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 21st January 2019**

**Present:**

Cllr. J. Watkins [Chair]

Cllr. C. Adcock

Cllr. K. Halliday

Cllr. N. White

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 18 members of the public

**119. Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Public Questions**
2. Cllr White raised his thanks to the person who has dug the ditch down River Lane from the pump house which has stopped the huge puddle that used to form there. It is not known who did this.
3. Mr Stephen Ragabalati asked if they were going to discuss the small bollards outside The Star Inn. Clerk confirmed that it is going to be raised under Clerk’s correspondence.
4. Mr Adrian Butcher wanted to clarify that as you go up the Tye path, there is a lot of damage on the right-hand side of the path although it is being widened on the left. Clerk pointed out that on the plan the widening starts on the right where it has got damaged and swings around. Mr Butcher was content with this. Mr John Nott asked if he could see a copy of the plan, Cllr Watkins asked Clerk to email it to him. **Action 1.**
5. Mr Stephen Ragabalati raised the issue of some loose paviors outside Manor House next to the road sign. Clerk will report them to ESH. **Action 2.**
6. Mr Dan Raisebeck asked if there was an update about the housing needs survey. Clerk reported that a meeting was held to see if other Weaden Clerks wanted to do one together but there was no uptake with surrounding area Clerks. So, the Clerk will now be undertaking it on her own and will be seeking advice on how to do it and where to start. It is understood to be a long process but Clerk will report back each month with an update.
7. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

Maria Caulfield MP sent her apologies and provided a report. It can be found in Appendix B.

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

Cllr Stephen Shing reported that ESCC have a cabinet meeting tomorrow. There is no update with the traffic trial, they are still looking at the data. The report will not be out in February now, it is likely to be early Spring. Cllr Shing stated there have been 3 complaints about the white lines at Whiteway and he knows it is on the agenda this evening.

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

Cllr Philip Ede reported that the waste contract with Kier is nearly at an end, it finishes at the end of June. Biffa will be taking over. In previous years Wealden have had a spring clean week. This year they are doing a Spring clean month from the 22nd March to 23rd April. Alfriston volunteers can contact Tess Fox at Wealden who will supply hi vis vests and litter pickers. The Wealden Local Plan has been submitted to the planning inspector and are awaiting a response.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Beechey, Cllr Cooper 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 19th November 2018 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Watkins duly signed the minutes.

1. **Finance**

127.1 To approve the Statement of Finances

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

[Appendix A]. **MOTION CARRIED**

127.2 To approve and sign Invoices for Payment

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

127.3 To approve Q3 bank rec, Q3 budget report and Q3 audit

Cllr. Halliday proposed and Cllr. Adcock seconded a motion that the circulated paperwork for Q3 2018-19 were approved. **MOTION CARRIED**

127.4 To approve the Budget for 2019/20

The Clerk reported that this year has shown a decrease in income and an increase in expenditure. There is now a £11k shortfall, this is broken down as:

*Income has gone down by:* £2k with the car park and £700 with the ESCC grass cutting.

*Expenditure has increased by:* Staff costs by £5k [although now have a qualified Clerk!], Grass cutting £1k, Bins £1k, Village maintenance £700 and Elections [May 2019] £600.

The Clerk then went through the budget line by line to explain why some have remained the same and why the above have increased. The one budget line that did not have a proposed budget for was the Tye. Emails discussions with Councillors raised 3 proposed amounts [£2,500, £3,000 and £5,000]. This was discussed and due to the need to retarmac some areas ASAP on Tye Road and the need to do the whole road in a few years it would be wise to ring fence some money now. It was agreed that the budget for the Tye would be £5,000 with £4,500 ring fenced for Tye Road and £500 for the Tye path.

Cllr. White proposed and Cllr. Adcock seconded a motion that the proposed budget for 2019/20 was approved. **MOTION CARRIED**

127.5 To approve the Precept for 2019/20

The Clerk reported that following the above budget discussions the overall total shortfall with no precept was just over £38k. Clerk explained that the Council have not raised the Precept previously other than last year when it was raised by 3%, however in hindsight it should have been raised to stop large increases happening. With income decreasing, expenditure increasing and the threat of a potential loss of income from the car park in the future it was agreed that APC would submit a Precept request of £38,181 which is 54% increase which equates to a £30.40 increase.

Cllr. White proposed and Cllr. Adcock seconded a motion that the Precept for 2019/20 would be £38,181. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. **To discuss if there is a need for a review of the white lines being reinstalled at Whiteway**

The Clerk reported that at the SLR meeting in November 2018, the white lines were raised again and Mr Ian Johnson from ESCC confirmed that he had only received 3 complaints about them not being reinstalled, however if an official request from APC was made to review them this would be undertaken. All Councillors agreed for the Clerk to make the request and to await the outcome of the review.

