ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**

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28th June 2017

**Minutes of a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC)**

**held in Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 19th June 2017**

**Present:**

Cllr. N. Beechey – Chair

Cllr. J. Dumelow - Vice Chair Cllr. N. White

Cllr. V. Cooper Cllr. D. Bell

Cllr. K. Halliday

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 14 members of the public

1. **Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr. Beechey welcomed everyone to the meeting. He expressed his thanks to Holly Daniels who organised the Sussex Day, they were blessed with sunshine and it seemed to be an enormous success. Well done to all who have been involved in the Flower Festival, it looked great and was another successful event for the Village. Thank you to Cllr Cooper and her husband Roger for putting together the flower display on behalf of APC. Thank you to everyone who took part in Alfriston in Bloom. Thanks to Victoria’s husband Olly who installed a new bench in on the Recreation Ground for free.

1. **Public Questions**
2. Question from Sylvia Daw. The disabled bays on Tye Road are not being used in the evening so it was discussed if a sign could go up to say anyone can park in them. This was discussed and unfortunately we can’t do this as they are for the use of the disabled at any time. Parking notices are being placed on vehicles parked in the bays with no disabled badge displayed. If it continues parking enforcements will have to be considered.
3. Darren Greenfield stated that there are people parking on the double yellow lines on the corner of Weavers Lane and Star Lane. It is causing disruption. He believed it may be Star Inn employees and builders from Brian Huntly. Clerk to send a polite, non-accusatory letter to both companies to request no parking in that area. **Action 1.**
4. Darren also updated that there is music coming from the kitchen within the Star Inn, early in the morning on a Sunday. It was suggested that Darren should write to the Star Inn in the first instance.
5. John Hurwood asked whether the drinking fountain was going to be fixed soon. Clerk updated that there has been a delay due to the location of the water tap but a second option is being explored and will hopefully have it working soon.
6. John Hurwood asked about the plaque for the tree. Sylvia updated that she needs to collect it but has been busy lately with Sussex Day and Flower Festival. This will be done by the next meeting. APC are going to pay for the plaque so Sylvia to give receipt to Clerk for reimbursement.

1. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

Cllr Beechey congratulated Maria Caulfield MP on her re-election. She has sent her apologies for this meeting but she did send a report which will be circulated with the minutes. *Appendix A.*

1. **Report from ESCC Cllr Stephen Shing**

Cllr Shing sent his apologies, however he did send a report which will be circulated with the minutes. *Appendix B.*

1. **Report from Wealden District Councillor Phillip Ede**

No attendance and no report.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Ray Savage.

1. **Minutes**

Cllr. Dumelow proposed and Cllr. Halliday seconded a motion that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2017 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Beechey duly signed the minutes

1. **Finance**

Cllr. White proposed and Cllr. Dumelow seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances. **MOTION CARRIED**

Cllr. Cooper approved and signed Invoices for Payment

1. **To consider whether to support Conserve Alfriston’s objections to ESCC’s traffic light proposal and alternative proposals put forward at their exhibition.**

Cllr Beechey stated that this item has two parts. Do APC agree with the objections and do they agree with the proposals put forward? A discussion took place and it was agreed that all Councillors agreed on the objections. A discussion was then held on the proposals put forward by Conserve. All Councillors expressed their support save for Cllr Beechey. He stated that he supports the principles of a sensitive traffic calming scheme but feels this proposal is very sign dependent and does not meet the aim of conserving the appearance of the High Street. Cllr Bell proposed and Cllr White seconded that APC should formally support the Conserve Alfriston proposal. All Cllrs save for Cllr Beechey voted in favour. The Clerk to send a letter of support to Conserve Alfriston. **Action 2.**

1. **To consider supporting Friends of Cuckmere**

Cllr Beechey updated that since Mark Lamb came to speak to APC in April 2017, we now needed to consider whether we officially support them. Cllr Bell proposed, Cllr Dumelow seconded and it was agreed by all Cllrs that that APC would formally offer our support. The Clerk to send a letter of support to Friends of Cuckmere. **Action 3.**

1. **Report on Highways & Twittens – Cllr. Halliday**

46.1 The issue of bikes being placed against businesses and trees in the Village at the weekend was discussed. It is becoming an issue and does require further action. It will be discussed at the SLR meeting on the 30th June.

46.2 Clerk updated that the bin situation is in hand and should be progressed soon. The aim is to provide greater capacity in the Square. There is a process that we need to follow this is holding things up.

1. **Report on Allotments – Cllr. Cooper**

Cllr Cooper updated that the Clerk advertised that we had 12 vacant plots and three have since been taken. She also updated Sylvia Daw that the Pre-School do still receive a plot free of charge.

1. **Report on Rights of Way and Countryside – Cllr. Dumelow**

Cllr Dumelow stated that there is nothing to report.

