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 25th March 2019**

**Present:**

Cllr J Watkins [Chair] Cllr R Savage

Cllr N White [Vice Chair] Cllr C Adcock

Cllr V Cooper Cllr K Halliday

Cllr N Beechey

 **In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

 Approximately 26 members of the public

**160. Chairman’s Welcome**

 Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Public Questions**

No public questions.

1. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

No report and no attendance.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received.

1. **Declaration of interests**

No Councillors had anything to declare.

1. **Minutes**

Cllr. Cooper proposed and Cllr. Beechey seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2019 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Watkins duly signed the minutes.

1. **Finance**

 166.1 To approve the Statement of Finances

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

 [Appendix A]. **MOTION CARRIED**

 166.2 To approve and sign Invoices for Payment

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

166.3 To approve NEST pension contributions for 2019/20

Clerk reported that the final increases to the pension contributions have been received. For 2019/20 it proposes that the Council’s contributions go from 2% to 3% and the Clerks contributions go from 3% to 5%. This would now take it in line with the government’s recommended contributions.

Cllr. Cooper proposed and Cllr. White seconded a motion to approve the recommended pension contributions to NEST for 2019/20. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. **Discuss and agree the way forward with the proposed sculpture on the Tye**

The meeting was opened so that the Clerk could provide an update and so Cheryl on behalf of the Sculpture Group could answer any questions. Cllr Watkins asked Councillors what they thought of the proposal. Cllr Halliday said it would be nice but other than the questions already raised i.e. cost, maintenance and insurance, the positioning of it needs to be agreed, whether it will be given planning permission, he supports it in principle but there are a lot of questions. Cllr Cooper agreed. Cllr Beechey stated the important factor is to see whether residents want it and if they do whether the Tye the best location for it? Cllr White agreed with everyone although was not sure that the Tye is the right place for it.

Cllr Savage fully supports the idea especially with the history of horses in the village, he suggested submitting a pre-application to SDNPA to get their thoughts before proceeding with a full planning application. Cllr Adcock thinks there is scope but thinks it requires a detailed report covering location, maintenance, scale and cost etc. Cllr White asked who is the Sculpture group? Cheryl confirmed that it a small group set up recently as they thought an idea of a sculpture in the village is a good idea. Cheryl went on to confirm there would be little maintenance and they thought the ideal position would be under the trees at the Clergy House end of the Tye. No other locations have been discussed at this time. It was agreed the next steps would need to be a public consultation and if successful the planning application will be done. The Sculpture group will be fundraising to cover the costs. Mr David Lewis stated that on behalf of the Lewis family he would like to put a sum of money towards the sculpture.

1. **Discuss and agree if there is a need for white line markings to be reinstalled at Whiteway**

Clerk reported that at a recent meeting with East Sussex County Council, Mr Johnson explained that the centre lines were omitted from the resurfacing scheme that took place in February 2017 between Deans Place Hotel and the Youth Hostel. The action was taken as an attempt at traffic calming which originated from the Tourism Without Traffic project from the mid 2000’s. There is no speed data prior to leaving them out and so it would not be worth collecting data now after their removal as there is nothing to compare it too. Anecdotally, when travelling the route, the speeds appear to be slower but there is no way to prove that in any way. There have been no recorded personal injury crashes within the latest available three-year period and there were none in the preceding three-year period. As the resurfacing took place in February 2017, this means there have been no personal injury crashes in the last two years (without the lines) nor the four years before that (with the lines). Therefore, there is no strong case to either continue to leave them out or to put them back. Mr Johnson stated that he could arrange for them to be put back but would stress that if there was a feeling locally that vehicle speeds increased, there would be no further interventions on ESCC’s part that could realistically be taken as it would be difficult to justify spending money on a length of road which has an excellent crash record.

Councillors considered the above from Mr Johnson and all agreed that it is hard to justify putting it back with only four complaints being received. It was agreed that it would continue to be monitored at this time.

1. **Report on Highways & Twittens**

169.1 High Street traffic update

Cllr Halliday reported that a meeting was held with ESCC on Monday 11th March. They provided an update on the traffic light trial. The recommendation will be going to Lead Member meeting on Monday 17th June where a decision will be taken. The minutes and presentation from the meeting will now be circulated. Action.

