ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**CLERK TO THE COUNCIL** 11 Highfield Road Victoria Rutt Horam

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

**held in Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 20th November 2017**

**Present:**

Cllr N. Beechey – Chair Cllr. R. Savage

Cllr. J. Watkins – Vice Chair Cllr. D. Bell

Cllr. K. Halliday Cllr. V. Cooper

Cllr. N. White

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 28 members of the public

# 119. Chairman’s Welcome

Cllr Beechey welcomed everyone to the meeting, he wanted his thanks noted to AEG for the help with marshalling over the weekend for Remembrance. Next year it is the 100th anniversary so discussions will be had about having an official road closure.

1. **Public Questions**
2. Vernon Reynolds stated that he has been in touch with the Royal British Legion and that AEG will assist with traffic management next year.
3. Rod Young apologised that this meeting clashes with the Cuckmere Bus meeting so he will need to leave early but he wanted to get some points across. He states that all the users of the hall would like to see vehicle access on the Tye reduced to the minimum however sometimes there is a requirement to access the Tye. Mr Young feels that the 3 options on the agenda being discussed today, any of them would significantly reduce the need of vehicles on the Tye. He requested that whichever is chosen it is trialled, monitored and reviewed. He went on to state that he felt the Council’s interpretation of the byelaws were incorrect and also stated that as the byelaws cover Tye Road then maybe there should be no parking on there either. Cllr Beechey explained the meaning of the byelaws as previously and as Alfriston Parish Council are a trustee of the land they can give permission for cars to park on Tye Road but of course this can be withdrawn or regulated as it was when only ‘R’ resident permit holders had permission. Cllr Beechey confirmed that any decision made by APC today can be revisited in 6 months, or sooner if rules set out in the Standing Orders are followed.

Added 30.11.17 Mr Young stated debating the interpretation of the current bylaws is not the way to approach this. The rules should meet the needs and wishes of the village, not the other way round. If the current bylaws cannot accommodate the reasonable needs of the village then the bylaws should be changed. There is a process for doing this, and it should be followed.

1. Heather Hallett on behalf of AWMH committee requested that APC have some common sense when looking at the Tye issues. She stated that the gate used not to be locked and there was not a problem with parking on the Tye. She requested that the gate is not locked and her personal view, not the view of AWMH, is that option 3 would be the best solution. Cllr Beechey stated that when the gate was not locked, one person would open it and park on the Tye and then others followed suit. He went onto explain that when the Clerk was doing research into this, there are letters and emails going back to 2009 and beyond re complaints of parking on the the Tye.
2. George Gulland stated that there is a big problem in this village, no one ever addresses the actual problem and the problem with this is that this hall had £200,000 invested in it and does not have adequate parking.
3. Sylvia Daw asked why the new fox proof bin on the Tye has been replaced. Clerk explained that the bin was installed in error as it was the green one originally ordered in keeping with the surroundings and existing bins. However the Clerk has contacted the supplier to find some fox proof lids or grates to go inside the bin to stop the fox getting inside.
4. Janet Banham on behalf of the Art Club reported that she feels APC are contravening the disability act preventing the disabled access to the hall. Both Cllr’s Beechey and Watkins stated that this is incorrect, the disabled can be dropped off outside the hall doors but the car then needs to be removed from Tye and parked. The other option is to park in a disabled bay and use the wheelchair (provided by Heartstart) that is kept in the disabled toilet in the hall.
5. George Gulland stated that all users have to have a say. APC confirmed that all users had the opportunity to attend the Tye Advisory Group to give their views and participate in the discussions. Cllr White stated there is no parking in the village for the shops but people do still come to shop. Cllr Beechey asked Mr Gulland to cast his mind back to the original plans for the Hall in which it was suggested that part of the Tye be tarmacked over for parking, and to recall the extent of division in the village back then.
6. Rosemary Chapman on behalf of WI stated there will be real problems with minibuses attending the AWMH.
7. John [surname not heard on recording] stated he walked his dogs 3 times a day on the Tye and has not seen someone parked there before. He also is a minibus driver and states he would unload at Tye Road or near the hall and then remove his vehicle.
8. John Nott stated that the Bridge club is held in the AWMH, there are 65 members and there is always a problem with access for the disabled. He stated that APC need to consider the hall users of today.
9. Rod Young repeated that he felt one of the options being discussed today will significantly help the solution but pointed out that not everyone is going to be happy and you never will make everyone happy. Mr Young then had to leave to attend the CCB meeting.
10. Tony Banham felt that the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 was not being followed and it is unlawful to discriminate unless it is justified and this is not justified.
11. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

No attendance or report.

