ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Tuesday 2nd April 2019

**Minutes of The Annual Parish Assembly of Alfriston Parish Council (APC)**

**held in 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

1. **Welcome by the Chairman, Cllr Jen Watkins**

Cllr. Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending the Annual Parish Assembly.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 16th April 2018 and matters arising.**

Cllr. White proposed and Cllr. Beechey seconded a motion that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2018 were approved as a true and accurate record.

**3. Chairman, Cllr Jen Watkins**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. The Annual Assembly is usually a run through of the past year. There has been a partial refurbishment of the playground and we are now endeavouring to raise money for further improvements.  Many thanks to Cllr Cooper and our Clerk for all their efforts in achieving this and to anyone else involved in helping. Sadly, the council tax bill increased again this year, we are still having to pay for the extra grass cuts to ensure that our beautiful village remains for residents and for visitors.

Cllr Watkins thanked her fellow Councillors for all their hard work this year; Cllr White as Vice Chair as well as Strategic Planning and Rights of Way, Cllr Cooper for allotments, Cllr Halliday for Highways, Cllr Savage for Car Parks and Transport, Cllr Beechey for the Tye and Village Hall rep and Cllr Alcock for Planning. Thank you to Cllr Shing and Cllr Ede who are regular contributors to our meetings and assist when necessary with any Parish matters that we need help with.

Thank you to those who represent our outside bodies: David Lewis, Vernon Reynolds and all in AEG who help constantly around the village. Thank you to Daniel Larkin for being our Tree Warden, he took over from Richard Bartlett last May, to who we would also like to thank.  Thank you to Heartstart and David for his continued work. Thank you to Nick Cattell for continuing to be our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. Thank you to John Hurwood for his regular updates in connection with the Flood Forum. Thank you to Rod Young for being our Cuckmere Buses representative and to June Goodfield for Lorrywatch and Twinning.

Thank you to Diana Monteath-Wilson for being St Andrews Church Co-ordinator and regularly reporting to us at meetings, to Sylvia Daw for updating the Council regularly of the activities and developments at the Clergy House. Thank you to Jilly Byford for representing ACC and last but by no means least a very big thank you to the Clerk. She has been in post for just over two years now and does an amazing job helping with an incredible array of jobs and problems and keeping Councillors on the right track.  She obtained her CiLCA qualifications last October which has been a big asset to the Council.

The situation of cars on the Tye is much improved with allotted places for cars to park that need to be near the Church or Hall at the end of the Tye Road near the turning circle.  Discussions are still ongoing with regards to widening the Tye path and hopefully this will be resolved over the coming year. As everyone knows the traffic trial was carried out last year.  The results of this are still not known as the review of the data is still ongoing but the final report will be going to the Lead Member Nick Bennett at ESCC on Monday 17th June. The report will be available online one week prior to that date. Finally, Cllr Watkins thanked all members of the public who regularly attend and contribute towards the meetings.

Cllr White wanted to raise his thanks to Cllr Watkins for being a great Chair this past year.

**4. East Sussex County Council – Cllr Stephen Shing**

Cllr Shing stated that it is very positive that so many people have attended this evening. This is his second Annual meeting and it is always a great turn out. He stated he tries to provide a regular update each month and wanted to clarify that he is always happy to be contacted with any issues or questions. There were no public questions for Cllr Shing.

**5. Wealden District Council – Cllr Philip Ede**

Cllr Ede started by thanking the Council for a positive year working together. He stated that he loves to attend Alfriston as he admires how many volunteers there are in the Community. The Wealden Local Plan is awaiting sign off although this will not affect Alfriston as APC come under the South Downs Local Plan. From the 1st July, Biffa will be the bin collectors for household waste and they are hoping for less teething problems. Cllr Ede reported this is his last visit to Alfriston as the District elections are being held on the 2nd May and Cllr Ede is not standing. Cllr Ede thanked the Council and residents whilst he has been our Councillor. Cllr Watkins thanked him on behalf of all the Council for all his help and support.

**6. Presentation from Tom Warder [Action in Rural Sussex] on Housing Needs Survey**

Mr Tom Warder presented on the Housing Needs Survey. Action in Rural Sussex [AiRS] is based in Lewes and they cover East and West Sussex. The Housing Needs Survey is a six-sided questionnaire containing general questions about housing locally and supporting affordable housing. This will give APC and the community an indication what the local people think about it. Part two covers those who are in need for affordable housing and asks specific questions. It then covers people’s income, savings and links to the Community. The data is then gathered and analysed, a report is then provided. Mr Warder explained there is a chronic shortage of affordable housing and also smaller properties to be able to downsize in rural communities. The survey would need to be marketed widely by noticeboards, newsletters, email and website. The survey can be mailed out, or hand delivered as long as all households receive one. There is a SAE enclosed which ensures it goes back to the AiRS office and residents know it is a third party undertaking the survey.

There is also a section asking if there is an area locally known to them that could be used for a small scheme.

Mr Warder briefly explained Community Land Trusts, they are rapidly growing and essentially a way of providing housing and other assets. Alfriston CLT were setup in 2017 and are currently looking for sites. Cllr Beechey asked whether the survey carries any weight in the formal planning process. Mr Warder confirmed that the survey does and that Local Authorities recognise it as good evidence. Specific planning applications can mention the survey. Local authorities gather needs and the data is inaccurate, that is why there is a need for a survey as it shows the exact need. The survey lasts for 5 years, and AiRS will hold the personal information for 5 years also. After the 5 years a small refresher evening can be held where smaller surveys are completed to carry on the weight of the survey.

Cllr Adcock asked about the translation, she was interested how it goes from survey to factual? Mr Warder explained that it is down to the CLT and development to source and purchase the land. It would not be down to APC to purchase the land. Cllr Adcock asked can CLT directors’ benefit from occupying the affordable homes. Mr Warder stated they can but allocation is a very open and transparent process.

Mr Vernon Reynolds stated that surely before discussing land and permission, a survey needs to be done first and asked Mr Warder next steps. Mr Warder said typically it is the Parish Council that commission the survey. Clerk clarified that no decision is being made today. There has been a need identified for a housing survey but costs need to be considered. It was decided that Mr Warder would attend the Annual Assembly to provide a presentation on the survey and then it will be an agenda in due course when a decision will be made whether it is something the Council move forward with.

Mrs Sylvia Daw said that some residents may be reluctant to put personal financial information on the form. Mr Warder confirmed it is tick box figures and no personal banking detail.

A Vanessa Savage asked if members of the public can attend the CLT meetings, Mr Warder confirmed they can. She also asked if a site is identified whether surrounding plot owners are identified and involved. Mr Warder confirmed that CLTs are in their infancy and that a lot needs to happen first before people start to get excited about a site. Cllr Beechey asked about capturing data from those who don’t live in the village but would like to live here due to family links, working in the village etc but are not able due to lack of affordable housing. Mr Warder confirmed that they can capture that data by widely publicising the survey which is not limited to those already living here.

**7. Questions from the Floor**

- Mrs Sylvia Daw asked on behalf of the Players if they could share or put a noticeboard up on the side of the village store near the Parish Councils one. Mr Butcher said they may be able to use part of the AWMH noticeboard if there is space. Clerk will find out who gives permission for a noticeboard to be put up.