, consisting of: Phase 1 works completed – refurbishment of the existing cottage (formally known as Burnt Cottage); Phase 2 works – proposed two extension and associated landscaping works, these have not been completed.

Ref. No: SDNP/24/04542/DCOND The Old Vicarage, West Street, BN26 5UY. **No objection**
Discharge of Condition 3 (Materials) for SDNP/24/01901/HOUS and SDNP/24/01902/LIS.

Ref. No: SDNP/24/04522/NMA Timbers Sloe Lane Alfriston East Sussex BN26 5UU **No objection**
Non-Material Amendment to SDNP/22/02413/HOUS.

153.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

Ref. No: SDNP/24/03402/HOUS – Ticehurst, West St, BN26 5UX – **Approved.**

Ref. No: SDNP/24/02440/FUL – Former Allotments, North St. - **Awaiting Decision.**
SDNPA working with applicant on alterations to the application taking into account ESCC Highways objection.

153.3 Enforcement updates from SDNPA - None.

154. Reports from Outside Bodies

154.1 Heartstart

Cllr Wakins reported that Heartstart are Looking to have defibrillator familiarisation in the new year, hopefully end of Jan\Feb.

154.2 Alfriston Emergency Group

Steve Woodgate reported that AEG have spoken to John Cooper at Wealden District Council to make them aware the flaps at the Willows car park are still damaged and will therefore allow the car park and road to flood. The Clerk was asked to also follow this up.

154.3 Flood Forum - John Hurwood had nothing to report this month.

154.4 Neighbourhood Watch - No report received.

154.5 Twinning Committee - Report was attached to the Agenda.

154.6 St Andrew's Church

Remembrance Sunday service was full and remembrance on The Tye on the Monday was also well attended. On the first advent Sunday (1st Dec), the church will be collecting toys for the food bank.

154.7 Clergy House

A report from Holly Jones, Site Manager was read out at the meeting and is attached to the minutes. ([Appendix G](#)).

154.8 Alfriston War Memorial Hall

Adrian Butcher reported that all the stage lights are being replaced next week with LED ones. 50% Of the cost was covered by grant funding and Alfriston Players also made a generous donation.

154.9 Speedwatch

Report by Hannah Parkinson - I've been helping Cllr Rabagliati with the administration of speedwatch, as well as doing some sessions. We are down to a small but still very dedicated band of eight, but with a possibility of two more volunteers.

For the last two months, due to numbers and increasingly cold weather, I have been trying not to schedule more than one session per pair – so effectively one session a week. There are two more sessions to go this month, but here is a little summary of the group's efforts to date.

Since the group was set up in October 2021 there have been 141 sessions. Out of those, 114 sessions have recorded speeders – 326 being the total number of offenders recorded. 67 mph is the record (and that was from this year!), but the 126 have been recorded at 50 and above. The average speed recorded is 49 mph (that is the mean and the median). 47mph is the mode.

In 2024, 127 speeders, 48mph is the mode, mean average is 50 mph, median remains at 49mph.

Many thanks to all the volunteers past and present and special mention to Bill Rendall – the last man standing from the original pool of volunteers! I am suggesting that we take a break in December, and start again in January or when then the 20mph comes in – whichever is the sooner.

154.10 Events - Live Nativity Update.

The following report from Liz O'Neill was read out at the meeting:-

Just to let you know all is progressing well and we have updated our H&S Risk assessment accordingly and have arranged the relevant insurance. Please find updated risk assessment and first aid certificate attached.

An update on recent developments.

The School has confirmed a number of arts & craft activities that will take place from 2pm in the OCC prior to the performance and this is being publicised with support from Alfriston school The Clergy House is now participating with a table in the village hall and will be selling old fashioned Xmas treats. The Church Choir will support with singing in the Church. The Wingrove Hotel are supporting by donating some sausage rolls and mince pies. The Star have been asked and we are awaiting a response

May 8th 2025, 80th Anniversary of victory in Europe and the end of WWII as a whole.

Cllr Daw suggested having a big tea party on The Tye to celebrate this event, with tables and chairs and people bringing their own food. Actual day to be decided as 8th is a week day. Cllr Daw will report back.