1. **Report from East Sussex County Councillor Stephen Shing**

Cllr Shing was unable to attend the meeting. He provided an email report stating that the campaign to keep our library and mobile libraries open continues and a petition will be presented at 09:30 on the 5th December at East Sussex County Council's County Hall together with a silent protest beforehand at 09:00. Residents are welcome to join. Regarding the traffic proposals in the village, East Sussex highways have carried out further traffic modelling. This was based on the traffic surveys undertaken over the summer. He will discuss the results of this with ESCC in the next couple of weeks to agree how the project will progress. From this ESCC can provide an update to various stakeholder groups, for which he will report on at the next meeting.

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

No attendance or report.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr’s Shing and Caulfield.

1. **Minutes**

Clerk updated that since the draft minutes were published, Adrian Butcher asked for an amendment in the first set of public questions. Adrian did not state the byelaws are incorrect, they are the byelaws. He stated that the Council’s interpretation of them are incorrect. Clerk has updated the minutes and Chairman has initialled the change.

Cllr. Halliday proposed and Cllr. White seconded a motion that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2017 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Beechey duly signed the minutes

1. **Finance**

Cllr. Savage proposed and Cllr. Watkins seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances [Appendix A]. **MOTION CARRIED**

Cllr. Cooper approved and signed Invoices for Payment

1. **To consider and approve on the following options for vehicles accessing the Tye**

Cllr White updated that the below options have come from the Tye Advisory Group that met on the 31st October. There is a cost associated with each one and they are listed below:

1. Two spaces identified on Tye Road with drop down bollards £611.66.
2. Two spaces identified in the turning circle working on a permit basis £520 + VAT.
3. Two spaces with reinforced grass outside Old School House £1205 for materials only, no labour quote available as yet.

Cllr Halliday stated that the quote for the reinforced mesh is unrealistic and we would need a heavier duty mesh which would cost more. The labour costs would be high as need to be dug low into the ground to avoid trip hazard. It has been looked into previously using a material called Grasscrete and the cost is around £10k. Clerk stated that APC do not have the funds for this. The mesh is also not going to hide the fact that there is parking there on the Tye. It was stated for the record that APC are not responsible for the provision of parking for the hall.

Cllr Halliday said looking at the other options, it was felt option 2 would be tricky as not much space in turning circle anyway for large vehicles which Cllr Bell agreed as he witnessed this the other day. Cllr Beechey also pointed out that there are 2 benches where residents and visitors sit to take in the beauty of the Tye, they would have 2 cars blocking their view.

It was agreed that it would be down to AWMH and Church to administer the scheme with 2 spaces available to them. Cllr Bell proposed option 1 which Cllr White seconded. The remaining Councillors all agreed that Option 1 was the best way forward.

Cllr Beechey confirmed there will also be a list of general rules made available which cover the access to Tye for hearses, wedding cars, the facility to unload and load heavy equipment and passengers. Also a special circumstances request for those who really feel they need to drive onto the Tye which will be considered by APC on a case by case basis. This list of rules would be given to the Church and AWMH to be made available to any bookings. It can be reviewed in 6 months’ time.

1. **To approve and adopt new policies**

The Clerk updated that as part of her CiLCA qualification there are a standard set of policies that each Council should have. The policies are Complaints, Data Protection, Disciplinary, Document Retention, Email and Internet Use, Freedom of Information and Grievance policies.

All Councillors confirmed that they have read and agreed the policies and they have been adopted as of today, Cllr Savage proposed and Cllr Bell seconded. They will be available from the website or on request from the Clerk.

1. **To review and amend as necessary the current Standing Orders**

Cllr Beechey reported that our Standing Orders regulate what we can do and there has been a discussion that it was felt an addition under meetings could be put in for a working party. This was discussed and Cllr Beechey queried how this would be different from an Advisory Committee. It was agreed that a provision for a working party to be included. Working Party meetings would be a publicly held but would give an opportunity for anyone to discuss the matter. This will be added and approved/adopted at the January 2018 meeting.

