ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**CLERK TO THE COUNCIL** 11 Highfield Road

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East Sussex

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

**held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 15th October 2018**

**Present:**

Cllr. N. White – Vice Chair

Cllr. R. Savage

Cllr. N. Beechey

Cllr. C. Adcock

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 18 members of the public

**73 Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr White welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Public Questions**
2. Cllr Beechey raised a point as there were no public questions. East Sussex County Council [ESCC] whilst in the village at the weekend removing the traffic lights, re-painted the yellow double lines in the High Street. However, they have used the wrong shade of yellow, they have used bright yellow when it should have been the fainter primrose which is the conservation area yellow. Clerk to contact them to inform them. **Action 1.**
3. Hannah Clarke informed the Clerk that she has seen that the water fountain is trickling water again. Clerk will check after the meeting and get this fixed. **Action 2.**
4. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

No attendance or report.

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

Cllr Shing reported that there has not been a Council meeting recently so nothing new to report. Cllr Shing asked if there were any traffic light stories, he was informed by Cllr Beechey about the near misses, the traffic queues and the fact that despite us being told there would be monitoring throughout the trial, the cameras and the monitoring equipment were taken away on week 2 for about 10 days with no explanation as to why. In this time period it was the end of September payday weekend with glorious weather, the weekend was a nightmare in the village and this will not be seen by those assessing the trial as there will be no footage. It will not be a proper view on how the lights worked.

Cllr Shing asked if there was any fly tipping yet in the village due to ESCC’s recent decision to charge for dumping soil at the tip. Clerk confirmed not at this time but will keep an eye out.

Cllr Beechey asked Cllr Shing whether James Vaks, who designed and implemented the trial traffic light scheme works for the company CM2H and not East Sussex Highways [ESH] or ESCC as we were previously led to believe? Cllr Shing confirmed this was correct. It was also confirmed that if a permanent traffic light scheme were given the go ahead, ESCC would not go out to tender and the contract for design, development and implementation would go to CM2H. James Vaks who is an employee of CM2H, in consultation with Andrew Keer of ESCC, will be the one leading the final report on the trial for Cllr Bennett at ESCC to consider and decide. It was questioned whether this is surely a conflict of interest.

It was agreed that APC will be submitting a response to the trial in due course about the traffic lights and other groups in the village are likely to do the same.

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

Cllr Ede reported that there has not been a full council meeting since the last one so not much to report. The Local plan is not at the end of consultation stage and due to come out in January 2019. Cllr Ede confirmed if any events of fly tipping in the village, report direct to WDC who will action. If you see fly tipping in progress, then call the Police as it is an offence if they catch them in the act.

Cllr Ede will speak to Cllr Claire Dowding about the Police link and said it may be worth speaking to East Dean and Friston about the possibility of sharing a Community Warden. Cllr Beechey asked Cllr Ede if he knew about WDC plans for Willows car park, Cllr Ede confirmed he did not but would be happy to look into this if APC sent him something. Cllr Ede also said he could help the Clerk with issues she is having with Kier.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Watkins, Cllr Cooper and Cllr Halliday.

1. **Declaration of interests**

No interests were declared.

1. **Minutes**

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Savage seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2018 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. White duly signed the minutes.

1. **Finance**

81.1 To approve the Statement of Finances

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

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

81.2 To approve and sign Invoices for Payment

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

81.3 To approve Q2 bank rec, VAT return and audit report

Cllr. Savage proposed and Cllr. Adcock seconded a motion to approve the Q2 bank rec, VAT return and audit report. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. **To discuss and agree a way forward with the current vandalism and security issues in the village**

*This agenda item took place earlier in the meeting* *after public questions.*

Cllr White introduced Mr Trevor Leggo, Chief Exec from Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils [SSALC] who provides legal, HR and financial support for Town and Parish Councils.

SSALC have close engagements with Sussex Police and they meet formally every 6 months with the Chief Constable and Police Crime Commissioner [PCC]. This meeting is to discuss items that have not been resolved operationally, or are of a strategic nature. The Clerk is writing a report regarding the recent vandalism for their November meeting. There is a bi-monthly Wealden District Association meeting where Ch’Insp Anita Turner and Insp Jon Gross attend. A few years ago, the Police cut the number of PCSOs so the PCC put some money aside to test out Community Wardens [CW’s]. CW’s do not have Police powers but they can be accredited with some special powers. CW’s are employed by the Town/Parish Council and engage with those likely to commit anti-social behaviour. Mr Leggo stated that since April 2018 there has been 22 crime reports for Alfriston submitted to Sussex Police ranging from criminal damage, sexual offences, auto theft, vandalism, violence against a person and burglary.

