ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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 2nd October 2017

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

**held in Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 18th September 2017**

 **Present:**

Cllr. N. Beechey – Chair Cllr. K. Halliday

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

 Cllr. N. White Cllr. R. Savage

 Cllr. V. Cooper

 **In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

 Cllr Philip Ede - WDC

 Cllr Stephen Shing – ESCC

 Cllr Bob Standley - WDC

 Approximately 35 members of the public

76. Chairman’s Welcome

 Cllr Beechey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Public Questions**
2. Rosemary Chapman asked on behalf of the WI whether the Parish Council [PC] would reconsider vehicles with disabled occupants to access the hall and church. It was agreed that this would be put on the agenda for the October meeting for discussion.
3. Rod Young on behalf of the Historical Society stated that the Society has been in place for 12 years and in that time have always used the Village hall. It is believed that they have never abused the Tye but they have members who need to access the Tye as well as speakers. Due to the current parking restrictions they have had to move the meetings to Deans Place. Cllr Beechey confirmed that this is not a new rule, the byelaws have been in place for many years and are now being enforced. Cllr Beechey also confirmed that the Tye is owned by a Trust and the Parish Councillors are the trustees. The byelaws are available on request to the Clerk at any time and will shortly be displayed on the PC website.
4. A parishioner stated that a large amount of money was spent on extending the hall and now no one can access it. Cllr’s stated that residents can access the hall, they just need to remove their car after and park off the Tye. It is one of the most beautiful open spaces in the country and if one car parks then so do 2,3,4 cars and it becomes a car park. APC are trying to prevent this. The conversation became heated and went round in circles. Cllr Beechey closed the conversation by confirming that there are byelaws in place; the matter will be placed on the agenda for October meeting; and he wanted to reiterate that any decisions made are by the Parish Council, not just him as Chairman.
5. Caroline Adcock stated that she understands we do not want a large number of cars outside the hall but could a compromise be put in place where a small number are given permission and they have to display something in the car window.
6. Mr Sillence raised the lock on the playground gate, it is broken and it needs to be fixed to stop dogs from being able to enter. Clerk to action this. Action 1
7. Joan Young spoke on behalf of the Art Club. They have had a number of members have to leave the group as they are disabled and they can’t carry their belongings from the disabled bays on Tye Road.
8. A parishioner asked why were vehicles allowed on the Tye for events such as the French Market and Alfest. Cllr Beechey confirmed that Alfest did not have permission for vehicles and the French Market have to have vehicles as they run the generators to the stalls. He said that when it was first mooted, he had wanted to see the French Market held in Market Square rather than on the Tye, but he was outvoted by fellow Councillors.
9. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

No attendance or report.

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

Cllr Shing reported that the funding has been agreed for Exceat bridge so an update will come out about this in due course. There is a cabinet meeting being held on Tuesday 19th September to discuss the closure of libraries and mobile libraries, this will come out for public consultation and Cllr Shing will provide updates as and when they become available. There is no traffic update at the moment, the next one is expected in October.

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

Cllr Philip Ede asked Cllr Bob Standley, Leader of Wealden District Council, to attend the meeting to give an update on Civil Parking Enforcement [CPE]. Cllr Standley said that although the police are responsible for parking enforcement, they say they do not have the resources to enforce so CPE is being looked into as a way forward. The report is going to either the October or December cabinet meeting for discussion. There is no funding for the project so if agreed this will need to be considered by East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and WDC. It has been identified that it is likely to mean having pay and display machines but it was confirmed as unlikely this would happen in small villages such as Alfriston. There will however be random enforcement officers attending Alfriston to look into the issue of parking in the High Street and other areas around the village which cause obstruction.

Cllr Ede confirmed that the SDNPA housing plan will be out for consultation later this month and he has provided the Clerk today some posters to put up in key areas to try and prevent dog fouling. Enforcement officers for this issue have been out to the village twice and will continue to do random checks in the area.

1. **Apologies for absence**

No apologies received.

1. **Minutes**

Cllr. Halliday proposed and Cllr. White seconded a motion that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2017 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Beechey duly signed the minutes

1. **Finance**

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

Cllr. Cooper approved and signed Invoices for Payment

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

84.1 Replacement bins for Market Square

Cllr Halliday updated that he had looked at the area down the side of the village store which has been suggested previously, however it is not an ideal location due to lack of space. Clerk will now look into a possible new location or updating the current bin with one that has a larger capacity. Action 2.

84.2 ESCC High St traffic proposal update

Cllr Beechey said that he met with ESCC along with Cllr Dumelow. Present from ESCC were Cllr Shing, Andrew Keer and James Vaks. Cllr Beechey updated on the key points raised, the meeting was minuted and these can be found in the attached report. We are expecting another update in October.