It was also agreed that ‘Correspondence to the Clerk' would be added to the Standing Orders and the type of letter to be read out would be regulated. SSALC had been consulted by the Clerk on their views. If people wished merely to criticise they should attend the meetings and join in debate. The only letters that will be read in future are those the Clerk deems important enough that they actually are capable of forming an agenda item - ie a request for a new facility etc. This was agreed by all Councillors and this will be added and approved/adopted at the January 2018 meeting.

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

130.1 Replacement bins for Market Square

The Clerk updated that this is work in progress. A location for the bin still needs to be agreed

130.2 Market Cross update

The Clerk updated this is a lengthy process so it is still ongoing.

130.3 High Street traffic update

Cllr Halliday updated that Cllr Bennett has replied to the letter that was sent to him asking him to recuse himself [Appendix B]. APC hope to get an update from the ESCC project team soon. Cllr Halliday confirmed that at a SLR meeting recently, ESH confirmed that the white lines on Whiteway are not going to be repainted. The road has been driven at night and tested and deemed safe; the thinking is that having no white lines slows traffic down.

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

Cllr Cooper reported that the wooden stakes have been delivered this week and are in the process of being numbered. They will be going into the plots over the next few weeks so it will be easier to identify each plot.

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

Cllr Watkins reported that there is nothing to update.

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

111.1 Replacement bins in Willows car park

Clerk reported that still awaiting a quote from the handyman.

111.2 Bus Shelter

Cllr White updated that the traders have decided that all funds raised at the Deck the Halls event running over the first weekend in December will be contributed towards the bus shelter for the village and the playground. APC are very grateful and want to express their thanks to Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect for this decision.

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

Cllr Watkins updated that she is attending a Wealden meeting in December and will report back at the January meeting.

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

135.1 Playground refurbishment – Cllr. Cooper

Cllr Cooper reported that we should hear back from Tesco Bags for Life by the end of the month so we will know how much money we will be receiving.

135.2 Playground further funding avenues – Cllr. White

Cllr White explained that he had another avenue for fundraising but this has unfortunately not come to fruition with the Cuckmere valley. Any ideas for fundraising activities would be greatly received.

135.3 Repainting and signwriting the mine

The Clerk updated that she met with Cllr Bell recently as before the painting can be done, the facility to leave a donation needs to be fixed. There is a plan in place and this will happen in due course.

135.4 Medawar Grove update – Cllr. White

Cllr White updated that he met with Lynn and James as well as the wardens from Birling Gap. Medawar Grove is their responsibility but due to financial restraints there is not much they can do except allow it to become a natural area. They are able to put rubble down on to the boggy paths to make them passable. They are also going to remove the bench as it is in a bad state, Cllr Beechey also confirmed there is in fact another bench in there but it is just completely overgrown. Cllr White stated that NT are renewing the signage and APC could request some wording which would be taken into consideration.

* 1. To consider rules on parking on Recreation Ground

Cllr Beechey declared an interest as he is a member of the cricket club and abstained from taking part in debate or voting. Councillors gave their views: Cllr Bell said that we should stop parking on there as it should be the same rules as the Tye. Cllr Halliday disagreed as the recreation ground is a totally different space. Cllr Watkins feels that there should not be parking on there. Cllr Savage agreed with Cllr Halliday as is it is a completely different space and that it would only increase parking around the roads surrounding the grounds. Cllr White agreed with Cllr’s Halliday and Savage. A letter from Geoff Ellis on behalf of the cricket club was read.

Further discussion was had re access/parking on application to APC. It was agreed that access should be allowed to load/unload at the pavilion and parking could be considered on application on a case by case basis.

Cllr Savage proposed to allow the cricket club to park on the recreation ground on match days, this was seconded by Cllr’s Halliday and Cllr White voted in favour. Cllr Bell proposed to not allow parking on match days, Cllr’s Cooper seconded and Cllr Watkins voted in favour. As the Chairman abstained, the casting vote fell to Vice Chair Cllr Watkins. Cllr Watkins voted against allowing ACC to park on the Rec on match days but said she thought the decision could be reviewed after six months.

* 1. To consider two requests for access to Tye Road track

Clerk updated that the request from BT to have a wayleave agreement to install cabling along the track to Clergy House, this has been run past the Tree Warden and he sees no issues so this was agreed in principle by APC on the condition that precise details of the work to be carried out is provided to APC. Cllr Savage proposed and Cllr Bell seconded it.