Mr Leggo went through the Towns and PC’s that have community wardens and mentioned positive stories. It is for Alfriston village whether they have the will to pay for one and it is down to APC to promote the idea if they wish.

Residents and Councillors asked Mr Leggo the following questions:

1. A resident asked is there a trend in the reporting? Mr Leggo could not answer but sure Police could come up with a pattern.
2. Cllr Adcock asked about the use of CCTV? Mr Leggo stated it would need to be of evidential quality. It is therefore very expensive and requires maintaining and possibly monitoring.
3. Cllr Savage asked what contribution would we get from Sussex Police and the PCC as they have reduced their service? Mr Leggo started it is very unlikely there would be a contribution. Other than raising the precept, there is not much else we can do.
4. Mr Vernon Reynolds asked if the CWs could deal with the traffic? Mr Leggo stated they could but it could be boring for the CW and would need to be there all day. He stated when it comes to driving and parking offences, everyone can use Operation Crackdown [http://www.operationcrackdown.org/] to report these and action is taken. It is an effective tool.
5. Cllr Savage asked whether other Councils have taken on the running of toilets themselves as Wealden is considering the future of those in the Willows. Mr Leggo stated that District Councils routinely see what they can get rid of, it would be a matter of having to negotiate with them and deal with transfer of freeholds. It is very common function. It is not a statutory duty of a District Council to provide toilets.
6. Cllr Adcock asked does a CW have to be employed or could he/she be a volunteer? Mr Leggo stated he would have to look at this as you would need in particular to look at insurance factor.

Cllr White went to close the meeting and summed up next steps would be to have a meeting. Mr Leggo stated he could arrange a South East meeting to see if any local Parish Councils want to share a Community Warden. Mr Leggo and the Clerk will speak to action this.

1. **To agree a way forward with the gas mantle in the village**

Cllr Savage spoke to the original person who installed the mantle and they have supplied a quote to overhaul the lamp and make it work again. The quote was for £329.65 plus VAT for the labour and materials to refurb the lamp itself. The lamp will need 3 mantles a year at £10 each. Councillors discussed and it was agreed that the Council would accept the quote and the Clerk will tell the company to proceed with the works. Cllr. Savage proposed and Cllr. Adcock seconded a motion to approve the quote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

It was raised that the Council could ask whether there might be any financial assistance for this from the village businesses, it was agreed that Cllr White would take this to the next Alfriston Cuckmere Connect meeting. **Action 3**. Cllr Adcock raised whether it is also something we could look at using the mine donations for.

1. **To discuss and agree a budget for salt for the coming winter and access to the AEG shed**

Clerk informed Councillors that it is believed it is going to be a cold winter and Mr David Lewis on behalf of AEG is concerned that they do not have enough salt. It was put to Councillors that we need to purchase two pallets, to get us through the winter. Cllr. Savage proposed and Cllr. Adcock seconded a motion to have a budget of £300 for the salt this winter. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Access to the AEG shed was discussed as it is constantly being blocked by cars and the new salt spreader will be stored in the shed. It was decided that we would trial cones for a few weeks and see how that goes.

1. **Report on Highways & Twittens**

85.1 High Street traffic update

Cllr Beechey proposed APC submit a formal response to the traffic light trial to ESCC with Cllr Halliday, as portfolio holder to draft. It was noted that there is no monitoring of the 20mph speed limit only trial and so the Clerk will send a separate email to ESCC about this. **Action 4.**

85.2 Water leaks in High Street and North Street

Clerk reported that she has sent a letter via email to the water board requesting information about the rumours that mains pipes are to be replaced. No response as yet.

**86 Report on Allotments**

No report.

1. **Report on Rights of Way and Countryside**

Cllr White had nothing to report.