* 1. Speedwatch Update

Clerk reported that there has not been much interest in the Speedwatch group. There is a requirement to have six volunteers and we only have 2, possibly 3 so far. A few more seemed interested at the meeting so please, if you are interested in being a volunteer please contact the Clerk so it can be progressed. Once there are enough volunteers, they will need to do an e-learning package online, then a training session will be arranged with a Sussex Police officer for 2 hours to go through the process and then a rota can commence. The Clerk is the lead coordinator to submit the data but Martha Lawes is the Deputy Coordinator who will be setting up the rota. Again, please contact the Clerk if you are interested in being a volunteer.

1. **Report on Allotments**

Cllr Cooper reported that Biffa have admitted to crushing the allotment bin so a new one is being delivered on Wednesday 27th March. Allotment renewals have been sent out, there are a few outstanding which will be chased in first week of April. It is hoped we will know number of vacant plots at the next meeting.

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

Cllr White stated that nothing to report.

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

172.1 Bus shelter in Willows car park

There is nothing new to report at this time until future of the car park is known.

Clerk updated that she had a meeting with Wealden last week to discuss an issue with the permits; letters and emails have now been circulated to permit holders. The future of the lease was raised and an email with proposed terms will be coming out shortly but they are proposing to have a ‘full repair’ lease which means APC will take on the whole car park, so we will retain all income but will be responsible for all costs also. Once the email has been received a small meeting will be arranged and then Wealden Officers are hoping to attend the APC meeting in June 2019 to answer any questions. The new lease needs to commence in April 2020. The Clerk has enquired about the re-opening of the Willows toilets, there has been no response as yet.

Clerk also reported that in November 2018 Councillors agreed that South East Water could use part of the coach park to store their equipment for when they commence work in January 2020 to renew the water mains scheme. When the Clerk informed WDC that they were content with this, it raised the question that did we really want the whole of the coach park closed, we would need to move the bus stop, no parking for coaches and the coach park floods. They do need somewhere to go though in order to commence the work. It was discussed that they could have half the coach park and the grass area. Clerk to arrange to meet with South East Water, Wealden and Cllr Savage to discuss and agree terms and costs. Action.

1. **Report on Strategic Planning**

Cllr White updated on the Future High Street fund, it was found that we could not apply being a Parish Council and first round was for £5million.

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

174.1 Update on Tye footpath

Cllr Beechey reported that the planning application is to be done this week for the Tye path widening and that the cost of the application is being split three ways; APC, AWMH and St Andrew’s.

174.2 Update on Tye Road

Cllr Beechey expressed his thanks to Mr Rutt for the pothole repairs on Tye Road which are looking good. There is material left over so Tye Road will be monitored.

* 1. Update on Playground

Cllr Beechey reported that a quote has been received for a replacement slide at a cost of £8,500. The Clerk is going to look at alternatives as £3k has been ringfenced for the playground. Grass cutting will be commencing shortly and we are hoping for a smoother season this year.

1. **Report from Planning Committee**

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

175.2 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

 175.3 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

**SDNP/18/06260/FUL** Winton Grange, Winton Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UH No decision yet.

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

**SDNP/18/05981/LIS** Cross House, High Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UF SDNPA approved.

**SDNP/19/00289/LIS and SDNP/19/00288/FUL** Burnt House, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TS SDNPA approved.

Enforcement matters – Cllr Adcock reported that no updates on enforcement yet for the River Lane structure and Pleasant Rise campsites. Cllr Beechey reported that a large area of the River Lane development has been dismantled. Cllr Adcock will look into this.

Cllr Adcock raised the ‘People’s Choice Award’ which is being run by South Downs National Park. It was proposed that Follers Manor and Rathfinny could be nominated. The closing date is June 28th so we will discuss and agree nominations at the next meeting. Please let the Clerk know of any. All the information can be found at <http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/south-downs-national-park-design-award/>

**176.**  **Reports from Outside Bodies**

*176.1 Cuckmere Buses:* no report.