**Action 3.**

* 1. **To discuss the possibility of sourcing funding for a purchasing a pump**

The Clerk reported that in November 2018, Mr John Hurwood asked if the matter of purchasing a second-hand pump could be placed on the agenda for discussion as the EA had said that they would not be able to provide a pump anymore. However, with the flooding in December 2018, the EA did come out with a pump and helped. Due to this and the fact that APC do not have £10k for a second-hand pump, this will not be looked into all the time EA are willing to help.

1. **Report on Highways & Twittens**

129.1 High Street traffic update

Cllr Halliday reported that that there is no update other than what Cllr Shing said earlier, that the report from the trial is delayed until early Spring.

1. **Report on Allotments**

The Clerk reported that renewals for 2019 have been sent out.

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

Cllr White had nothing to report.

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

132.1 Bus shelter in Willows car park

There is nothing new to report at this time.

132.2 New contract update

The Clerk reported that WDC have stated that the new lease changes will not commence until April 2020 and meetings will be held in the next few months with WDC to discuss the proposed changes.

132.3 Discuss WDCs proposals for a trial closure to Willows toilets

The Clerk reported that after WDC made the decision to close the Willows toilets with no consultation with APC, an email has been received seeking Councillors thoughts on a trial closure of the Willows toilets in the Summer months. The Dene toilets would remain open. The Clerk explained that the Willows toilets spent more time closed last year than open due to the constant repairs needed. At the moment that expenditure is down to WDC but with the proposed lease changes this expenditure will come out of the income received by APC. A discussion took place and the Council took a strong stance that the Willows toilets should remain open during the Summer months as the village relies heavily on visitors attending and that they require amenities, especially to those arriving by coach and are disabled.

1. **Report on Strategic Planning**

Cllr White raised a fund that he has found recently titled the ‘Future High Street Fund’. It requires an expression of interest by end of March and it will then require a business case if get through. It is not clear whether an application will be accepted by a Parish Council or whether it needs to come from District Council. Cllr White reported that we could apply for the fund to update the High Street such as nicer bollards, fingerboard signposts, bins, relaying pavements, bike racks etc. Councillors agreed it is worth the Clerk looking into further. **Action 4.**

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

134.1 Update on Tye footpath

Clerk reported that at the November 2018 meeting it was agreed that a plan should be drawn up. This has now been done and circulated to all Councillors, AWMH and St Andrews. Both Councillors and Mr Butcher are content with the plan. St Andrews are meeting on the 6th February and will come back to the Clerk after this. The Clerk has sent the path plan to SDNPA for advice on planning permission and will also send to Charity Commission. Funding was discussed and the Clerk explained her understanding was that the hall would seek funding and would contribute something to have match funding. St Andrews are unlikely to be able to contribute but they will discuss on the 6th February. Cllr Adcock proposed that APC ring fence £500 for this so we can contribute to the match funding, this was seconded by Cllr White. Clerk will also meet with the contractor to get a new quote to include the area outside the hall and to discuss the metal trim that runs alongside the path. **Action 5.**

1. **Report from Planning Committee**

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

**SDNP/18/06260/FUL** Winton Grange, Winton Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UH

Proposed naturalistic wildlife swimming pond with adjacent summer house

The Committee discussed and there were no objections.

**SDNP/18/06517/LIS** Burnt House, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TS

To remove some modern partition walls and build some new partition walls on the first and second floor. To re support the floor on the second floor as required and fit a fire door as recommended in building survey. To replace a modern open internal staircase with a new spiral staircase. To match in / replace flooring on the ground floor. To reconfigure a modern wardrobe on third floor.

The Committee discussed and there were no objections.

135.2 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

**SDNP/18/05889/FUL** St Andrew's Church, The Tye, Alfriston

APC supported and SDNPA have since approved this application.

**SDNP/18/05322/FUL** 2 Steamer Cottages, High Street, Alfriston

APC objected and SDNPA have not yet made a decision.

135.3 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

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

**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

All the above applications have since been approved by SDNPA.

**136.**  **Reports from Outside Bodies**

*136.1 Cuckmere Buses:* no report.

*136.2 Lorrywatch:* Ms Goodfield is happy to stay on as Lorrywatch until Speedwatch is set up. The Clerk is in the process of completing the application form and will liaise with Martha Lawes about setting the group up.

*136.3 Heartstart*: Cllr Watkins reported that the school now have a Defib in place. There is going to be a course advertised shortly where people can attend and learn how to use one.

