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 17th June 2019**

**Present:**

Cllr J Watkins [Chair] Cllr S Daw

Cllr N Beechey [Vice Chair] Cllr S Rabagliati

Cllr V Cooper Cllr C Adcock

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 16 members of the public

**38. Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**39. Public Questions**

1. Mr Bill Rendall asked about the public bridleway going down from the High Street as it is very over grown. Cllr Watkins explained that this is ESCC’s responsibility and it will be reported. Action.

2. Mr Bill Rendall asked about the Pleasant Rise Campsite. Cllr Adcock reported that the enforcement notice has been appealed by the owners, more information will follow about this in due course.

3. Mr Neil Parkinson asked if he could get the Sculpture information before the public date as he is not able to attend, Clerk will get the information to him. Action.

4. Mrs Vanessa Rowlands attended the meeting as she is a candidate for the South Downs National Park East Sussex Constituency which is being voted on at the meeting. Mrs Rowlands explained that she has recently been appointed as a Parish Councillor for Cuckmere Valley and has put herself forward for nomination as she feels that the Valley needs more of a voice and that we can all work together as the Valley is heavily visited by tourists and we need to be able to have a say.

Cllr Watkins explained that the ballot paper had been received after the agenda cut off but as the deadline is the 21st June, it needs to be discussed and agreed at this meeting. Chair opened it up to Councillors. Cllr Beechey supported nominating Mrs Rowlings and also Mr McBeth, for the reason that he from Ditchling and they have similar issues to Alfriston in terms of being a beautiful historic village with a traffic issue. It was thought we could share ideas and he had, on paper, a strong track record in local government. All Councillors agreed to nominate Mrs Rowlings and Mr McBeth. This motion was proposed by Cllr Beechey and seconded by Cllr Adcock.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

1. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

No report and attendance.

1. **Report from Cllr Stephen Shing [ESCC]**

Cllr Stephen Shing attended the meeting and gave a report. It can be found in full under Appendix B.

1. **Report from Cllr Michael Lunn [WDC]**

Cllr Michael Lunn was unable to attend the meeting but has sent in a report which can be found

under Appendix C.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Ray Savage was not present, no apologies received.

1. **Declaration of interests**

Cllr Adcock declared an interest in the planning application for Kings Ride as it is on her property boundary.

1. **Minutes**

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Cooper seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2019 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Watkins duly signed the minutes.

1. **Finance**

46.1 To approve the Statement of Finances and sign invoices for payment

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

[Appendix A]. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

46.2 To approve and adopt Standing Orders 2019

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Adcock seconded a motion to approve the 2019 Standing Orders.

**MOTION CARRIED**

The Clerk explained that in order to update the Santander bank signatories, it needs to be minuted that the Parish Council agree for Cllr Watkins to be added as a signatory. This was agreed and Cllr Daw proposed and Cllr Cooper seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

1. **To agree a Trustee for the Tye due to a vacancy**

Clerk reported that due to Cllr White no longer being a Councillor there is a vacancy for a Trustee. Cllr Beechey nominated Cllr Daw and this was seconded by Cllr Adcock. **MOTION CARRIED.**

1. **Report on Highways & Twittens – Cllr Rabagliati**

Cllr Rabagliati reported that he and most of the other Councillors attended the Lead Member meeting today, where the recommendations from the report on the traffic light trial were put before the recently ex-ESCC Lead Member for Transport and Environment, Cllr Nick Bennett.  The recommendation was that a traffic signal scheme is not progressed and instead that a package of village-wide measures is taken forward and consulted on.

APC is sure that those present will already be aware that the report recommendations were accepted, and the Lead Member agreed not to continue with the traffic light scheme, agreeing also that the way forward would be to work with the various stakeholder organisations to agree and progress a series of measures for a village and valley wide solution.

