ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**CLERK TO THE COUNCIL** 11 Highfield Road

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

**held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 16th April 2018**

**Present:**

Cllr. N. Beechey – Chair Cllr. R. Savage

Cllr. J. Watkins – Vice Chair Cllr. C. Adcock

Cllr. K. Halliday

Cllr. N. White

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 20 members of the public

# 211. Chairman’s Welcome

Cllr Beechey said everything had already been said in his Annual Assembly welcome.

1. **Public Questions**
2. Mrs Susan Masini asked if South East Water could be contacted about the issues with the recent works as she lives on the High Street. Cllr Beechey updated that this is on the agenda for our upcoming SLR meeting with East Sussex County Council [ESCC] and East Sussex Highways [ESH].
3. Mrs Sylvia Daw asked if the Horticultural Society could have an A board on the 9th June. This was agreed.
4. Mr Hugh Chapman stated he had 3 issues to raise. Firstly, the speed of cyclists coming down Kings Ride is dangerous and an accident waiting to happen. Cllr Beechey confirmed they are aware and it was raised with SDNPA previously but they are not keen for signage. Clerk will add it to the upcoming meeting with ESCC and ESH. He then raised the lack of road marking in Whiteway, Cllr Beechey explained that this has been discussed with ESCC previously and they have deemed it safe having driven the route at night. Mr Chapman’s third concern was the lack of signage going out of the village towards the narrow section near old Youth Hostel. Motorists do not give way as not enough signs like there are the other side. This will also be raised at the upcoming meeting with ESCC/ESH.
5. Mrs Nicky Vassell raised the hedgerow along the top of Recreation Ground, she walked it recently with Cllr Halliday and it is in a bad state. Cllr Beechey confirmed that we did speak to Dan Larkin who advised it would need digging out and a new hedge planted. This would be very expensive. It was discussed that something needed doing. It was agreed that Cllr Cooper would be spoken to as her husband has a chainsaw permit and to seek his advice on what can be done? Action 1
6. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

No attendance or report.

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

Cllr Shing reported that he is impressed with the turnout at the Alfriston meetings. He updated that ESCC have reduced their services recently, one being their grass cutting services and the mobile library. ESCC have put aside £85k towards the ‘traffic management in Alfriston’. He updated that Lead Member, Cllr Nick Bennett will make the decision on a trial scheme on the 21st May. A question was raised whether they will be monitoring pollution when the trial takes place and Cllr Beechey confirmed this was raised at the meeting and that ESCC have said they will look into the possibility. Cllr White asked if ESCC do not do it, could APC possibly fund it? Discussions were held and it was raised that an event is happening in Eastbourne on 21st April that covers air pollution and how you can make a device to capture data. Clerk to find out about this. Action 2.

Cllr Adcock asked how ESCC are going to assess the trial afterwards to say if it was a success or not. Cllr Beechey stated that the criteria ESCC have said they will work from are: Monitoring of queue lengths; video surveys to monitor behaviour; traffic speed surveys; and feedback. It is thought the latter will be via an online survey. Mr Sillence stated that ESCC put bollards outside the Star Inn it will not be a true picture, Councillors agreed. Mr Reynolds said that AEG could help with the pollution data and could get a drone up to take pictures of the situation when traffic lights are working.

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

Cllr Ede sent his apologies. No report. Cllr Watkins commented that he no longer attends meetings.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Cooper.

1. **Minutes**

Cllr. White proposed and Cllr. Halliday seconded a motion that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2018 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Beechey duly signed the minutes.

1. **Finance**

218.1 To approve the Statement of Finances

Cllr. Savage proposed and Cllr. Watkins seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances

[***Appendix A***]. **MOTION CARRIED**

218.2 To approve and sign Invoices for Payment

Cllr. Halliday approved and signed Invoices for Payment. **MOTION CARRIED**

Cllr Beechey used this time to speak about the Clerk and a potential pay rise. He explained that the Clerk was taken on 14 months ago with an agreement that her pay would be kept under review. The Clerk has not received a pay rise since starting and he felt that given all the training she has undertaken and her work towards CiLCA it should be considered. All Councillors were in agreement. It will be added to the May agenda for consideration.

218.3 To approve the changes to NEST pension contributions

Cllr. White proposed and Cllr. Watkins seconded a motion to approve the 2018/19 changes to the NEST contributions.