84.3 To consider requesting that Cllr Bennett recuse himself from taking the Lead Member decision re ESCC High Street proposals

Cllr Halliday said that following the meeting Cllr’s Beechey and Dumelow had with ESCC in August, it is understood that following the next update in October the proposed scheme will then go to the lead member for a decision. The lead member is now Cllr Nick Bennett who used to be our ESCC councillor. It is felt by APC that given the history of the matter and the part Cllr Bennett had to play he is not in a position to make an impartial decision and is likely to have already made his decision before the process was started. It was discussed whether a letter from APC should be sent with the request that Cllr Bennett recuses himself from taking this decision. All Councillors agreed that there is no confidence that Cllr could make this decision on a proper basis. It was agreed that a draft letter to be circulated to all Councillors for agreement prior to sending. Action 3.

84.4 Market Cross update

Cllr Beechey updated that this work is still ongoing. The Clerk has contacted the stonemasons for a more detailed report and will also be requesting another one for comparison. SDNPA have been contacted about the planning side of the works and have also provided a list of funding options. Both Historic England and Heritage Lottery Fund have been approached and forms are being completed. It is not a quick process but the Clerk has it in hand and will provide updates as and when they are available. Cllr Savage indicated that he believed the worst areas of disrepair were in fact the modern concrete repairs done in relatively recent times.

84.5 Temporary closure of Weavers Lane

Weavers Lane is being closed for 10 days from 4th October 2017. A diversion around Star Lane will be in place. AEG have approached APC asking if they could put the cones out in the High Street to aid the traffic flow whilst this diversion takes place. APC agreed that this would be very helpful and also wanted to thank AEG, The Star Inn and all those involved for putting the cones out, collecting them and storing them on busy weekends etc. It appears to be making a big difference to the High Street and positive feedback has been received. Cllr Beechey stated that, as the police have given their endorsement to this at any time the parking restrictions are in place, he would be delight if AEG (or another volunteer) would like to put the bollards out every day.

Cllr Beechey updated under Highways that the Clerk has contacted East Sussex Highways (ESH) about fixing the broken and uneven paviours in North Street following aresident tripping last week resulting in a grazed face, bruising and a broken finger.

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

Cllr Cooper updated that there is nothing new to report except there are still 8 vacant allotments. Anyone interested in taking an allotment please contact the Clerk.

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

Cllr Dumelow confirmed that there is nothing new to report.

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

87.1 Replacement bins in Willows car park

Cllr Savage confirmed that WDC are going to be replacing the wooden bin enclosures in the Willows car park. Clerk to chase them for a timescale. Action 4.

Cllr Savage also updated that a meeting will be taking place with the Cuckmere Buses Managing Director, Philip Eyre, about the bus timetable as a resident has contacted Philip recently asking some questions about the services. Action 5.

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

Cllr Dumelow confirmed that there is nothing new to report.

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

89.1 Playground refurbishment – Cllr. Cooper

Cllr Cooper said that APC applied for Tesco Bags of Help scheme and was delighted to announce that we have been shortlisted and voting is now taking place in 4 local Tesco stores [Lewes, Peacehaven Express, Seaford Express and Rottingdean Express). The vote is taking place in September and October and the minimum funding we will receive is £1000 but we are hopeful for the 1st place prize of £4000. Please shop at Tesco and vote! Cllr White will also be looking into more local avenues of fundraising. Action 6 (for NW).

89.2 Review of disabled bays on Tye Road

Cllr Beechey said that some comments have come in that there are now too many disabled bays in Tye Road. There are 8 in total. It was discussed and agreed that the 2 disabled bays opposite the entrance to the Wingrove car park will be reverted back into normal parking spaces and the disabled signs removed. Clerk will action this. Action 7.

89.3 Repainting and re-signwriting the mine

Clerk updated that she has contacted a company about signwriting the mine. The quote was between £300-£400 depending on the wording. It was agreed that the first task should be to see if the mine can be fixed to take donations again as the existing wording on the mine makes no sense without a means of collection. Clerk will look into this. Action 8

89.4 Grass cutting report

Cllr Beechey said that he met with the new grass cutting contractor along with the Clerk. Contractor agreed that they had missed some key areas and were aware and apologised. It was agreed that he would ensure all the areas that had been missed would be addressed and they would do a cut and grass collection on both the Tye and Recreation ground as a goodwill gesture to make it look nice again and start afresh. Clerk to check this has happened. It was also discussed whether the grass should be cut with a cylinder mower as requested by the Cricket Club. Economically it makes more sense to have the Rec and Tye cut by the same machine. Both the Tye and Recreation ground have been cut with the cylinder mower this week so residents can see the difference. Clerk is now waiting for a new quote as to what 2018 prices would be with a cylinder mower. Once received will raise this with Councillors and the Cricket Club to see what the Cricket Club might be prepared to contribute.

