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 19th November 2018**

**Present:**

Cllr. J. Watkins

Cllr. C. Adcock

Cllr. V. Cooper

Cllr. N. White

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 10 members of the public

**96 Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Public Questions**

1. Ms Martha Lawes asked if the Parish Council would support the village undertaking a speed watch initiative through Sussex Police. If offenders are caught speeding once, they get sent a letter, if it is more than once than the Police can prosecute. Ms Lawes is happy to volunteer and even to coordinate the initiative along with APC. All Councillors agreed that it is an excellent idea and would support it. It was identified that Sussex Police will provide the equipment as they will download the data from it in order to take any action. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak with Ms Lawes to move this forward. **Action 1.**

2. Mrs Daw stated it was an excellent idea of Ms Lawes. Her son takes part in the initiative where he lives and the Police are involved in saying where the volunteers should stand and how to get the best out of it. It was agreed that the speeds have increased in the village.

3. Mr Vernon Reynolds stated that during and since the traffic light trial, there has been numerous cases of speeding and he has footage.

4. Mr Dan Raisbeck asked whether anything has moved on with the housing needs survey. The Clerk confirmed that a folder has been received which breaks the lengthy process down. There is a meeting scheduled in mid-December for some Wealden Clerks to meet to discuss the process with the hope of starting one in the New Year. It is a lengthy process but the Clerk is looking into it.

5. Mr Adrian Butcher wanted to raise an issue with the wording of agenda item 106. He explained that the minutes from November 2017 stated that the path would be extended by 1m up and around to the Church including the hall. This is not what was on the quote recently obtained and what is on the item for the meeting this evening. The Clerk explained that all Councillors received an email prior to the November 2017 meeting which contained the proposal. This proposal was agreed at the meeting and funding was going to be obtained. A meeting was then held with a contractor which the Clerk was present at and the Contractor explained you do not need 1m down by the gate but you do as you go up the path. The Clerk explained that this would not need to go back on the agenda for approval as the measurements had changed within the parameters agreed. The Clerk asked Mr Butcher what he wanted to do, to hold the agenda item for next meeting changing the wording, or to continue with the agenda item as is. It was agreed to continue with item 106 as is.

6. Mr Vernon Reynolds said that a scale drawing of the Tye path would be a good idea.

1. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

No attendance or report.

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

No attendance or report.

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

No attendance or report.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Beechey, Cllr Halliday and Cllr Savage.

1. **Declaration of interests**

No interests were declared.

1. **Minutes**

Cllr. White proposed and Cllr. Adcock seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2018 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Watkins duly signed the minutes.

1. **Finance**

104.1 To approve the Statement of Finances

Cllr. Cooper proposed and Cllr. White seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances.

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

104.2 To approve and sign Invoices for Payment

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

1. **To discuss the request from water company to have a temporary site in the Willows coach park for**

**the pipe replacement**

The Clerk reported that South East Water have approached Wealden District Council to request to house a temporary compound site at the Willows Coach Park. SE Water are renewing the water mains scheme so they need to house their equipment nearby. Construction is not expected to start until January 2020. The temporary site will be there for a period of six months, they will offer a fee for the use of the land and will be fully liable for the full and proper reinstatement of all areas occupied to the condition in which they were found. All Councillors agreed that they were happy as long as they have sight of the agreement prior to it being signed.

1. **To consider proposal from AWMH to add to existing agreement for widening of Tye path by**

**1m/sufficient to accommodate a hearse (0.5m at entrance gate) ‘to include similar reinforcement for a triangular area immediately to the right of the entrance to AWMH.**

Following the earlier comments in public questions from Mr Butcher, Cllr Adcock stated that nothing should be agreed until a plan is drawn up as she is confused by what is being asked for. There is also no immediate need for a decision to be made as APC still need to await a decision from Charity Commission as to whether they are allowed to make any changes to the land and the funding needs to be looked into. Cllr White stated he thinks it makes sense and is happy to agree with what is on the agenda. Cllr Cooper would like a plan so it was agreed one would be drawn up and it would be placed on the agenda at the January 2019 meeting. **Action 2.**

1. **To consider whether the Council allows ashes to be scattered on the Tye and what policy should be**

**adopted if allowed**

The Clerk reported that a gentleman has made a request whether it is possible to scatter his late brothers ashes on the Tye. The Clerk looked into this and it is legal and other Councils policies, as well as the National Trust, state it is ok to do so as long as discreet, ensures there is no visible remains etc. All Councillors agreed that they do not have a problem with him doing so as he could have done so without asking. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft up a policy to cover this for the future. **Action 3.**

1. **Report on Highways & Twittens**

108.1 High Street traffic update

The Clerk reported that Cllr Halliday will send the draft report out on Wednesday 21st, Councillors will then have time to read, review and make any comments prior to submitting on Friday. Cllr Adcock asked what would happen if no agreement and would a meeting be held. Cllr Cooper reminded all that it is not a personal view, it is the view of the Council and we need 3 Councillors to sign off on the report to have agreement.