*176.2 Lorrywatch:* Ms June Goodfield raised three incidents that have happened in the village. On the 8th March a large lorry came through at 08:50 and in order to proceed North has had to first back down the High Street. On Sunday 10th March at 14:00 the parking cones outside the Star were ignored. Cars parked badly on the pavement causing issues to pedestrians. On Wednesday 10th March at 08:20 a long tourist bus from France came through, again they had to reverse down the High Street. Ms Goodfield stated that there are notices in the drivers room at Dieppe. Cllr Shing has checked this and is aware.

*176.3 Heartstart*: Cllr Watkins reported that they still need volunteers.

*176.4 Alfriston Emergency Group*: Mr Vernon Reynolds said they will ask members if anyone wishes to be a Speedwatch member. He would also like to comment on the recent passing of Mr John Lewis and that on behalf of everyone, to offer their condolences to the Lewis family. Mr David Lewis raised the salt bins around the village. There is one on the end of the old Rathfinny driveway which is owned by APC and is empty. It was discussed whether it could be moved into the village so it is more practical, a location being raised as West Street. There is one salt bin in the Dene car park which is owned by WDC, the one at top of Deans Road is owned by ESCC, the three remaining at bottom of Kings Ride, Rathfinny driveway and North Road are owned by APC. All the salt bins have been locked as they were sadly being used as dog waste bins. All Councillors supported the new general location in principle but asked for an indication of the precise site. Possibly changing the colour of the three that are owned by the Parish Council was discussed.

Cllr Savage expressed thanks on behalf of the Parish Council and the village as a whole to Mr John Lewis for all the help and support he has given the village, and our thoughts are with the whole of the Lewis family.

*176.5 Flood Forum* – Mr John Hurwood reported that the Flood Forum is being held next Monday, in the AWMH. Public are welcome to attend.

 *176.6 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report

1*76.7 Twinning Committee* – Ms June Goodfield asked for a full report to be read out at the meeting, it can be found at Appendix B. Cllr White stated that his comments were his own personal opinion and those that have been voiced as part of Alfriston Cuckmere Connect [ACC]. It was thought that ACC could work with the Twinning Committee to produce a welcome pack.

176.*8 Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect* – Ms Byford sent in a report. ACC have now distributed the new Village Map around the businesses in the Cuckmere Valley, and hope to get it into Lewes, Eastbourne and Seaford tourist offices very soon.  Along with this, they are sending out a map for each household with the April issue of the Cuckmere News. ACC intend to follow up last year’s Alfriston on bloom, with another summer of flowers and displays by businesses giving residents and visitors alike a friendly and beautiful welcome throughout the valley. ACC would like to encourage everyone to join them. In addition, they are hoping to get the village and valley cleaned up of litter. Many traders are already doing a great job, sweeping and picking up litter from around their own premises. Ms Byford is trying to organise a wider litter pick at the outer edges of the village - please let her know if you are willing to help.

*176.9 St Andrew’s Church* – Ms Diana Monteath-Wilson sent in a report. St Andrew’s have agreed to pay the church’s share of the Planning Application costs for the Tye path widening. The latest update is that Restoration work has now started on the Spire and St Andrew’s would like to thank all villagers who have helped with the funding. They would also like to remind people that all services for Easter Week will be listed  in the Cuckmere News.

*176.10 Clergy House* – Mrs Sylvia Daw reported that the flooding has finally gone down in the garden so they were able to open the entire garden for the first time on Monday 18th March, though they have been open to the public since the 2nd March.   The spring flowers are coming out in the garden and look lovely, thankfully the flooding hasn’t caused any lasting damage this year. The house will be open on Fridays in addition to normal opening times in July and August again this season. For information, the House have received a few queries from village residents about visiting the gift shop so they just wanted to clarify that you do not have to visit the house or garden to go in the gift shop.  It is free entry for the shop which is open the same times as the property.