1. **To consider the ownership of the domain name and administration of the village website.**

Following the presentation from Mr Nathan Pope in the Annual Assembly, Cllr Beechey asked the Councillors for their thoughts. Cllr’s White, Savage and Watkins supported Mr Pope taking the website on and APC holding the domain name. Cllr Adcock asked what the responsibility of APC would be if they held the domain name. Mr Pope clarified APC would own it and would be able to manage the administrator if something is done incorrectly. Cllr Beechey pointed out that Mr Pope is up to date with all the Data Protection regulations coming out [GDPR] which is reassuring.

Cllr Savage proposed and Cllr Watkins seconded the motion for Mr Pope to take on the village website. **MOTION CARRIED**. All Councillors expressed their thanks to Mr Pope and hope it goes well.

1. **To discuss and agree the way forward for Councillors’ email addresses**

Clerk updated that new data protection regulations [GDPR] are coming in May 2018 and it means APC business can no longer be sent to Councillors’ personal email addresses. It was agreed that Clerk would look into setting up Councillor email addresses. Whether these be in a Councillor’s name or portfolio to be decided in due course, but this did not need to be an Agenda matter. Action 3.

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

221.1 Replacement bins for Market Square

The Clerk advised that she has spoken with the Waste Management Team at ESCC and as the company are in the vicinity at least twice a week anyway they have stated that they will do an extra collection, at no extra cost to APC to see if it resolves the issue. This will be reviewed by the Clerk over the summer months.

221.2 Market Cross update

Clerk has not heard back from the Stonemasons, she will chase them again for the detailed reported which is needed for the grant applications. Action 4.

221.3 High Street traffic update

Cllr Halliday updated that three stakeholder meetings have been held. The minutes are lengthy and detailed so have been attached.



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

No report from Cllr Cooper.

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

No report from Cllr Watkins.

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

224.1 Bus shelter in Willows car park

Cllr Adcock reported that further funds have been raised for the bus shelter, it currently stands at £877. As there has been recent vandalism in the village, AEG are now reluctant to build it. Clerk is going to see if APC’s insurance would cover the bus shelter. The previously circulated plan was approved by Councillors. Clerk to send this to SDNPA to see if planning permission is required. Action 5.

224.2 Replacement bins in Willows car park

Clerk advised that a quote has been received but as it quite expensive due to the wood currently on there, discussions will be had with Cllr Cooper’s husband Roger for other possible wood choices.

Action 6.

Cllr Beechey updated that a recent meeting with Wealden District Council [WDC] might incur changes to the car park lease with APC taking on more of the running car park costs. This would be a hit to APC as we rely on the car park as income, however, WDC own the car park and only need to give 6 months’ notice to change any terms.

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

Cllr Watkins updated that she is attending the Cuckmere Buses AGM next week.

1. **Report on Tye and Recreation Ground – Cllr. White** 
   1. Playground refurbishment update - Cllr Cooper

Cllr Beechey confirmed that the new equipment is expected to be installed mid May 2018.

* 1. Repainting and re-signwriting the mine

Clerk stated that now end of year has been completed and the Councils finances are known, could we go ahead and get the mine repainted. Clerk had previously circulated a quote for this for a gentleman to repaint the mine and then do the sign-writing. All Councillors agreed it needed to be done so Clerk will action. Action 7.

* 1. Update on Tye footpath

Clerk updated that she needs an additional quote to put aside the one that already received from Hailsham Roadways to submit with the grant application. Cllr Adcock asked about match funding, Clerk was unsure. It was agreed that as Cllr Adcock has experience in grant applications, Clerk to send information to her to look at.

1. **Report from Planning Committee - Cllr Beechey was agreed to chair for this meeting.**

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

227.2 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

227.3 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

**SDNP/18/00919/TPO** Riverbank, River Lane, Alfriston, BN26 5SX - ***SDNPA APPROVED***

Removal of conifer tree as roots are destroying flint walls on property. No new tree to replace it as it will cause the same damage to flint wall.

**SDNP/18/01157/FUL** 3 Wingrove, The Tye, Alfriston, BN26 5TL - ***SDNPA PENDING***

Proposed change of use from C3 to C1 in order to create 4 no. additional hotel suites at Wingrove House Hotel, Alfriston.

**SDNP/18/00377/FUL** Timbers, Sloe Lane, Alfriston, BN26 5UU - ***SDNPA APPROVED***

Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new replacement dwelling

**SDNP/18/00197/HOUS** Frog Firle Barn, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5T- ***SDNPA REFUSED***

Porch extension

1. **Reports from Outside Bodies**

228.1 Lorry Watch – Ms June Goodfield reported that a double decker bus came through the village on 28th March, it caused damage to a hanging basket and created a huge delay in the village. On the same day and again on 10th April, a huge lorry ‘Arla del’ came through the village causing huge delays, up to 12 minutes. She asked that Cllr Halliday contact the company to which he agreed.