89.5 Entrance to Medawar Grove/ Medawar Grove

James Dopson at Deans Place had raised that the access into Medawar Grove (opposite Wingrove car park) has become a ‘unofficial’ parking bay. Vehicular access is needed to the Deans Place gate occasionally and this also makes the area less attractive to those who wish to walk that way. It was also raised that Medawar Grove itself used to be well kept when first gifted to the National Trust but had become overgrown and inaccessible. It was agreed that Cllr White on behalf of APC would liaise with the National Trust to see if we can do something together to bring it back to its previous state. Action 9

Cllr White said that he has spoken with a resident at Wingrove Cottages and she has raised an issue with the hedge that has not been cut just outside the entrance and also the potholes appearing near the turning circle. Cllr Savage stated that he used to do an annual cut on the hedge but has not done this for some time. Clerk to look into this. Action 10.

It was agreed that the Clerk would approach Hailsham Roadways for a quote to fill the potholes on the turning circle. Action 11.

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

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

**SDNP/17/04382/LIS**

Frog Firle Manor, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TT

Replacement and renovation of existing windows and doors in Frog Firle House to include replacement of existing double-glazed windows to single glazed and removal of fire escape from rear side of Frog Firle Manor.

*APC agreed that as this is a minor change to the window profile that they have no issues with the application.*

90.2 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

90.3 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

**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. *This is still under consideration.*

1. **Reports from Outside Bodies**

91.1 Lorry Watch – June Goodfield updated that there was an incident when she was on the Cuckmere bus and a car had no way to pass so it had to turn into the driveway of Andrew Saville’s home and then reverse back out. This is apparently a recurring problem and has caused some damage to his property.

91.2 Heartstart – Cllr Dumelow said that there are only 3 responders and they still need more volunteers. APC expressed they’re thanks to the 3 that are running this excellent service.

91.3 Alfriston Emergency Group – Vernon Reynolds said that the flint wall on the High Path belonging to Alfriston Court has a crack in it. This was reported to the Clerk and she is liaising with them. AEG have also sent an email to the Clerk with their concerns about the drainage system outside Deans Place, Clerk will liaise with ESCC about it. David Lewis said that AEG are looking into the bus shelter and are hopeful to have a proposal for decision by the next meeting. It was discussed whether the roof should be shingle or felt, it was agreed at the meeting that it should be shingle. [Since the meeting further discussions have taken place between AEG and the Clerk and it will now be costed with a new felt that has a 25 year guarantee as the shingle is very expensive]. APC wanted to express their thanks for all the work they are doing on this. Cllr Savage wanted his thanks noted to AEG for all their hard work they are doing on the drains. David confirmed that there are 217 manholes in Alfriston and they have so far attended 61 of them.

91.4 Flood Forum – John Hurwood updated on the email correspondence between him and EA and thanked APC for their supportive email to EA. EA have now decided that they are not going to clear the Cuckmere pinch points now. APC agreed that the Clerk would write to Richard Brown letting him know we are generally supportive of his efforts re all this and inviting him to contact us if there is anything more he thinks we can do. Action…

91.5 Neighbourhood Watch – no report received.

91.6 Twinning Committee – nothing to report.

91.7 Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect – Cllr White said that a Christmas tree and lights is being donated by Graham at Alfriston Gallery. WDC have granted permission to run the lead There is no Dickensian evening but local businesses are putting something together for the 1st weekend in December which will include live music, late night shopping, window displays, and switching on the Christmas tree lights by Jacqueline Wilson. AEG indicated they are happy and willing to do lights in the tree in the Square if desired. Councillors indicated that would welcome this as well. AEG also offered their services for manning a small road closure if ACC wanted to on the Christmas gathering. It was agreed that the road closure should be applied for so they have it just in case they need it.

91.8 Cuckmere Buses – Rod Young provided an update that is attached below. He asked whether the current set up still works for APC which it was confirmed it does and thanks expressed to Rod for all he does and also thanks to all of those involved in Cuckmere Buses.



91.9 St Andrews – Diana Monteath-Wilson updated that the Rector has not been approached about installing a dog waste bin behind the church as he has now resigned. There is now a Vacancy and it is likely going to take a year for the process to get a resident rector. They are hoping to keep all services going but there may be the need to cancel a few services.