 **177**. **Correspondence to The Clerk**

1. Clerk reported that the Clergy House would like permission to put an A board up on Fridays in July and August advertising they are open? All Councillors agreed.
2. Knots of May have asked if they need permission to dance on the Tye for 30 minutes on the 15th June. All Councillors agreed but did ask would they like to dance in the Square, instead of the Tye. Clerk to speak with the organiser.
3. East Dean PCC have now decided to not use the Perspex silhouettes but thank APC for agreeing to the loan. They hope to revisit this in the future.
4. A gentleman has asked if he could use an area of the Recreation Ground on Saturday mornings, between 10:30 – 11:30 to run a football training session for 5-8year old’s, no more than 15 children. All Councillors agreed. Cllr Beechey raised the goal posts on the Recreation ground need to be refurbished. Clerk to look into this. Action.
5. The Cuckmere Valley Horticultural Society have asked if they can hold a plant sale on the allotments on Saturday 11th May. This was agreed by all Councillors.
6. Alfriston Cuckmere Connect have raised the ‘Adopt a Kiosk’ scheme run by BT, which for £1 you can purchase any old phone boxes and transform them for something else. ACC were thinking of using it as a visitor’s information booth, and possibly one day installing a defibrillator in it. All Councillors agreed this was a good idea and Clerk to proceed. As it is £1 it was agreed it did not need to be an agenda item. Action.

**178. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 7.15 pm on **Monday 15th April 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.

1. **Public Questions**
2. Mr Nathan Pope asked could we not buy an old phone box and put that in its place. Cllr Savage said they are around £1,000. Could be looked into?
3. A resident said that he was disappointed about white lines at Whiteway decision as he feels it is a dangerous road and when they did a recent litter pick in that area there were three side mirrors on the side so incidents are happening.
4. Mr Vernon Reynolds said he would like to back up what has been said about the white lines, both Centre and side lines. Mr Nathan Pope said he drives that road all the time and often feels scared. It is a shame that APC do not want the lines reinstalled. It was explained that only four complaints have been received to ESCC and due to a lot of rural roads not having the white lines it is the decision that has been made. Mr David Lewis said they are encouraging rat running and there is too much traffic down that road. He suggested the problem was the designated status of the road as a priority gritted route. As stated in recent minutes, residents can complain direct to:

Mr Ian Johnson [Ian.Johnson@eastsussex.gov.uk] and

Cllr Stephen Shing [cllr.Stephen.Shing@eastsussex.gov.uk]



Signed: Victoria Rutt – Clerk and RFO

**Appendix A**

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**Appendix B**

REPORT: Outside Bodies – Twinning

At the January APC meeting Cllr Nick White made the following comment. "..*that the French visitors never seem to come to the businesses, he thought it was supposed to be a benefit to the village."*

We feel that this statement was inaccurate and misleading. We list our comments below and ask that these be read out to the Council and recorded in the Minutes.

When the French come here they book rooms at The Star where the Mayor and his wife and grandchildren stay. The Mayor of Cerons stays there too. Our visitors also use local B&B’s; have meals at the local pubs, tea shops and hotels which they thoroughly enjoy. They buy items at the Apiary and Wallows; Much Ado is a great favourite and in the past they packed into Steamer Trading, now unfortunately closed.  They love the Village Store with its superb Delicatessen and regional specialities. On our last visit to France we took – at our friends’ request – 6 kilos of three varieties of Sussex cheeses supplied by Bev. Surprisingly, or perhaps not so surprisingly, the French really enjoy our local cheeses which on this occasion were being served at a large reception.

When the schoolchildren came over on a day trip which began for them at 4am, (sleeping both ways on the Ferry) they all spent money in the Village Store where they shopped for something to take home. We hired the OCC (Old Chapel Centre) as their base after their hugely successful visit to the school, a visit organised by Nadine, one of the French teachers.

The Association maintains a lively programme of social events which are open to all residents and we regularly use the Old Chapel Centre, the Village Hall and Deans Place. We regularly host lunches for up to 40 of our visitors – Alfriston Twinners pay for themselves – and the restaurants involved are regularly serving sometimes 80 people at a time. We take part in village events linked with the Church, the Horticultural Society, the fêtes and festivals: at the moment we are arranging a function at the Tavern-on-the-Tye and two functions at the Old Chapel Centre.

We believe it would be hard to find another organisation in the village which is so proactive and which contributes as much to local businesses.