155. Correspondence to The Clerk – Asking for permission from the council.

Xmas Tree on Market Square – Update on APC's request to ESCC Highways Dept.

The Clerk reported that ESCC Enforcement Dept. have now confirmed they will be issuing a temporary licence for the Christmas Tree to be placed in Market Square. The cost for the licence is £63.00, which leaves £65.00 from the tree funds raised so far. The tree cost £350.00 last year. Cllr Daw confirmed the OCC have £100 raised towards the tree and Cllr Daw will make the Christmas Quiz a fund raiser for the tree, which normally raises approx. £150.00. Cllr Spring has kindly offered to cover any shortfall. The lights on the tree will go on on Saturday 30th November. Cllr Daw will purchase the tree from Graham as usual and the invoice will be sent to APC. **Action point 15.**

156. Public Questions

157. Date of next meeting – There is no meeting in December, therefore the next meeting will be held on Monday 20th January 2025 in the AWMH at 7:15pm.

Please see Appendices attached below and/or on the website

[Appendix A](#)

A22 Active Travel Measures public consultation

We are writing to make you aware that the A22 Active Travel Measures public consultation is now live and will be running until **Sunday 8th December 2024**. To support you with any questions you may receive throughout the consultation, please find the attached briefing note, FAQ summary, and a copy of the slides that the officer team presented in briefings over the last week.

The consultation survey can be accessed via the link below: [A22 Active Travel Measures - East Sussex - Citizen Space](#)

We will also be holding four in person drop-in consultation events in the Hailsham, Polegate and Stone Cross areas, which will take place on the following dates:

Hailsham Drop-in Consultation Event 1 -Thursday 7th November 2024

Start: 2:30 - 5:30pm James West Community Centre, Inglenook, Market St, Hailsham BN27 2AE

Hailsham Drop-in Consultation Event 2 -Tuesday 12th November 2024

Start: 2:30 - 5:30pmJames West Community Centre, Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham. BN27 2AE

Polegate Drop-in Consultation Event 3 - Saturday 23rd November 2024

Start: 10:30 - 2:30pmPolegate Community Association, 54 Windsor Way, Polegate, BN26 6QF

Stone Cross Drop-in Consultation Event 4 - Thursday 28th November 2024

Start: 3pm - 7pmSt Luke's Church and Parish Centre, Rattle Road, Stone Cross, BN24 5EB.

The Government's national budget statement on October 30th

The Government's national budget statement on October 30th signalled likely extra costs for local authorities which may cancel out the benefits of some extra funding announced at the same time.

No extra money has been allocated for high-cost areas including children's social care and home to school transport which are significant factors in the steeply rising costs facing councils.

The council forecasts an annual funding gap of £57 million for the financial year

2025/26. A report to cabinet ahead of its meeting on Wednesday 13 November warns any financial benefit from the national budget: "is likely to fall significantly short of the current projected deficit".

Further savings of £12 million are being proposed by the council to help close the funding gap. They are in addition to 12 proposals the council is already consulting on, mainly in reducing and modifying adult social care services.

The new proposals include reviews and reductions in a range of services, a cut in staff numbers, an increase in on-street pay and display parking charges and changes that should result in fewer high-cost placements for children in care.

Proposals also include plans to close or rent out parts of County Hall to reduce running costs and generate rental income.

The potential savings from the latest proposals, and those currently out for public consultation, total around £16 million. The initial £57 million deficit would be reduced by the £16 million savings and by a further £28 million if funding assumptions are realised.

The cabinet report suggests the overall impact of the national budget on East Sussex may be close to nil.

The report explains: “There was welcome acknowledgement of the specific issues driving pressure on local authorities and the need for reforms in key areas, including increased focus on prevention. This recognition was accompanied by some short term additional financial support, particularly for adult social care and Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND).

“However, increases to the National Living Wage and National Insurance paid by employers will impact on our providers and the costs of commissioning services, particularly in the care sector, and higher than expected inflation will affect costs across a range of services.”