228.2 Heartstart – Cllr Watkins expressed her thanks for the recent mine donations, the money will be used to install a second defibrillator in the village at the Market Square, this will take a few months to organise. They will also arrange training sessions to use one.

228.3 Alfriston Emergency Group – Mr Vernon Reynolds updated that negotiations are taking place with Deans Place to store the water pump in one of their sheds. They recently tested it on a large puddle in the Willows and are pleased to state it worked!

228.4 Flood Forum – Mr John Hurwood reported that the shingle at the mouth of the river has not been cleared this winter. The EA has been monitoring the flow of water from the river through the autumn and winter months, and it was agreed that despite the presence of significant shingle at the river’s mouth, the river has been running well, and so no clearance has been programmed.

The pump provided by the EA has been working well and have been thanked for the use.

Discussions have taken place on the future of the estuary, it is being review and the National Trust are reviewing their options and carrying out some feasibility studies.

The Pevensey Levels and Cuckmere Water Management Board are reviewing their sources of income as they are being “flooded” by planning applications and they are trying to do work that has not been done for some years by the EA.

228.5 Neighbourhood Watch – no report.

228.6 Twinning Committee – Ms June Goodfield reported that in early April packets of organically grown Flax seeds were distributed at a trial social event which we intend to run when our French Twinning friends come to Alfriston over the weekend of 11- 13th May. The event was to trial the suitability of several games which had been devised and built by one of our members to amuse ex-pat friends during years in the Ivory Coast. They were a huge success and are to be incorporated into our Twinning Weekend. Over winter there have been several private visits in both directions as friendships have grown. However, on Friday 11th May, the Tricolour will be raised around Alfriston and the team will be taking to Google - ‘Marine Tracking (English Channel)’- to watch the progress of all Twinning friends on the Dieppe Ferry- then to meet and greet them in Newhaven and take them to their Sussex home.

228.7 Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect – no report.

228.8 Cuckmere Buses – no report.

228.9 St Andrews – Ms Diana Monteath-Wilson reported that she has not got an update as yet on a new Rector.

228.10 Clergy House – Mrs Sylvia Daw reported on behalf of the Clergy House that they have received several communications from village residents over a coach that caused traffic havoc in the village a couple of weeks ago. This was not a National Trust heritage coach and it was a school visit to Frog Firle Farm, which is run by the National Trust South Downs team at Birling Gap. The school told the driver to not go through the village but this was sadly ignored causing chaos. The gardens suffered considerable flooding over the Easter weekend which thankfully has started to drain away.  There was some damage to the grass but the gardener has started on repairs where needed.  Due to the weather Easter visitor numbers were not as good as so the House will be opening additionally on Fridays in July and August in order pick up visitor numbers and the essential income in order to help us keep conserving the house and garden. Thank you also to all the businesses in the village who support the House by having our property leaflets on display it is a great help, very much appreciated.

1. **Correspondence to The Clerk**

* Dan Larkin has reported that there is a dead larch in the Willows and a large snapped limb on a Willow tree, both classed as dangerous. He has provided a quote for £250 to remove both. This was agreed by all Councillors.
* The lady who was given a permit recently to park on the Tye for the Art Club on a Monday afternoon has asked if the permit could extend to when an Art Club event is held on a weekend, Councillors agreed that her permit covers her for any Art Club events.
* AEG have asked for permission to have parking and a boot fair on the Recreation Ground on Monday 27th August for the festival. This was agreed.
* WDC have been approached by a company called ‘Tracsis’ who are doing traffic counts in the area on Thursday 24th May and are requesting permits to park in the Willows. This was discussed and it was agreed that they should pay to park for the day like everyone else.
* Clerk received an email from Cllr Adcock bringing to her attention that a generous villager is offering a substantial reward for anyone who comes forward with information on the recent vandalism in the village. It was agreed that there is not much the Council can do but if anything is seen or any further reports please let the Clerk know as she is keeping a record and updating the Police on each event.

1. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council, which is also the Annual General Meeting, will be held at 19:15 on Monday 21st May 2018 in the 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**

No further public questions.

Signed

Nicholas Beechey – Chairman

**APPENDIX A**

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