*136.4 Alfriston Emergency Group*: no report.

*136.5 Flood Forum* – Mr John Hurwood reported that nothing new to report.

*136.6 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report

1*36.7 Twinning Committee* – Mr Tony Palmer provided a report on behalf of Ms June Goodfield. 20 Twinning members gathered together on the Epiphany on the 6th January 2019 to celebrate the occasion in true French style at Fete des Rois. It was a lively occasion and enjoyed by those who attended. Two important dates for your diaries, the annual visit to Normandy will be the weekend of 7th – 9th June and they will travel to Sussex for a return visit on 27th – 29th September. Other local events for this year are in the planning stages and will include a quiz at the Smugglers in early February. New members are always welcome. Cllr White raised a point that the French visitors never seem to come to the businesses, he thought it was supposed to be a benefit to the village.

136.*8 Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect* – Ms Byford emailed in the following report. After the awful weather last month, ACC are regrouping regarding possible events for the coming year.  They are delighted to have purchased mantles for the lamp in the Square and hope that villagers and visitors alike will enjoy the warm glow it sheds all year round.

They are hoping to encourage and welcome new members from the Cuckmere Valley, to expand the group and get as many as possible involved in creating a vibrant and welcoming business community within this area.  It is hoped to get the village map out in March, they are anticipating a run of 5000.

*136.9 St Andrews Church* – Ms Monteath-Wilson reported about the fun run on 27th April using the Glebeland, she will find out about this ASAP and come back to the Clerk.

* 1. *Clergy House* – Mrs Sylvia Daw reported that the house is closed at the moment, a lot of work is

being done in the rooms. There is a meeting being held in February and the house will re-open at Easter.

**137**. **Correspondence to The Clerk**

1. An A board request has been received from Alfriston WI for Saturday 23rd March to advertise their Tabletop Sale. All Councillors agreed.
2. Eastbourne Cycles festival asked if they could put a water stop station for a charity bike ride on Saturday 27th July in the morning for around 100 riders near to the White Bridge. Councillors agreed.
3. AEG have made a request asking if APC would be willing to pay the cable licence for this year’s Christmas tree lights which is a cost of £55. Cllr White reported that he would need to check but he is sure ACC would pay for the cable licence again this year. AEG also asked if APC would pay for the Christmas tree lights, it may be a few replacements or a full set. Councillors stated that they could not agree until a cost is known, AEG to report back when these details are known. Clerk is going to speak to APC’s insurance provider to see if AEG are covered for the Christmas event when they are putting up the lights using a JCB.
4. Clerk reported that Mr Adrian Butcher has sent an email to let APC know that a car recently got stuck on one the bollards at the top of Tye Road and had to be lifted off. The bollards are now no longer useable and are out of action. A request has been made to look into the possibility of hatched lines on those spaces. Clerk to seek a quote for this. **Action 6.**
5. Clerk reported that the cones outside The Star Inn have been raised. The meeting was opened up to seek businesses opinions. It was agreed that although they are ugly they do make a huge difference to the traffic and for the time being should continue with them until we know ESCC’s intentions with the traffic. Mrs Sylvia Daw and Mr Stephen Rabagliati volunteered to put the cones out in the morning and return them in the evening.
6. The Perspex silhouettes that were purchased last year were discussed. They can no longer be stored in the Church and the Rector has stated that he will not be putting them up in the Church again. The OCC did volunteer to store them if they were going to be used again but this is now not the case. Mrs Sylvia Daw kindly offered to store them and will arrange collection. The Clerk is going to seek advice from the Royal British Legion on what to do with them as it would be very sad to see them gathering dust. **Action 7**. St Simon and St Jude at East Dean has approached the Clerk asking if they could borrow 17 silhouettes for 4 weeks in the Summer. All Councillors agreed.
7. A resident has contacted the Clerk about setting up a ‘Repair café’ where people can bring items that need repairing and for a small donation, they could be fixed by volunteers with the skill sets and have a cup of tea at the same time. Councillors thought this was a good idea, but there was some confusion whether the resident wanted the Council to arrange. It was agreed that if volunteers wanted to arrange one they would have the support of the Council but the Clerk does not have the capacity to undertake this.
8. Clerk reported that a resident emailed her back in November complaining about workmen digging up outside his house at 10:45 in the evening. When the resident spoke to them there seemed to be confusion on what they were doing and whether they were in the correct place! The resident asked Clerk to read the email out. Clerk looked into this at the time and the workmen were spoken to by East Sussex Highways as they were in the wrong place and did not have an emergency order to work that late.
9. The Sculpture Group have emailed the Council asking if they would be interested in a sculpture being put up in Alfriston, on the Tye near the Clergy House. The sculpture would be a large metal horse. The Sculpture Group would seek the funding for it. Councillors agreed it was a nice idea but first of all Clerk will contact the Charity Commission and SDNP to seek permission. Clerk will then liaise with Sculpture Group. **Action 8**. Clerk did also raise the question who would be responsible for it, APC or Sculpture Group. This will be looked into further once permission outcomes are known.