Re the replacement weir to be installed at the Clergy House, access to the track and a working area in the cemetery was discussed. APC agreed to allow access via the track but the contractor will need to speak to the church about the working area. Cllr Savage proposed and Cllr Watkins seconded.

Both requests will be agreed in principle but with a condition that a contract is drawn up and signed by all parties stating that any damage caused will be remedied so as to leave no trace.

* 1. Review of number of disabled parking bays on Tye Road

Cllr White compared an analysis of a week’s use of the disabled bays on Tye Road. The data shows that the bays were not always used, and on many occasions someone is parked in a disabled space without displaying a blue badge. The maximum bays in use by blue badge holders at one time was 5 (one occasion). Due to this data it was discussed that the two disabled bays closest to the Tye gate could have the bollards (para 127 above) installed. Cllr White proposed this and it was seconded by Cllr Bell.

Cllr Bell raised the issue of people accessing the Tye going through the gaps in the bollards nearest the gate. It was agreed that Clerk would arrange for 2 bollards to either be cast or moved to fill these gaps.

* 1. To consider PCC proposal for widening of Tye path

Cllr Beechey suspended the meeting in order to ask Diana Monteath-Wilson, on behalf of PCC, what the actual proposal is. Ms Monteath-Wilson confirmed that the PCC proposal is to widen the path from the gate to the hall and to the church by 1m, using some form of grasscrete, not tarmac. The PCC itself were in favour of some parking bays on the Tye itself but understand this is unlikely to happen. The PCC are not offering to pay for this but will assist in obtaining grants for the work. It was suggested that Ms Monteath-Wilson and at least 1 Councillor could work on this together. John Nott stated that he looked at this over a year ago and got the costings but it was thrown out. Cllr Beechey stated that this is incorrect, it was never thrown out, it was agreed that the works on Tye Road needed to be completed and for vehicle access to/parking on the Tye to be controlled and then the matter would be reviewed. This is now what is happening. It was agreed that the path is very narrow and does need to be widened especially for access by hearses. All Councillors were in favour of the proposal once funding could be obtained. Cllr Bell proposed and Cllr Savage seconded.

1. **Report from Planning Committee - Cllr Bell**

136.1 Applications to be considered by APC planning committee at this meeting

**SDNP/17/04656/HOUS** Farthings, River Lane, Alfriston, BN26 5TJ

Partial demolition and rebuilding of a boundary flint wall and raising the height of the wall along some of the length

*APC fully support this application, Clerk to update the SDNPA this evening before deadline.*

136.2 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

136.3 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

**SDNP/17/03451/FUL** Timbers, Sloe Lane, Alfriston, BN26 5UU

Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new replacement dwelling.

*Cllr Bell confirmed that sadly SDNPA refused this application.*

The Clerk stated that there should have been an agenda item to agree APC’s response to SDNPA Local Plan consultation as the deadline is 21st November. Under the standing orders the Council can adopt a report without notice. The proposed report [Appendix C] was read out. Cllr Beechey declared an interest and abstained from any discussion or vote as his property could be affected if planning went ahead. All other Councillors agreed the response should be submitted as drafted, Cllr Halliday proposed and Cllr Savage seconded. Cllr Beechey encouraged all residents to also submit their own responses, if they wished to, before the deadline of 23:59 on Tuesday 21st November.

1. **Reports from Outside Bodies**

137.1 Lorry Watch – Cllr Beechey read out the report from June Goodfield. [Appendix D]

137.2 Heartstart – Cllr Watkins updated that they are still looking for volunteers. Cllr Beechey expressed his thanks as always to all volunteers.

137.3 Alfriston Emergency Group – Vernon Reynolds updated that they have joined as a group member of Friends of Cuckmere. There will be a road closure on the 2nd December between 16.30 – 17.30 for the switching on of the Christmas tree lights, AEG are working with Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect on this and a cable licence has been requested. Vernon thanked the Clerk for clarifying that AEG do not fall under APC insurance. Vernon also expressed his thanks to ACC for offering fundraising for the bus shelter, this is a very welcome community effort.

