ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of The Annual Parish Assembly of Alfriston Parish Council (APC)**

**held in Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 24th April 2017**

**Present:**

Cllr. N. Beechey - Chair

Cllr. J. Dumelow – Vice Chair Cllr. J. White

Cllr. R. Savage Cllr. D. Bell

Cllr. K. Halliday Cllr. V. Cooper

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk Approximately 15 members of the public

1. **Welcome by the Chairman, Cllr Nick Beechey**

Cllr. Beechey welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending the Annual Parish Assembly.

1. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 18th April 2016 and matters arising.**

Cllr. Dumelow proposed and Cllr. Halliday seconded a motion that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2016 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

Cllr. Beechey duly signed the minutes.

 **MOTION CARRIED**

1. **Chairman – Cllr Nick Beechey**

Cllr Beechey reported that it has been a mixed year. We said goodbye to Cllr Jacqui Fox who passed away at the end of last year and our thoughts continue to be with Ian and her family. We said goodbye to Martha Lawes, our Clerk for 4 years who has gone on to enjoy life without the issues of the Parish Council; we would like to thank her for all her help and professionalism. We say goodbye to Cllr Nick Bennett from East Sussex County Council who will no longer be our Councillor due to the boundaries being redrawn. We say goodbye to the Events team so a big thank you to them for all the hugely successful events and their perseverance whatever the weather. It looks like it is goodbye to the Post Office, although the main Post Office were not aware of the closure until we made enquiries of them. This will be a huge loss to the Village and is a great shame. We fear that the Village Stores itself will be affected by the closure.

The Parish Council has remained opposed to East Sussex County Council’s proposed traffic light scheme, which we believe will cause more problems than it seeks to solve and would destroy this beautiful village. We were promised that we would be kept informed of progress and further consulted with but that has not been the case. There is an exhibition on this issue at the weekend hosted by Conserve Alfriston/PATH at the Old Chapel Centre so we would encourage residents to go along.

With the goodbyes, we have said some hellos. Hello to Victoria, our new Clerk, who has been in post for 7 weeks now and is settling in well. She is holding a drop-in surgery one hour before the monthly meeting so please do pop along and meet her and raise any issues you may have. Hello to Nick White, our new Councillor who lives and owns a business in the village. Hello to Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect. It is good to have a new body on board and they are already helping to make the village look pretty. Thank you to everyone in our outside bodies: to AEG who jump in feet first whatever the weather and are an important part of the Community. A big thank you to Heartstart, who are a credit and need a lot more volunteers please. Thank you to Nick Cattell for Neighbourhood Watch, to John Hurwood for his work on Flood Forum, to June Goodfield for Lorrywatch and to the Twinning Committee.

A big thanks to Cuckmere Community Bus and our representative Rod Young. They celebrated 50 years of service in 2016. Entirely staffed by volunteers they provide an invaluable service to the community. Thanks to Philip Ede for being our representative of Wealden District Council. Thank you to all my fellow Councillors and for all the work on their portfolios. Here is hoping for a good new year, to see an end to the traffic light scheme, getting a local plan in place, no more parking on the Tye, our Clerk getting her CILCA qualification so we can become a Competent Council and to forming closer links with SDNPA and our new East Sussex County Councillor. Thank you to all the residents who attend the meetings each month to give us someone to talk to.

Cllr Dumelow expressed her thanks on behalf of all the Councillors to Cllr Beechey for being a great Chair, supportive and approachable.

1. **Friends of the Cuckmere – Mark Lamb**

Mark thanked the Parish Council for the opportunity to talk. Mark is a volunteer of the Cuckmere bus so comes to the Village often, however he has attended the meeting as he is the Chair of Friends of the Cuckmere and wants to speak about the way forward. There are ongoing river issues, as time goes on we need to refocus and get more involved. We need to look at flooding control, as it is not looked after and we need to think about the future of the estuary. If we can keep the river mouth clear of shingle the flood water can’t get out of the river, we have been pressing for the clearance of the shingle as if the banks burst we will also lose the footpaths. What the Friends of Cuckmere are trying to do is keep actively involved in local discussions and come up with a scheme that the Community can accept, in order to do so he would like to work with the Parish Council and with Cuckmere Flood Forum. For further information or to join Friends of the Cuckmere, Mark can be contacted on info@cuckmerefriends.org. Cllr Beechey thanked Mark for his time and an interesting talk.

1. **Community Land Trust – Tom Warder**

Tom thanked the Council for being invited to talk. Tom works for Action in Rural Sussex whom are a charity based in Lewes, he is the Sussex Community Land Trust (CLT) Project Officer. CLTs are a way of communities transforming the future of their villages. We need more genuinely affordable housing for local people in rural areas and this is a bottom up, community led way to do it. CLTs are a non-profit, community based organisations which provide local needs housing and a range of other community assets. Their main focus is affordable housing but they can include other community assets such a local pubs, Post Offices and other social enterprises that provide long term community benefit. They are receiving some resource from the Government and Wealden District Council. There is a CLT emerging in Alfriston for which Tom can update on further. Two members of the CLT were also present and Penny Macloed is the lead contact. In due course the Alfriston CLT will be engaging the community and seeking a wider community membership. If anyone is interested in joining the CLT or would like further information please contact either Penny or Tom. Penny can be contacted on: alfristoncltgroup@gmail.com

1. **East Sussex County Councillor – Nick Bennett**

Cllr Bennett was unable to attend the meeting, his report will be circulated with the minutes.

1. **Wealden District Councillor – Philip Ede**

Cllr Ede updated us on the SDNPA local plan under which there are 3 allocated sites in Alfriston totalling provision for 15 units. Meanwhile the final draft of The Wealden Local Plan looks likely to be approved by Full Council in July. It reduces houses being built from the previous draft, and there will be a total of 11,456 for the district, 7,000 of which have been built/agreed already and a further 4,000 houses to be built up to 2030. He updated that from 2019 the council's waste contract with Kier will terminate by mutual agreement and will go out for tender, for the same service but a new company. He asked whether Street Scene team had been in contact at his request, the Clerk advised they had not so he will chase this up as they can help with initiatives to help with the dog fouling. Cllr Ede thanked Alfriston Parish Council for being such a well organised Parish and for all the hard work of the Parish Council, AEG and the Event team, the Village is successful down to you all.

1. **Questions from the Floor**
2. Cllr White said that Rob Lion is happy to work with someone if they want to open a Post Office. Cllr Beechey updated that since the Clerk has been trying to get some answers from the main Post Office, it was confirmed to her today that they would not assist in opening a new Post Office in the village as there are two Post Offices within a 3 mile radius. There was a discussion on possibly seeing if the Community Land Trust can help us. It was agreed that Cllr White would speak with Rob Lion to see what we can do to help with trying to keep our Post Office open.
3. Caroline Adcock asked if we could get a cash machine in the Village. The Council did not know the answer but Cllr White could include it in his conversation with Rob Lion.

 Signed  Victoria Rutt – Clerk

 2nd May 2017