1. **Report on Car Parks and Public Transport – Cllr. Savage**

49.1 The Clerk updated that quotes are still being looked into for a bus shelter.

49.2 Bins - as stated in 46.2, this is an ongoing process which will hopefully be finalised soon.

1. **Report on Strategic Planning – Cllr. Dumelow**

Cllr Dumelow updated that her and Cllr Bell are attending the SDNPA housing plan meeting next week.

1. **Report on Tye and Recreation Ground – Cllr. White**

51.1 Cllr White updated that nothing to report on Tye Road.

51.2 Playground regeneration - Cllr Cooper updated that we are still awaiting outcome of grant.

51.3 Cllr Beechey updated that the new bench on the Rec is now in place. On the Rec, the hedge adjoining The Broadway has been looked at by Dan Larkin. To remove the ivy and replant a suitable hedge would be a large and expensive job so at present we will try to tidy it up and monitor.

51.4 Two more bins are required for the Tye and the Clerk is progressing this.

51.5 A Drop down bollard is to be installed at the Wingrove end of Tye where the blue rope currently is, to prevent vehicles using this as a way to drive across the Tye. This will be padlocked with the code given to the emergency services and Heartstart only.

1. **Report from Planning Committee - Cllr Bell**
   1. Applications to be considered by APC planning committee at this meeting

**SDNP/17/02253/HOUS and SDNP/17/02254/LIS**

Burnt House Cottage, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TS

Refurbishment and extension of existing cottage including demolition of existing extension and introduction of enhanced landscaping.

Jeremy Gale lives at Burnt House. The property on this application [Burnt House Cottage] is right next to his property. He has concerns about the exterior façade as the sides are cladded. He has submitted formal comments to SDNPA already. The choice of materials are not in keeping of the surroundings. Cllr Bell declared that he can’t take part in any discussion or voting as he has interest in the property at issue. Cllr Dumelow supports the extension but not the materials used for the exterior. Cllr Halliday said that the exterior may be thought by some to be incongruous with its surroundings but it is a taste thing and he is in favour of modern architecture and the materials being used. Cllr Beechey supports the extension but does have reservations about the materials used on the exterior. It was agreed that APC support the application in terms of the scale of the development but object to the external visual appearance and how it sits with its surroundings. Clerk to submit this response.

* 1. Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting
  2. Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

**SDNP/17/01181/HOUS.**

The Carthouse, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TS

Proposed two bay garage and workshop with games room over, linked to the existing dwelling by a glazed link. Together with associated hard and soft landscaping works. *This is still pending.*

**SDNP/17/01344/HOUS** and **SDNP/17/01345/LIS.**

Frog Firle Barn, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TT

Proposed full height porch extension.

*This is still pending.*

**SDNP/17/02079/LIS**

Cross House, Waterloo Square, Alfriston, BN26 5UD

Installation of window boxes to three windows on the front elevation facing Waterloo Square [should be Market Square] and one to the window on the side elevation. *This has been refused.*