Cllr Rabagliati reported that the measures to be included in this package include:

* + village wide 20mph speed limits
  + promoting an environment more conducive for pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists
  + Update waiting restrictions in the High Street
  + Village Gateway signing
  + Measures to restrict HGV access through the village

Cllr Bennett confirmed that a stakeholder meeting would be held to discuss next steps but no measures were confirmed. APC thanked those who have worked for this result and look forward to an active involvement in the future dialogue. At the Lead Member Meeting there was little discussion about other measures that might be included, however, it was suggested by Neil Parkinson on behalf of Conserve Alfriston that their proposals be taken as a starting point. There was also a discussion about enforcement of measures such as speed limits, parking restrictions and pavement mounting.  These are all criminal offences and, as such, are enforceable only by the police.  Until Wealden apply to de-criminalise parking enforcement there will be no enforcement unfortunately.  Anyone wishing to lobby Wealden District Council to modify their stance on this is encouraged to do so. The next step for this ongoing story will be for Cllr Clare Dowling, the new Lead Member for Transport, to be briefed and for a meeting to be scheduled of the stakeholder forum.  APC will participate in this.

Cllr Beechey suggested that next steps should be to write a letter to ESCC to thank them for this decision and to state that APC are keen to lead the way forward in looking at alternative measures. This was agreed by all Cllrs. He said that we are best placed to know what problems exist and to suggest the best ways to deal with them and we need to take the lead to avoid the cheapest, bog standard measures being taken. Cllr Beechey urged APC to consider at the next meeting whether, in principle, it should take out a Public Loans Board loan to finance a scheme that is really special and works. Cllr Rabagliati will draft a letter to ESCC as agreed and circulate to Councillors. Action.

Cllr Rabagliati provided updates on the below areas:

* Although partly superseded by today’s events, 2 weeks ago, Cllr Rabagliati attended a meeting with Neil Parkinson of Conserve Alfriston, Vanessa Rowlands of Cuckmere Parish Council and Maria Caulfield, MP for Lewes to discuss a possible ‘coalition’ of stakeholder organisations and bodies with the intention of developing and progressing a series of valley-wide measures to address the traffic management issues. Maria Caulfield is very keen to support efforts to ensure a sensitive solution to the issue of traffic management in Alfriston and across the wider Cuckmere valley.
* A27 Improvements (East of Lewes).  APC have reviewed the Highways England documents and plans for improvements to the A27.  Specifically, the widening of the Drusillas’ roundabout will be of interest to parishioners.  The plans include widening of the roundabout, widening of entry lanes to 2 lanes and upgrading the crossing to ‘Pegasus’ standard. APC has made representation within the consultation period, expressing concerns that the changes may create difficulties and delays for traffic coming from Alfriston and Berwick in getting on to the roundabout. It was suggested that improved signage and measures are incorporated to enforce the 7.5 Ton limit on the C39 and the need to rationalise the clutter of signage at the roundabout. APC have heard back from Tom Beasley of Highways England, who reassures us that APC’s concerns are being factored in.
* SCATE.  There is to be a public meeting at Selmeston Village Hall on 26th June for an update on the A27 dual carriageway project.  Cllr Rabagliati will attend and update on this at the next APC meeting.
* SE Water works in the High Street, January 2020.  There is to be a public meeting here at the War Memorial Hall on 29th October, where SE Water will be discussing their plans and taking questions.  APC Councillors have also been invited to a pre-meeting on this subject and should be in a position to update at the next Council Meeting.
* In the next few days a task volunteer force will be undertaking a walk around the village to inspect and note the state of the Highways and Twittens with a view to prioritising a list of future work to be undertaken

1. **Report on Allotments – Cllr Cooper**

Cllr Cooper reported that three plots have been taken recently which means only a few outstanding and will then be a full house hopefully.

1. **Report on Rights of Way and Countryside – Cllr Daw**

Cllr Daw reported that cyclists are still coming down Kings Ride at fast and dangerous speeds. Signage was discussed a while ago and was apparently put up. Clerk will check this and liaise with Cllr Daw. Action.