Cabinet will be told that the council needs to study the details of the provisional/draft local government finance settlement when it’s published in December and look at all options to ensure it can deliver a balanced budget, including further use of its rapidly diminishing reserves.

The report concludes that the council’s financial position “continues to be highly challenging, despite indications of some additional national support”, and commits the council to continue efforts to press central Government for a better funding deal.

In particular, national plans to ‘target’ an extra £700 million of support across the country could penalise East Sussex unless the county’s areas of deprivation, its older population and smaller economy are properly recognised.

The full Cabinet report can be viewed at

<https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MIId=586&Ver=4>

I will be attending the peoples scrutiny committee tomorrow 20 November.

Thank you.

County councillor Stephen Shing

[Appendix B](#)

Report – Alfriston PC - Monday 18th November 2024 by Cllr David Greaves

1) Wealden towns and parishes set to receive CIL money

Wealden parish and town councils will receive their share of just over £1.2 million from Wealden District Council’s Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund covering the period from 31 March 2024 to 30 September 2024.

The money given to the parishes and towns in Wealden comes from CIL, a charge that local authorities in England and Wales impose on new developments to support infrastructure. It includes play areas, parks, roads, public transport, health facilities, schools and flood defences.

The parish and town councils in the Wealden district receive 15% of the CIL monies generated from relevant development **where a development takes place in their parish if there is no neighbourhood plan adopted, or 25% where a neighbourhood plan is adopted.** CIL monies passed to parishes can be used to support the development of the parish council’s area by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area.

In 2024 alone, four neighbourhood plans have been adopted in Wealden – Wadhurst in May and earlier this month Horam, East Hoathly with Halland and Ninfield were successful in having

neighbourhood plans adopted. Hailsham, Hellingly and Herstmonceux parishes also have neighbourhood plans adopted.

2) Work for a local council and make a difference campaign

People are being encouraged to 'Make a Difference' in their communities by embarking on a rewarding career with their local council.

A new campaign, 'Make a Difference, Work for your Local Council', aims to inspire individuals to explore career opportunities that have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of local residents.

Local councils provide essential services that residents rely on every day, including housing benefits, planning, social care for adults and children, planning, environmental health and finance.

Following a successful pilot in the north east of England, the campaign highlights the wide range of roles available in council services, welcoming people from all backgrounds and skill levels who are looking to begin a new role in local government.

Produced in collaboration between the Local Government Association (LGA), Solace, Regional Employers Organisations, and councils across the country as part of the LGA's Sector Support Offer, and funded by the UK Government, the campaign showcases the variety of meaningful and fulfilling opportunities in local government.

With over nine in 10 councils experiencing recruitment and retention challenges amid growing demand for services, this initiative comes at a crucial time. It aims to address workforce shortages by attracting new talent into councils, ensuring they can continue to provide the vital services on which communities depend.

Wealden District Council's Councillor Greg Collins, the authority's lead councillor for HR, said,

"At Wealden District Council we support and encourage our employees to aim high and be ambitious with their careers whilst offering them unique opportunities to make a difference for others, in local communities and further afield. Wealden council is committed to maintaining an inclusive workplace where every individual's contributions are valued, and equality of opportunity is maintained. We have people that joined at apprentice level and worked their way up to managers, heads of service and even director level. Working for the council does make a difference."

Councillor Abi Brown, chairman of the LGA's Improvement and Innovation Board, said, "Hundreds of essential services are provided every day by councils and combined authorities to keep our communities running and is great way to grow a career.

"From caring for families and protecting children from harm, to ensuring your favourite takeaway or restaurant is safe and keeping our streets clean, there are a wide variety of challenging but equally rewarding roles on offer.

"Working in local government offers unparalleled opportunities to make a real difference in people's lives and there has never been more important or valued time to join."

Anyone interested in discovering how they can contribute to the future of their community by working for their local council can visit the dedicated campaign website at

<https://www.localcounciljobs.gov.uk/>

The campaign website includes a postcode search to help job seekers find their ideal role. With hundreds of jobs in varying roles across the country, there are roles to suit all levels of experience, skills, and ambitions. Councils and partners can also show their support by using the free digital resources available on the website to help promote the campaign.