1. **Reports from Outside Bodies**
   1. Lorry Watch – no report.
   2. Heartstart – they now only have 3 members, they are still desperate for more people. They are receiving calls for serious incidents but just do not have the people. It was agreed that Clerk will place an advert on the noticeboard. Next weekend (24/25/6) there is an open garden at Follers Manor in aid of Children Cancer and Heartstart, please come along and show your support. It was also discussed that they have defibrillators available to install in a publicly accessible space in the centre of village, they just need suitable locations. Anyone with such a location and willing to have one installed please contact the Clerk who can liaise with Heartstart.
   3. Alfriston Emergency Group – no report.
   4. Flood Forum – John Hurwood updated that he was not impressed with the £750 offered by APC as a contribution towards a pump as he expected more. Cllr Beechey explained that the finances are not what they used to be and APC cannot at present afford to give a grant of £3000. John stated that he had a conversation with the National Trust contractor who is looking at the drainage issues and there is scope to look elsewhere for funds, although that may involve a rate levy on all parishioners.
   5. Neighbourhood Watch – no report.
   6. Twinning Committee – Report provided by June Goodfield written by Tony Palmer. Report will be circulated with the minutes. *Appendix C.*
   7. Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect – Alfriston Bloom was an immense success. Lots of people going into all the shops. 200 flowers with notes attached saying ‘Thank you for driving safely through our Village’ were handed out to motorists driving by, this was a huge success and featured the following day in Sussex Express. They are doing late night shopping on the 1st Friday of the month.
   8. Cuckmere Buses – no report.
2. **Correspondence to The Clerk**
3. Stonemason report for the Market Cross has been received. They have reported that the structure is generally sound but some worn stone may need to be replaced instead of repaired and other work may be required. They proposed some initial work but had not provided a quote. Cllr Beechey read out the full report and it was agreed that in the first instance the Clerk will find out who is responsible for the upkeep of the cross and get a quote for preliminary work. **Action 4**. Caroline Adcock to send all information she has on the ownership/responsibilty for the cross to the Clerk. It was noted that as this is Grade 1 listed some funding may be available - clerk to speak to English Heritage.
4. Since the last meeting A board permission was granted via email to the Flower Festival for their concert.
5. Also since the last meeting permission granted via email for Alison in the Gun Room to display planters outside the premises on the Tye for the Flower Festival.
6. Email received from John Nott about the path leading across the Tye from the new gate to the Church and Memorial Hall. A group was set up earlier in the year to look at this. It was agreed by APC that once all the works to Tye Road were completed and vehicular access to the Tye restricted the situation would be kept under review. Most of the work has only just been completed.
7. Caroline Adcock emailed to request a sycamore sapling growing the road side of the flint wall next to the Willows to be inspected as it is now about 12 feet and will be a problem in the future. Clerk to ask tree warden to look at this. **Action 5.**
8. Email has come in from Nigel Goss to ask if permission could be granted for the A board to be used to advertise the art exhibition running over the August bank holiday weekend in the OCC. Clerk to go back to Nigel to find out if this is commercial or local group as there are A board rules. **Action 6.**
9. Elizabeth Coles sent an email asking if a bigger sign for the White Bridge could be purchased stating no cycling. It was agreed that the Clerk can look into this. **Action 7**. Elizabeth also wanted her thanks noted to the farmer who has put signs up about the bull and calves, it is very sensible and useful as a lot of dogs get walked there.
10. Peter Geddes emailed to ask who is responsible for cutting the hedges and grass verges along the Alfriston road from Drusillas into Alfriston. There are parts that are becoming dangerous. It was confirmed that this is ESCC and Cllr Dumelow will chase this. Clerk to forward the email to her. **Action 8.**
11. Alice Sloan has emailed as some of the trees in the Dene Car Park are towering over her house and causing damp in her office.WDC have stated to Alice that it is APC’s responsibility, however as the car park is owned by WDC it is believed to be theirs. Clerk will look into this further. **Action 9.**
12. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 7.15 pm on Monday 17th July 2017 in Alfriston War Memorial Hall. The meeting will be suspended after the Chairman’s Welcome to allow Public Questions and Reports from County and District Councillors.

1. **Public Questions**
2. Neil Parkinson, on behalf of Conserve, thanked everyone for the support of their objections to ESCC traffic scheme and their proposals. For the proposals put forward, he does need the feedback from everyone and wants to come up with a solution for all residents. There are reactive signs in Derbyshire being used that could work so will consider this. It is consultation and is a framework, they want to satisfy as many people as possible with the proposals. He wanted to note his thanks to AEG for putting out the bollards to prevent the parking on single yellow lines at the weekend, this made a significant difference. Some discussion to be had at the next SLR as to how to continue this.
3. Hannah Parkinson asked if we could put the 2nd parking restriction sign covering the single yellow line back up. For discussion at SLR.
4. Hannah Parkinson asked if the dog poo bin going on The Spots could it be tucked away and could the location of the one on the Tye in front of the Gun Room be looked at to find a less intrusive site. This was agreed by APC and Clerk to progress.
5. Sylvia Daw asked about the new tree that has appeared on Glebeland. It is a lovely tree but when it grows it will block the view. APC don't know who planted. Clerk to email the church to see if they planted this. **Action 10.**
6. Sylvia Daw updated that there is a new manager at the Pre-School now and she will utilise the allotment plot that they have assigned to them.
7. Sylvia Daw asked if the 4 dead trees on the Tye were going to be looked into. Clerk to email tree warden for them to be inspected. **Action 11.**
8. Mr Sillence asked why June Goodfield had met with Cllr Shing about SAFE as he understood from a previous discussion at APC that this group no longer exists. June Goodfield had responded to APC enquiries saying SAFE did still exist. Caroline Adcock doubts it does and referred to the fact it has not met for some time. It is unclear who the committee members are, if there is still a committee. Bill Rendall said that Conserve planned to meet with June Goodfield to discuss whether there might be any common ground.

Signed Victoria Rutt

28th June 2017

**APPENDIX A**

Report from Maria Caulfield MP to Alfriston Parish Council

I am sorry that I am unable to join you at for the Alfriston Parish Council meeting due to commitments in Westminster this week. I hope to be able to join you at another meeting in the near future.

I recently attended the SAVE Alfriston event to meet with residents to discuss the County Council’s proposed traffic lights for Alfriston and I am very happy to arrange a meeting with the County Council if this would be helpful as the next step in the process.