137.4 Flood Forum – John Hurwood clarified that all notes and minutes had been received by Councillors. He stated that EA have informed them that they have a pump they could install in the village, they just need written consent from APC. It was agreed that the Clerk would do this but the insurance side would need to be down to EA. Clerk will copy John into any correspondence.

137.5 Neighbourhood Watch – no report received.

137.6 Twinning Committee – no report received.

137.7 Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect – Cllr White updated that the first weekend in December is nearly here. Cllr Beechey expressed his thanks on behalf of APC and residents for arranging this and the fundraising for the village.

137.8 Cuckmere Buses – no report

137.9 St Andrews – Diana Monteath-Wilson updated that the village lunch is open to the whole village and is taking place this Sunday, all are encouraged to attend. All the services that would be expected in December will still be taking place even though no permanent Rector is in place. The paperwork is being completed and it is hoped that the advert will go out in January 2018. Ms Monteath-Wilson stated it will be trial and error with the Tye Rd bollards as joint responsibility will fall to both Church and AWMH. It was felt though that it needs to be considered what will happen if someone is already parked there.

1. **Correspondence to The Clerk**

* Clerk updated that since the last meeting there was agreement via email to give permission to the Royal British Legion to have an A board on the 11th and 12th November.
* Clergy House have requested to use the A board on the 2nd and 3rd Dec to promote free entry into the Clergy House, this was agreed.
* Request from Russ Uridge seeking approval from APC to fly his drone over land in Alfriston. He has got permission of the landowners to do this and he is fully aware of the relevant legislation and current air navigation orders. APC were grateful for being asked but felt he does not need to seek the permission of APC for this as he has the landowners consent.
* Cllr Beechey read out letters from June Goodfield and Anthony Palmer about the letter that APC recently sent to Cllr Bennett asking him to recuse himself. The letters were read out as the new Standing Orders have not yet been adopted but these types of letters will not be read out in the future; the authors will need to attend the meetings to air their issues. Copies of the letters can be requested from the Clerk.

1. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 19:15 on Monday 15th January 2018 in the Old Chapel Centre [*Please note change of venue*]. 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. Heather Hallett stated that Adrian Butcher would be upset that his letter was not read out. The Clerk apologised and wrongly assumed it did not need to be read out as Rod Young covered what was in this letter. Mrs Hallett disagreed and Cllr Beechey read the letter out. Clerk will email Adrian Butcher to apologise for the mistake. Copy of the letter available on request from the Clerk.
3. Sylvia Daw raised the marshalling of the Beachy Head Marathon. There were 3000 runners and the marshals were untrained which caused chaos in the Village. The Clerk reported that she has been informed that it will be a different company next year and AEG will be assisting. The Clerk will write to the organisers to ask for more training and better communication next year.
4. Jane Alvey asked if 2 spaces could be reserved this Sunday, 26th November for herself and Sherry Ward as organisers of the village lunch. APC agreed this and Clerk to arrange.
5. Heather Hallett stated that although the Clerk had earlier said that she had spoken with Wendy before meeting and thought the admin of the bollards would be possible, Wendy is not a paid employee and it is down to the Hall Committee to decide how it would best work. She stated that there needs to be better joined up working between APC and PCC.
6. Janet Banham from Art Club stated that surely they are grants available to help with the disabled who we could get funds for so we can deliver option 3. It was pointed out that APC have chosen not to progress Option 3.
7. Cllr Bell made the point that not everyone wants to see vehicles on the Tye. Cllr Beechey explained that we are never going to please everyone and that the trustees legal responsibility is to maintain the Tye for recreation.
8. Caroline Adcock stated that she has sometimes reserved 2 bays on Tye Road for the Old Chapel Centre and maybe this could continue with APC/AWMH/Church until the drop down bollards are installed.
9. Rosemary Chapman asked would the reserved spaces be able to accommodate minibuses. Cllr Savage stated it would depend on the size of the minibus but at least one would fit. Ms Chapman stated they need somewhere for the minibuses to be left.
10. Caroline Adcock stated that with permission from the Old Chapel Centre, their car park could be used for minibuses to park once they have unloaded passengers at the hall or church. APC expressed their thanks to Caroline for this helpful offer.
11. John [surname not heard on recording] stated that we need to manage the Tye for everyone who lives in the village.

Signed Nicholas Beechey – 15th January 2018

**Appendix A**