For further information please contact:

Sarah Garner

Head of People and Organisational
Development

Wealden District Council

Email: Sarah.garner@wealden.gov.uk

Or Sian Killean
Media and Communications officer
Wealden District Council

Tel: 07970 233231

Email: Sian.killean@wealden.gov.uk

3) Sports infrastructure Fund 2024-2027

The Sports Infrastructure Funding Programme is being launched by Wealden District Council. £600,000 will be invested over the next three years to improve outdoor sports pitches and facilities throughout the district. If you are an organisation looking to enhance or provide outdoor sports facilities and playing pitches to increase sports participation or physical exercise in Wealden, you may be able to apply for a capital sports grant.

Projects that are listed in Wealden's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) will only be considered. For further details on the PPOSS go to [Wealden District Council Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy – Strategy and Action Plan 2023](#). The outdoor sports that could benefit from the funding programme include football, rugby union, tennis, cricket, lawn bowls, hockey, netball and stoolball. The amount of funding awarded will be between £5,000 and £50,000. Match funding is a requirement.

Applications from local sports clubs, Town and Parish Councils, schools and community organisations are being invited to support the delivery of a range of projects recommended in Wealden's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy. Funding will be subject to a community-use and/or a grant funding agreement, where appropriate. For further information or to receive an application pack, please email sportsinfrastructurefund@wealden.gov.uk, your email should include a short summary of your project and confirmation that details are included in the PPOSS.

- The application process is now open and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.
- The funding programme will expire on **31st March 2027** or earlier, if all of the funding has been fully allocated.

For information about other types of sports funding that may be available, email the Leisure & Wellbeing Team at communitygrants@wealden.gov.uk.

4) Reopening of Hailsham's swimming pool

Freedom Leisure, the not-for-profit leisure trust that manages Hailsham Leisure Centre on behalf of Wealden District Council, hosted a lively and well-attended Open Day last week to celebrate the reopening of its newly refurbished swimming pool. The event marked the culmination of a major renovation project, which has revitalised the much-loved community space.

The swimming pool will continue to serve as an important community asset for the people of Hailsham and surrounding areas, offering a space for health, fitness, and social interaction. With the official reopening now complete, Hailsham Leisure Centre is ready to welcome swimmers of all abilities back to the water, confident that the updated facilities will provide a high-quality experience for years to come.

For more information about opening hours, swimming lessons, and other services available at the Hailsham Leisure Centre, visit their website <https://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/hailsham> or stop by the centre to speak with a member of the team.

[Appendix C](#)

From: clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk <clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk>

Sent: 07 November 2024 15:08

To: APC Cllrs

Subject: Feedback from ESALC Conference

Dear Chair & Cllrs,

Please see below the latest Chief Executive's Bulletin from NALC, for your information.

ESALC (East Sussex Association of Local Councils) Conference – 4th November - Sylvia and I attended this one day conference, held at the Amex Stadium in Brighton. It was very informative, with NALC Chair, Keith Stevens giving an overview of NALC's work over the last year on behalf of members, updates on recent issues, including the government announcement on standards & remote meetings, progress on Martyn's Law (new legislation relating to anti terrorism measures for public venues). Guest speakers included the Chief & Deputy Chief Constable of Sussex Police who discussed their collaboration with different authorities and local government bodies and Steve Tilbury, Planning Consultant who spoke about the changes to planning rules which will become more apparent throughout 2025.

Hope you find the above & below information useful.

Suzanna

Mrs Suzanna Dry Clerk and RFO

From: National Association of Local Councils

Sent: 07 November 2024 09:47

To: clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk#

West Sussex Association of Local Council Annual General Meeting and Conference

Our administration manager, Claire FitzGerald, joined Keith at the West Sussex Association of Local Council Annual General Meeting and Conference on 4 November 2024 at the Amex Stadium, home of Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club. Keith provided an overview of our work over the last year and updates on recent issues, such as government announcements on standards and remote meetings and progress on Martyn's Law. Sussex Police chief constable Jo Shiner and acting deputy chief constable Rosie Ross spoke about their efforts to protect communities and catch criminals, and their use of Power BI technology for data analysis. They also discussed their collaboration with different authorities and the importance of their relationship with parish and town councils. Head of strategy at Transport for the South East, Mark Valleley, provided details on key transport issues, highlighting a public consultation for the future of transport in the region launching next month.