**109 Report on Allotments**

Cllr Cooper had nothing to report.

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

Cllr White had nothing to report.

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

111.1 Bus shelter in Willows car park

There is nothing new to report at this time.

111.2 Future funding arrangements and new contract

The Clerk updated that the licence was sent to NALC for legal advice, we waited for nearly three weeks to receive a response back which was very disappointing. The Clerk is now seeking legal quotes to find out how much it would cost, however it is highly unlikely that the Council would be able to afford it. Cllr Adcock stated that Cllr Ede from WDC should be fighting our corner. The Clerk stated he was not aware until the previous meeting but he is now being copied into correspondence and the Clerk will speak to him again. **Action 4.**

1. **Report on Strategic Planning**

Cllr White had nothing to report.

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

113.1 Update on Tye footpath

Refer to agenda item 106.

113.2 Agreement to purchase ‘Private Road’ sign for entrance of Tye Road

The Clerk reported that at the entrance to Tye Road, it was suggested a ‘Private Road’ sign along with the words or similar ‘No Responsibility for damage or theft to vehicles’ underneath. All Councillors were in agreement. Cllr White proposed and Cllr Cooper seconded the motion to purchase the road sign. **Action 5**. MOTION CARRIED.

1. **Report from Planning Committee**

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

114.2 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

**SDNP/18/05238/HOUS** Place Cottage, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TR

**SDNP/18/05369/HOUS** 2 The Broadway, Alfriston, BN26 5XL

**SDNP/18/05432/HOUS** Goodings, Sloe Lane, Alfriston, BN26 5UT

*Cllr Adcock confirmed that the above applications were discussed at a Planning meeting on Monday 5th November. All were supported by APC and comments submitted to SDNPA by the Clerk.*

114.3 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

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

Cllr Adcock updated on the below enforcement issues:

* Down Laine, The Broadway. Enforcement officers have been to this property following concerns raised about the application. The applicant has identified that their business has outgrown their current premises so they are in the process of moving the business to Eastbourne.
* Pleasant Rise Campsite, the landowners have appealed and are likely to put a retrospect application in. The Enforcement Officer is attending regularly.
* An ‘Air BnB’ Shepherds Hut at 2 Steamer Cottages has been looked into. The Enforcement Officer has been to view and is happy, the owner is submitting a retrospect application.
* Riverbank, the SDNP consider it inappropriate. They would not suggest a retrospect application as it is not suitable. They are ‘keeping a check on it’, whatever that means and have said it will not slip by.

**115.**  **Reports from Outside Bodies**

*115.1 Cuckmere Buses –* report can be found at Appendix B.

*115.2 Lorrywatch* – Ms June Goodfield has informed the Clerk that there is nothing new to report and that she would like to resign from this role. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Ms Goodfield if she is happy to continue for a few more months whilst the Speed watch initiative is taken forward as this could include Lorrywatch. **Action 6.**

*115.3 Heartstart* – Cllr Watkins reported that they are in talks with the school to put a defib in and then there will be a familiarisation course for the staff, parents and others who wish to attend.

*115.4 Alfriston Emergency Group* – Mr Vernon Reynolds reported that now the traffic light trial has completed, his role was to look into the video material. There were 44 observers, so he is picking out the key bits of the report and then getting the video evidence to match. Mrs Frankie Reynolds is compiling the reports on behalf of Conserve Alfriston on what the observers saw. By the end of this week all the material will be with ESCC. Mr Reynolds stated his thanks to Alfriston Cuckmere Connect for their support with the Christmas events, AEG will attend to put the barriers and signs up, they will not close the road. The cable licence for the tree lights has been obtained. AEG have purchased the new salt spinner and thank you to APC for purchasing the salt. AEG are waiting for WDC/APC’s decision on the future of the car park before any decisions are made on the bus shelter.