1. **Report on Car Parks and Public Transport**

88.1 Bus shelter in Willows car park

Cllr Savage reported that a meeting is going to be held next week with AEG so will be in a position to provide an update at the next meeting.

88.2 Future funding arrangements and new contract

Cllr Beechey reported that he had been through the archived APC minutes to learn more about the inception of the Willows car park and the agreement with WDC to manage. Firstly, he thanked the Clerk for finding and scanning all the archived documents in the storage centre. The Willows took £59k last year, the income to APC was £27k. This is a 50% split after general expenses and staffing costs aside from costs for the WCs. Wealden District Council [WDC] have indicated that they want to rewrite the licence which would see all outgoings including WCs and large repairs being paid for out of car park income and anything that remain is then split 50/50 between WDC and APC. The two toilets create the most expense with cleaning and maintenance. WDC want to redetermine this agreement unless APC can give them justification as to why.

Cllr Beechey gave some background; Willows was previously a petrol station. In the early 80s it closed and the land owner wanted to build 14 houses, both APC/WDC objected to the application. In 1982 APC approached WDC about the possibility of turning it into a coach/car park as the village used to have up to 15 coaches a day visiting and parking on the streets. Initially there had been no plan to charge. APC were going to contribute financially towards it, however misinformation was given about interest rates on a loan and it looks as if that caused APC to pull back from that idea. APC were then approached to manage the car park which was opened in 1987. At the end of the first year APC were told there was no income to share as WDC had spent it on VAT and capital repayments on the loan they had taken out to purchase the land. A licence was signed by APC in 1987 when the car park opened; it remains the same now in 2018. APC used to have a Car Park Management Committee. In 1988/1989, it was identified that the Dene toilets could not cope with the visitors so WDC decided to build the Willows toilets. In the first year or so WDC asked APC to continue the management of the car park (as per the licence) but since then it appears that the same agreement has operated without any further formal request/agreement. It was agreed legal advice is needed to look at the licence and to give APC advice. SSALC will be able to help with this. Clerk to send licence to them. **Action 5**

In terms of trying to justify why APC should continue to manage the car park under the same agreement as at present points to note were that but for APC’s input and work there would be no Willows car park; APC managed the car park pro gratis in the first year; and has managed the car park ever since. It was noted that some of the future expenditure used by WDC to try illustrate their greater costs was dubious, such as £5k for reprinting the white lines in the Willows car park - because there are and have never been any.

1. **Report on Strategic Planning**

Cllr White had nothing to report.

1. **Report on Tye and Recreation Ground**

90.1 Update on Tye footpath

Cllr Beechey reported that he met with Mr Adrian Butcher on behalf of Alfriston War Memorial Hall [AWMH]. AWMH would like APC to consider a new proposal re the Tye path. Their proposal is, along with the 1m widening of the path to the church already agreed by APC [by the Tye Rd gate it’s generally acknowledged only 0.5m is needed], to include the wedge of grass as you come out the hall on the left-hand side. This is to give space for vehicles dropping off and parking (when they have required permission) without blocking the pathway. It was agreed that this would be put on the agenda for the November meeting for the new proposal to be considered.

Cllr Beechey made a plea again for anyone who knows of a grant awarding body to help the Council find the approx £10k required to widen the path. AWMH have indicated they will be able to donate some that could help match funding. Cllr Adcock asked about consulting the Church about the widening. Cllr Beechey confirmed that they had been involved and at the November 2017 meeting Diana Monteath-Wilson had proposed that which AP agreed at that meeting.

Cllr Beechey reported that after looking at historic minutes, the Council need to approval from the Charity Commission before making any changes to the Tye. The Clerk raised that SDNPA need to confirm whether planning permission is required. Both of these actions should be done once a final proposal is at what is to be done is agreed. **Action 6**

Cllr Beechey reported that the potholes on Tye Rd are going to be repaired in due course by the Council to the best of our ability. He asked that APC formally thank Wingrove House for generously donating a sum of money towards the materials required. He thanked also the volunteers who had cleared the brambles etc next to the WI garden.