1. **Correspondence to The Clerk**
2. It was agreed via email in August that permission be granted to the British Heart Foundation to use two spaces in the Willows car park on Sunday 13th August for a charity bike ride. Permission granted for the A board on the 18th and 19th August to promote a Horticultural Society event. Permission for the cricket club to put up a marquee on the recreation ground on Sunday 13th August for Annual Presidents Day. Permission granted for Cllr Nick White on behalf of Alfriston Cuckmere Connect to get a map of the Village for the Dene car park noticeboard.
3. Clerk received an email from Adrian Butcher as Chairman of the Hall Committee about purchasing a mounted projector for the hall and that contributions were welcome. APC agreed a grant of £100 towards the purchase. Action 12
4. Tina Ford from WDC contacted Clerk to discuss possibly changing the charges of the Willows car park in 2018 to add a 2 hour option. Clerk to add this to agenda for October meeting for discussion. Action 13
5. Emails have been received from residents about the camping at Pleasant Farm. The camping boundaries are extending all the time, the toilet facilities are not adequate for the number of campers resulting in human excrement being seen in the hedgerow as well as litter. It is also believed that there is no planning permission for the site. It was agreed that APC would contact SDNPA to ask what permissions are required; what permissions are in place currently; and what the permitted boundary of the campsite is. Action 14.
6. Clerk contacted WDC to request permission to install a bike rack in the Dene car park if they ever had the funds. Permission was given but it was confirmed that this would have to be at the cost of APC and not to come out of the car parking takings. Cllr Halliday reported that there is a bike rack in the Willows car park, it just can’t be accessed due to overgrown grass and brambles. Clerk to look into this. Action 15
7. Clerk updated that APC received a Freedom of Information (FOI) request in August requesting the minutes from June, July, September and October 1991 and any correspondence with 4 named individuals. There was no correspondence found but the minutes were sent within the 20 working days.
8. Alfest have sent an update to APC that following Alfest 2017 they are able to present a cheque to St Andrews for £2217.35. This is made up of pitch fees, bucket collections and under spends of the sponsors contribution. They are now considering their position for Alfest 2018 and will be in touch with APC when they know their plans.
9. Clerk updated that she has reported to ESH that the ‘Give Way’ sign coming into the Village from Deans Place has disappeared. They have acknowledged the report but are not able to give the Clerk a time frame of when this will be replaced.
10. Clerk read out a letter from Capt A J Palmer about illegal parking on Weavers Lane and obstructions on the Broadway, the letter was also copied to Sussex Police. Copies of the letter are available on request to the Clerk.
11. Clerk has received a request from the event coordinator involved in the Beachy Head Marathan which is being held on the 28th October, whether they could have 6 reserved spaces in Willows car park like they have had in the past. Councillors could not remember a previous request coming in and it was agreed that they could not take up any pay and display spaces but it was agreed that they could take up one side of the coach park as long as it is not in use and they liaise with the car park attendant first thing.
12. Clerk read out a letter received from the WI about parking on the Tye, a response letter from Cllr Beechey and a further letter from the WI in response. The matter is being discussed as an agenda item at the meeting in October. Copies of the letter are available on request to the Clerk.

1. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 19:15 on Monday 16th October 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. Sherry Ward raised her letter that the Clerk then read out. Sherry explained that she will not be able to continue with the lunches if she can’t access the hall and park on the Tye as she has a lot of stuff to unload and load. APC confirmed that she could access the hall but would then need to park her car elsewhere. It was agreed that 2 spaces will be coned off on Tye Road for her use on the evening of Sat 1st October. AEG kindly offered to put the cones out. Sherry was grateful for the compromise.
3. Peter Bridgewater wanted it noted that further to the email discussed earlier about the camping at Pleasant Rise, his property overlooks this area and the boundaries are extending all the time and the facilities are not adequate. Having said that he is supportive of having a campsite.
4. Sylvia Daw updated that the ‘Friends of the School’ met on Friday and it was agreed that they would be delighted to run the festival next year. APC are pleased and grateful.
5. A parishioner raised the issue of flooding along the Furlongs, it is believed it is due to drainage issues. Clerk will raise at the next Strengthening Local Relationship meeting but residents were encouraged to send emails about issues like this to WDC and Cllr Stephen Shing.
6. Graham Skelcey raised concerns about the earlier agenda item regarding sending a letter to Cllr Nick Bennett requesting he recuse himself. He has concerns that the letter could come across as personal and as a result Cllr Bennett could end up digging his heels in. He asked that it is drafted along a reasonable argument and said that as Conserve Alfriston had shown such a high level of opposition to the ESCC scheme an option was to use this to ask that a wider body of ESCC Cllrs take the decision. APC took the comments on board.

Signed

 Jen Watkins [Vice Chair]

 16th October 2017