**138. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 7.15 pm on **Monday 18th February 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.

**139 Public Questions**

1. Mrs Sylvia Daw stated that following the question raised by Cllr White under Twinning, she confirmed the visitors do stay in the village. Business cards could be handed out to promote the businesses that do not feel they receive custom from them.
2. Mrs Sylvia Daw asked if the snowdrops that come up on the side of the Tye path could be dug up and moved so we do not kill them with the Tye path widening plans as they are beautiful. Mrs Daw volunteered to do it herself. Councillors agreed but permission may be needed for this. Mrs Daw said she will look into this and report back.
3. Mrs Hannah Parkinson raised that there is only one bin up at the allotments when it used to be two bins and it does not seem the one has been emptied. This concerned the Clerk as APC are paying for Biffa to empty two and they have said they have been emptied. Clerk will look into this with Biffa and try to find the other bin!
4. A resident asked who is the best person to email to complain about the white lines at Whiteway. Clerk confirmed that emails can be sent to Cllr Shing: [cllr.Stephen.Shing@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.Stephen.Shing@eastsussex.gov.uk) or Mr Ian Johnson: [Ian.Johnson@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Johnson@eastsussex.gov.uk).

Signed: Victoria Rutt

Clerk and RFO

**APPENDIX A**

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**APPENDIX B**

**Parish Update for Alfriston Parish Council**

**January 2019**

Sorry I am unable to join you this evening but I wanted to update you on a couple of issues that I am working on in Parliament

**Waspi Campaign**

As you will know, since being elected, I have been supporting and fighting for those women affected by recent changes to the state pension age. Working with fellow MPs in Parliament, we have tried to secure a solution so that women who had little or no notice of their pension age being changed could be compensated. Despite as a group of MPs bringing a bill to Parliament to force the Government to re look at this issue, we have so far not been successful. However I wanted to share with you the progress that is being made in terms of the campaign.

The Parliamentary and Health Services Ombudsman (PHSO) has contacted me to say it has selected six complaints about the state pension age that will act as lead cases to set a precedent for thousands of others.

The six cases were selected for a preliminary enquiry, which the PHSO said would determine whether or not to investigate the claims further and which could potentially force the Government to intervene and support all women affected by the changes to their pension age. These cases were brought to the Independent Case Examiner (ICE), the second stage in the Department for Work and Pensions's two-tier complaints process, by women unhappy about the recent increase to their state pension age.

The PHSO has now decided to step in and deal with this issue, as progress on handling the complaints proved slow.

The PHSO has used a broad generic scope obtained from the six cases for the purpose of their investigation and if they find in favour could have positive implications for all affected. This is a positive step for the campaign and I look forward to seeing the outcome of this review.

**Commercial Sat Navs**

Just before the Christmas break I raised in Parliament the issue of commercial sat navs with the leader of the House of Commons asking for the Government to introduce legislation so that all commercial vehicles HGVs have these fitted. As you will know Heavy Goods vehicles use rural roads as cut-throughs instead of using the main A roads and this makes our rural roads dangerous and congested. Commercial sat-navs would enable enforcement action to be taken against those who flout current height and weight restrictions that are already in place and would direct them to stay on A roads making our rural roads safer for all road users**.**

If commercial sat navs were mandated for HGV’s they could be extended to all commercial vehicles to ensure our rural roads are not used as short cuts in the future.

**Defibrillators**

My bill to introduce defibrillators to all schools and public building has been re-introduced to Parliament.

I have come across so many tragic cases where people, young and old, have died because no defibrillator was available during a cardiac arrest. Quick access to a defibrillator can increase the survival chances of someone who has a cardiac arrest by 80% and every death that is contributed to by the lack of a defibrillator is one too many when this simple and inexpensive piece of equipment can so greatly help to save a life. This is why I am reintroducing my Ten Minute Rule Motion that would ensure defibrillators are in every public building and that funding is in place to enable this. The British Heart foundation are now starting a national register of defibrillators so that if someone calls 999 they will be told where their nearest one is. If there are any in the parish please do register them when the register goes live this year.

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/national-defibrillator-network>

As always do let me know if I can help in any way with any issues.

Maria Caulfield MP