Trainer and consultant Steve Tilbury provided a planning update, revealing a raft of changes to planning rules affecting the sector and how these will become more apparent throughout 2025.

[Appendix D](#)

[ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL](#)

Date: 14th November 2024
Report Subject: UPDATE ON POST BOX
By: Suzanna Dry, Clerk & RFO

Background

At the Oct APC meeting Cllrs asked me to query with the Post Office why The Deans Car Park was considered unsuitable for an alternative site for a post box. This has been requested and chased, see e-mail thread below:

Analysis

From: clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk <clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk>

Sent: 12 November 2024 12:59 **To:** Royal Mail, Polegate Office

Subject: ALFRISTON POST BOX **Importance:** High

Dear Elaine, Please can you give me an update from your e-mail below dated 18th October, so that I can report back to Councillors at our next council meeting on 18th November ?

In particular, can you give me an outcome from the last meetings on site to view the back of the boarded up post box ? (Which took place in Sept\Oct). Councillors have also asked for a reason why the Dene Car Park was considered unsuitable by the collections team. This issue has remained unresolved since the replacement of the current post box was abandoned over a year ago and I am sure you can appreciate Councillors are becoming very frustrated with the whole process with villagers increasingly voicing their concerns. I appreciate the assistance you have given and hope you can give me some updated information to take to the council meeting next Monday.

All the best and speak soon

Suzanna Mrs Suzanna Dry Clerk and RFO .

From: clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk <clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk>

Sent: 21 October 2024 10:10 **To:** Royal Mail, Polegate Office

Subject: RE: Photo of possible Post Box sites

Morning Elaine, This is much appreciated, thank you. I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best Suzanna

From: Royal Mail, Polegate Office

Sent: 18 October 2024 21:15 **To:** clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk

Subject: RE: Photo of possible Post Box sites

Hi Suzanna

I know that more meetings occurred recently where access was granted to view the back of the box, and would hope for some update soon. This is not in my remit, however I know they did look for an alternative site. I suggested the car park but our collections team advised that they were not suitable. I will see if I can find any update for you.

Regards Elaine Plane

From: clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk <clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk>

Sent: 17 October 2024 12:35 **To:** Royal Mail, Polegate Office

Subject: Update on Alfriston post box

Dear Elaine,

We spoke back in January with regard to the repair of the post box in Alfriston High Street. I understand there are many issues with this, mainly getting an asbestos licence and road closure licence for the same date so repairs can be done. The Parish Council have asked me to chase for a date for the repair or alternatively if this is proving too difficult, if a new post box could be issued instead. The two places identified as having space for this are Market Cross (opposite the Village Store where the old post box is) or on the wide area of pavement at the entrance to Dene's Car Park, from West Street. You previously advised there was no other place deemed suitable to fix another box, Can Royal Mail please explain why these two sites are unsuitable for a new post box? We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards Suzanna

Recommendation

If no reply has been received from the Post Office by the Nov meeting, options to APC are:

1. Formal Complaint - APC raise a formal complaint with the Post Office and start down their complaints procedure.
2. Ask MP to get involved - APC Chair and Clerk request a surgery appt with MP James McCleary to raise APC's and villagers concerns and ask our MP to get involved on our behalf.

Appendix E

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Date: 15th November 2024 Report
Subject: ALLOTMENT PRICES & SIGNS
By: Suzanna Dry, Clerk & RFO

ALLOTMENT SIGNS

Further to October's meeting, as requested by APC I have looked into purchasing signs for the allotment gates. Signs to be the same as the one already in place on one gate near the playground, with the addition of 'children must be accompanied at all times':

NO ENTRY

Access for allotment holders only
Children must be accompanied at all times

The cost to purchase four signs (one for each gateway) would be approximately £40.00 in total + Vat.