SAVE Alfriston presented a thorough argument against ESCC’s plans and have put forward a sensible alternative proposal. Local people know what is best for their area and these views should not be ignored. I have always stood with local residents on their issues of concerns and will continue to do so.

I am pleased to have been re-elected following the General Election and would like to thank everyone for their support. As I said in my acceptance speech I will continue to work hard to represent the whole constituency both locally and in Westminster.

Please do not hesitate to be in contact with me should you have any concerns.

Once again I am sorry that I could not be with you tonight and I hope to see you soon.

Maria Caulfield MP

**APPENDIX B**

Report of County Councillor Stephen Shing - June 2017

Dear Chairman, Councillors, Parish Clerk and residents,

Firstly, I am delighted to have been re-elected as County Councillor for the Division that includes Alfriston once again, having previously served the Village between 2001 and 2005 when the electoral boundaries were changed last. I am especially pleased to be able to renew positive working relationships with those with whom I worked back then as well, of course, with those who have arrived since.

I was very sorry to have missed your meeting on the 15th May; this was entirely my fault as I placed the wrong date in my diary. I also have to apologise for not making today’s meeting 19 June; this is due to a pre-planned trip to Hong Kong that was booked by my wife prior to the recent County Council elections.

You can be assured, with those two slight hiccups out of the way, that I will be attending, and will be as keen as ever to do so, on a regular basis from then on.

To the matters in hand: On the 9th May, I met with the County Highways Officer responsible for the Alfriston traffic proposal. After discussions, the Officer suggested that I ought to wait for his department to finish the current stage of drafting of the design and report, which is expected this autumn. I am, to a certain extent, prepared to do so but will be checking back with him to ensure any suggestions – recent or imminent - are considered accordingly.

On the 22nd May, I met with your Parish Chairman Nick Beechey and the Parish Clerk Victoria Rutt. We discussed how we can work on matters relating to both the Parish and County Council, including traffic, grass cutting, rights of way maintenance, local School governors, and the re-introduction of a temporary vehicle weight check before entering the village. These items are to be included on the Agenda of the next SLR meeting on the 30th June, at which I will be attending.

Conserve Alfriston have been in touch with me, and I attended their presentation at the Old Chapel prior to the elections. We presented their petition, and their traffic proposals, to the Chairman Of the County Council at the East Sussex County Council Full meeting on the 23rd May.

I also had the opportunity to meet with Dr June Goodfield of Save Alfriston For Everyone (SAFE) on the 24th May. Dr Goodfield kindly briefed me on the work undertaken by SAFE.

As County Councillor, I am very keen to meet with all groups and individuals (obviously including the Parish Council) to share their concerns on issues, their suggestions and thoughts and to work with them on these. As ever, I am very happy to hear from everyone and I am easily contactable, with my details below.

Contact Details

County Councillor Stephen Shing:

Address: 18 Coppice Avenue, Willingdon BN20 9PN

Telephone: 01323 489265

Email: cllr.stephen.shing@eastsussex.gov.uk

**APPENDIX C**

Twinning Report written by Tony Palmer.

Without doubt the visit of our French Twinning friends in early June was a huge success.  Genuine friendships have developed over our time together and thus it was a real pleasure to meet all of them as they came off the Newhaven Ferry.

We had an action packed programme up our sleeves.  On Saturday morning, about eighty of us gathered by the Barn on Seaford Head for a series of longer or shorter walks, and to admire the famous views, with the pleasure of the warm sun, the fresh sea air and exercise.  The weather could not have been better or the views more uplifting. It was perfect. There were people from around the world up there who had come to share in, and photograph, what we have on our doorstep. Heaven forbid that it should be commercialised and ruined with a café and tat.  We met for lunch at the Plough and Harrow, Litlington, some having walked along the river and through the forest, and others by car from Seaford Head.  Our evening Pot Luck supper in the WMH was followed by the fun of dancing to Mark Hurst’s band, Kindred Spirit, and the truly amazing skills of a professional Rock Guitarist: the Rev Daniel Merceron!! Wow, can he ever play that Guitar!!

Sunday was another special day and one of significant celebration.  It was Dr June Goodfield’s 90th birthday! A superb and convivial lunch was enjoyed in Deans Place Hotel with a large and magnificent 90th birthday cake made in a mould by Liz O’Neill. For sure, a cake to be proud of.

June was presented with gifts by the French children who were part of the visiting group. The afternoon finished with our first match of International Boules to be played on Deans Place’s newly renovated boules court.The match was taken very seriously by the French and much enjoyed by players and spectators alike.

What a weekend.  We were sorry to see our French friends go on the Monday afternoon ferry. There was just Nadine who went on the night ferry by which time the weather had deteriorated to a gale. However, being Nadine she slept all the way across and followed it by a day’s work, teaching!  Quite a girl.