The drop-down bollard at the Wingrove end of Tye Road has been ripped out of the ground so this will need to be looked into. Also, some benches on the Tye require a review so Cllr Beechey and the Clerk will be doing this in due course. **Action 7**

Cllr Beechey asked for an agenda item to be added for the next meeting to approve a sign to be put up at the entrance of Tye Road stating ‘Private Road’ (as had previously been in place) in order to protect the Trustees rights over the land. **Action 8**

1. **Report from Planning Committee**

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

**SDNP/18/04780/HOUS -** Down Laine, The Broadway, Alfriston, BN26 5XH

Demolition of existing detached Garage outbuilding and construction in its place, a replacement two-storey detached Garage. Associated hard and soft landscaping.

*Clerk submitted the following comments to SDNPA on 18th October:*

*Alfriston Parish Council's Planning Committee has no objection to this application subject to conditions being applied to ensure that the proposed building will not be used for either residential use or office use. In order to reduce light spillage, we request that the windows are minimal and appropriately glazed.* [I didn’t think we said anything about windows being minimal or glazing but that a condition be imposed re the roof lights to ensure compliance with the Dark Skies policy?]

91.2 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

91.3 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

Cllr Adcock provided updates on the recent enforcement issues:

* Pleasant Rise Campsite. An enforcement notice has been served and the landowner has appealed against it and would like time to put in a retrospective planning application. Further visits will be carried out in due course.
* The development at the bottom of River Lane where the landowner took down the flint wall and put up a wooden structure. The landowner did go to SDNPA and were given advice but this was not followed. They were going to remove the wooden structure but are now intending to submit a retrospective application.
* SDNPA are satisfied with the work on the flint walls following a specialist reviewing the work. Cllr Adcock stated that Ms June Goodfield had Richard Bartlett view the work and although it is not a good quality wall, the previous builders have tidied it up and SDNPA have now signed it off.

**92** **Reports from Outside Bodies**

*92.1 Cuckmere Buses –* no report.

*92.2 Lorrywatch* – Ms June Goodfield stated that usual situation in the village. HGVs still coming through the village and she requested APC to ask for another temporary weighbridge to be installed. Clerk and Cllr Beechey confirmed this was done previously - sadly to no effect - but it will be requested again. **Action 9**

*92.3 Heartstart* – no report.

*92.4 Alfriston Emergency Group* – Mr Vernon Reynolds reported that the bus shelter is up for discussion at the AEG meeting tomorrow. He confirmed that AEG will be putting the Xmas lights up on the tree on the 29th November. AEG would like to express they’re thanks to Wendy Nicholson for a £200 donation to AEG from her takings at the festival. AEG will be putting a report together in due course with all their footage and data following the traffic light trial. Mr Reynolds expressed his thanks to APC for agreeing to purchase the salt and updated that the salt spinner not been bought yet, but will be discussed at the AEG meeting tomorrow.

*92.5 Flood Forum* – no report.

*92.6 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report.

*92.7 Twinning Committee* – there will be a full report next month.

*92.8 Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect* – no report.

*92.9 St Andrews Church* – no report.

*92.10 Clergy House* – no report.

**93** **Correspondence to The Clerk**

* Clerk reported that an email received from Mrs Katie Salmon listing some areas where hedgerow has overgrown and blocking paths has been received and Clerk will continue those residents to request for the hedges to be cut. **Action 10**
* Permission granted to Cllr Jen Watkin to purchase a wreath on behalf of APC for Remembrance Day.
* Clerk received an email from the Rude Mechanical Theatre Company requesting use of the Tye on Thursday 1st August 2019. Permission was granted by Councillors.
* An email request from the Pre School requesting use of the Tye and Recreation ground on Saturday 28th September 2019 for a Country Run and Fair. It was agreed permission to use the Tye. Permission for the Recreation ground can only be granted once the Clerk has received the cricket club fixtures for 2019. Clerk will look into this and let the Pre School know. **Action 11**
* Request from Mr Stephen Rabagliati asking if APC were going to arrange a public village meeting to discuss the traffic light trial. This was discussed by the Councillors and it was agreed to hold back for now until we have an outcome. If a public meeting did go ahead it would need an outside person to chair the meeting.

**94 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 7.15 pm on **Monday 19th November 2018** 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.

**95 Public Questions**

1. A resident stated that following the planning application earlier, there should be no need for windows in the roof of the building if it was for storage and why is the stairway on the outside of the building.

Signed: Victoria Rutt

Clerk and RFO

**APPENDIX A**