Recommendation

Under Agenda Item no. 148 at the November Council Meeting, APC to **AGREE** to purchasing the above signs.

TO CONSIDER THE PRICE OF ALLOTMENTS FOR JAN 2026

We currently charge £35 for a full plot, £20 for a half and £12.50 for some small plots.

As a comparison, I have asked other Clerks in Wealden the cost of their allotments. Out of 10 replies, prices ranged from £30 - £60. The average being £45.00.

Other considerations:

APC have not increased the price of allotments since 2020.

In July 2024 grass strimming was stopped.

In Apr 2025 the Biffa bins will be removed.

In Jan 2026 allotment holders will be required to put down a £50.00 refundable deposit.

Recommendation

Under Agenda Item no. 148 at the November Council Meeting, APC to **DECIDE** on the price for allotments from Jan 2026. Notice will therefore need to be given to allotment holders in Jan 2025.

[Appendix F](#)

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Date: 13th November 2024
Report Subject: GRITTING OF TYE FOOTPATHS
By: Suzanna Dry, Clerk & RFO

Further to my report in October, as requested by APC I have researched costs of instructing an outside contractor and alternatively, purchasing equipment necessary for volunteers to carry out the work.

Background

We do not currently have anything in place to grit the Tye footpaths in winter. AEG used to do this for the Parish Council but were asked to stop some time ago due to insurance issues and not being able to guarantee it would be done every time it was needed.

Analysis

As APC are responsible for maintaining the Tye, we have a duty of care to ensure public safety. I have taken advice from our insurers who confirm that APC must have a plan in place to ensure the footpath is gritted in heavy frost or icy conditions - doing nothing is not an option. Records must also be kept on how this is managed.

As APC do not employ any maintenance staff, there are three options:-

1. Explore possibility of AEG resuming carrying this out for APC - I have checked with our insurers if we could add AEG to our insurance policy, they have replied saying this is not possible. AEG have also confirmed they do not currently have the manpower\volunteers to be able to carry this out.
2. Employ an outside contractor to attend and carry out the gritting on our behalf - obviously there will be a cost. I met three local grounds maintenance companies on site, only two have provided a quote: CB Landscaping quoted £250.00 per month, for one visit and £60.00

per hour for additional visits. MW Landscapes Sussex Ltd. Quoted £350 for the first visit incl. salt and spreader and are yet to confirm a cost per visit thereafter.

3. Volunteers - There would need to be a big enough team of volunteers to ensure adequate cover on all days when the weather dictates. This is to ensure no days are missed when gritting is needed. APC would need to provide the grit & equipment required, carry out a risk assessment and record date & times the paths were gritted.

Cost to purchase equipment: Grit Bin: £275 approx. Rock Salt: £200 Salt spreader: £250-£300.

Note: Cil money can be used to fund this – we have £502 in Cil that needs to be spent before Mar '25.

I have asked other Clerks in Wealden how they manage their footpaths, some engage a small maintenance firm and others have councillors\volunteers who undertake this using grit and equipment provided.

Recommendation

Under Agenda Item no. 152 at the November Council Meeting, APC to decide on a plan to manage gritting of the Tye footpath this winter.

[Appendix G](#)

Report from The Clergy House – Holly Jones, Site Manager.

We closed for the season on the 2nd November after welcoming 8656 visitors during the year. It's been amazing to welcome all these visitors from around the world and share the story of the property with them. Conservation work now starts in earnest including putting the house to bed along with the deep clean as well as planning for next year.

Until then we have some events happening at the end of the month these being:

Special Winter Open Days 29th & 30th November 11am to 2pm

Wrap up warm and experience the winter light streaming through the windows and let your imagination wander to what life would have been like 600 years ago. Booking not needed Free event (admission applies)

Christmas Carols Saturday 30th November, 2pm to 2.40pm

Join us for a Christmas Carol Concert in the Clergy House Hall led by the wonderful St Andrew's Choir. Booking not needed Free event (admission applies)