Cllr Adcock asked if APC would be able to view the data that is being sent to ESCC. As it was a closed part of the meeting, this will be responded to in public questions.

*115.5 Flood Forum* – no report

*115.6 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report

*115.7 Twinning Committee* – no report

*115.8 Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect* – report can be found at Appendix C.

*115.9 St Andrews Church* – Mr Vernon Reynolds reported on behalf of Ms Diana Monteath-Wilson. The ‘There but Not There’ silhouettes have now been removed, and have been stored into two large boxes. It was raised who will store them now and whose are they? The Clerk stated that this has not been thought about so if she could have some time to think about this and will come back to St Andrews in due course. Cllr Adcock stated that depending on the size of the boxes, they could be stored in the Old Chapel Centre. Clerk will look into this. **Action 7.**

*115.10 Clergy House* – Mrs Sylvia Daw reported that they are now in winter hours, which means they open at weekends only, 11:00 – 16:00. The Clergy House would like to thank the village for the support as numbers have been up this year.

1. **Correspondence to The Clerk**

* The Clerk reported that the issue of naming residents have been brought up again across the Wealden Clerks. Alfriston seem to be the only ones that minute the names of the residents who ask a question. The Clerk has given the rationale behind this and the opinion back was it is ok to continue as long as it is minuted and that if anyone does not wish to be named in the minutes, please let the Clerk know.
* ESCC have started their public consultation for their ‘ESCC Core Offer’. The Core Offer is an assessment of the services that ESCC think are most needed by residents, business and communities. The Clerk stated that following the recent cuts to grass cutting, libraries and the fact there is likely to be more, please can everyone try to complete the survey. The link is:

<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/governance-and-community-services/a-core-offer-for-east-sussex/>

* Alfriston Cuckmere Connect have agreed to fund the ongoing costs of the mantles for the gas lamp. The lamp has been refurbed, we are just now awaiting the order and delivery of the mantles.
* Wealden District Council has written to the Clerk requesting for the Willows toilets to be closed for the Winter. This has not been done before and APC were not consulted with, the Clerk is speaking with WDC about this.
* An ‘A board’ request have been received from the National Trust for the weekends in December, 1st and 2nd, 8th and 9th, 15th and 16th. All Councillors agreed.
* Mr David Lewis has emailed the Clerk stating that he felt that the firework displays in Alfriston this year were excessive and could residents bear this in mind for next year due to the local farms which house horses, dogs etc.
* A resident who house backs onto Tye Road has approached the Council asking for the area outside the Wingrove courtyard to be re-tarmacked. APC were in the process of filling that one large pothole but now the Clerk will seek quotes for that one area to see how much a patch repair would cost.
* The company who have fixed the gas lamp in the square have asked for a few branches to be removed off the tree around the lamp. All Councillors agreed and the Clerk will get this actioned. **Action 8.**
* Mr Vernon Reynolds wrote to APC asking if we could reimburse Mr David Lewis the cost of the cable licence which was £55. Cllr White confirmed that ACC have reimbursed him already. A discussion was held about the public liability insurance and whether the Christmas event would fall under APC’s insurance or Graham’s who owns the Gallery. The Clerk said it would likely to be under Graham’s like last year but she will look into this. **Action 9.**

**117 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 7.15 pm on **Monday 21st January 2019** 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.

**118 Public Questions**

1. Mrs Hannah Clarke stated the submission being prepared is on behalf of Conserve Alfriston. It will not be sent to APC in advance as it will be in the public domain once it is submitted to ESCC.
2. Mr Stephen Rabagliati updated that a business survey was sent out on behalf of Conserve Alfriston following the traffic light trial. 32 out of the 37 businesses took part and they were asked two questions.

*Q1. Following the recent trial, are you [strongly for/for/no opinion/against/strongly against ESCC’s traffic light scheme?*

2 stated they didn’t know, 22 strongly against, 4 against, 3 balanced and 1 for.

*Q2. Relative to the current layout, will ESCC’s scheme be beneficial or detrimental to your business?*

4 didn’t know, 3 said it would be beneficial and 25 said it would be detrimental.

1. Mrs Daw said that as one of the observers, it was amazing to see so many volunteers. It was great to see everyone pull together and huge thanks to Mrs Frankie Reynolds for arranging.
2. Mr Hugh Chapman wishes to raise 3 issues that he raised some time ago which are still outstanding.

* The white centre lines at Whiteway which have not been repainted.
* The sign at the top of whiteway which refers to it being narrow is not visible due to hedgerow
* The speed that cyclists come down Kings Ride from the South Downs Way. It is a serious hazard.

The Clerk updated that all 3 have been on the agenda for the SLR [Strengthening Local Relationships] meeting. There is another meeting this week so the Clerk will raise it again. The sign will be cleared promptly by ESH. ESCC had informed Clerk that new signs had been installed down Kings Ride advising cyclists of the dangers, Mr Chapman stated this is not the case so the Clerk will chase this. The Clerk went on to read the SLR minutes [which can be found on APC’s website] giving ESCC rationale as to why the white lines will not be repainted. It will be raised again at this week’s meeting. Cllr Watkins stated that any residents who feel the lines should be replaced should also write to ESCC Highways directly to complain.

1. Mr Vernon Reynolds said the side lines need to be repainted also, and the stop line at the top of Whiteway needs to be pulled back.
2. Mr Dan Raisbeck asked when have they driven the route to ensure safety, have they driven it in the dark, when it is misty etc? The Clerk will raise this at the SLR meeting.

Signed: Victoria Rutt

Clerk and RFO

**APPENDIX A**

**APPENDIX B**

**Cuckmere Buses – Stakeholders Meeting 29 October 2018**

The following is a summary of the points from the meeting which may be of interest to Alfriston Parish councillors:

**Finance**

The overall financial position is satisfactory as at the end of the third quarter. Income is trending on budget, as are passenger numbers. Expenditure is slightly below budget – with servicing costs significantly down as new buses replace the older buses in our fleet.

Cash in the bank (£56k) has been reduced by the purchase of another new bus – Bus No 24 – part funded by the sale of Bus No 19 earlier this year. Overall, net assets remain on budget and cash will start to rebuild in the final quarter. Our treasurer is exploring sources of grant funding to enable us to replace another of our older buses, but so far unsuccessfully.

**Drivers**

Nominally, we have 50 drivers on our books, of which seven are female and forty-three male, with four potential new drivers in training. However, a number of these drivers rarely drive in practice, and we are still badly in need of reliable regular drivers if we are to maintain our services.

**Services**

Seasonal service 47 (the Cuckmere Rambler) was withdrawn for the winter from the end of September, and the 126 Sunday service (Seaford – Eastbourne) moved to its winter timetable, with the last return from Seaford at 4.25.pm. When the 47 service returns in the Spring we hope to provide better train connections at Berwick – when Southern Railways timetables finally settle down.

A revised Hailsham Town service was introduced in September, with little used parts of the routes withdrawn and an improved service for the busier parts of the town.

Construction work on the Arndale shopping centre continues to require changes to the town centre stops for services to Eastbourne. The work is expected to continue for a further nine months.

**The Future**

The DfT consultation on new regulations under the Bus Services Act closed in May but the Department has not provided any updates on its proposals. We have meanwhile applied to renew our operating permits under the current regulations. There is no further news of changes to the D1 licence, which enables most of our drivers to drive our buses without the need for a full PSV licence. It seems likely that changes will have to wait until after Brexit.

Rod Young

**APPENDIX C**

Alfriston Cuckmere Connect Report

Earlier this month we launched our new website, if we have missed out any societies, or clubs that wish to be linked

to and from the website, please let us know via the website. [www.alfristonandcuckmere.com](http://www.alfristonandcuckmere.com/)

Our Christmas weekend is Joy to the World.  The leaflets for the weekend of 1st and 2nd December have been delivered around the village to all the traders, we encourage people to pick up a copy.

This year’s theme is Joy to the World, there will be different celebrations with various traders around the village, plus we have a fabulous prize draw.   Free to enter, people can take part by visiting at least 5 of the participating locations to get their “passport” stamped, this will entitle them to a free entry in the draw.  The leaflets contain the Passport on the back and tells of the fabulous events going on throughout the village.

Just a few of the things going on will be:-

5pm Saturday 1st - Arlene Philips of Strictly Come Dancing fame will be switching on the lights, live music to follow – bring your dancing shoes

4.30 Sunday 2nd – Carols by lanterns at Lullington Church

Barbershop singers at the Reformery

Oliver! At the Apiary – a Victorian Christmas market

Craft making at Much Ado

A children’s Grotto at The Smugglers

A Swiss surprise awaits at Diana Kelly Interiors

All the shops, eateries and pubs are taking part with their own entertainment and a Festive welcome, please do come and support us, keep your travel miles low and buy local.

Jilly Byford