1. **Report on Car Parks and Public Transport – Cllr Savage**

Cllr Beechey reported that a meeting was held with Wealden District Council [WDC] last week with Cllr Watkins, the Clerk and himself. There seem to be two possible options for the future management of the car parks: WDC take the whole car park back in house and APC have no involvement, or WDC give APC a full lease on a 10-year term, which would mean everything would become APC’s responsibility; so APC would obtain all the income but bear re cost of all expenditure too. WDC are doing some number crunching over the new few weeks, as will the Clerk as it finances need to be looked at very carefully. The two public toilets run at a high cost and WDC say they are running the car parks at a loss. Cllr Beechey explained at the meeting he stated that 10 years is not a long time for a lease. It was also raised that WDC would expect some ground rent. Cllr Adcock asked for plenty of time to consider the costings and asked whether SDNPA should be consulted. As it is WDC’s land, they can do as they wish so there is no need to consult SDNPA at this time. WDC have said they want the future situation settled by September.

1. **Report on Strategic Planning – Cllr Daw**

Cllr Daw reported that she is attending a focus group on the 2nd July which is about Anti-Social Behavior and vandalism. There will be a report at the next meeting.

It was raised that APC could look into implementing a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Adcock stated they can be useful if having potential large project, but do we know what we are facing? It was agreed that as we do not know what are facing this is worth exploring. Cllr Daw will look into this and report back at the next meeting.

1. **Report on Tye and Recreation Ground – Cllr Beechey**

53.1 Update on Tye footpath

Cllr Beechey reported that it is still ongoing with SDNPA.

53.2 Update on Playground

Cllr Beechey reported that the annual playground inspection has been done and comments have been raised about the seesaw, slide and swings. Cllr Beechey and Clerk to look into this as well as look at other alternative playground equipment.

53.3 Recreation ground access

Cllr Beechey said that APC had received a report of travellers trying to access the Recreation Ground last weekend, although this has not occurred before in anyone’s memory it may be prudent to secure the access points from the Broadway onto the Rec. It was agreed that the Clerk would look at the possibilities and get costings for the next meeting. Action.

Cllr Beechey also reported that a chain has been installed at the far end of the Tye to stop vehicle access onto the Tye and that the water fountain has been fixed. Cllr Daw reported a bench next to the Clergy House which the Clerk will arrange removal and a broken bollard was identified at the top of the Tye path. Clerk will get this removed. Action.

1. **Report from Planning Committee – Cllr Adcock**

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

**SDNP/19/02497/LIS** 9 North Street, Alfriston

Install secondary glazing behind existing windows

*No objections raised by the Parish Council.*

**SDNP/19/02654/HOUS** Pailin House, 6 Kings Ride, Alfriston

First floor extension

*Cllr Adcock did not chair this application due to declaring an interest*

*Objections were raised by the Planning Committee as the application is considered an overdevelopment of the site and does not sit sympathetically within the street scene.*

**SDNP/19/02424/LIS** Burnt House, Whiteway, Alfriston

Proposed lean to brick and tiled extension to the south elevation to an existing Grade II Listed dwelling. Removal of existing brick steps on the east elevation and replacement with a metal balcony.

*The Planning Committee neither support nor object to this application, but are neutral. The Committee accept the rationale for the application. Concerns were raised about the inappropriate angle of the proposed porch roof pitch in relation to the rest of the building. If permission is granted they ask that restrictions are put in place, under the dark skies policy, for the roof lights and the glazed covering over the door.*

54.2 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

54.3 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

**SDNP/19/01852/TCA** Orchard House, West Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UX

**SDNP/19/01153/HOUS** Sloe Cottage, West Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UN

**SDNP/19/02012/LIS** Cinders Cottage, 3 West Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UX

**SDNP/19/01919/CND** Goodings, Sloe Lane, Alfriston, BN26 5UT

54.4 Enforcement Updates

Cllr Adcock reported that the parking signs at The Star Inn have been reported and the enforcement officer was looking at them on Monday so should get an update soon. Pleasant Rise Campsite have appealed the enforcement notice.

**55.**  **Reports from Outside Bodies**

*55.1 Heartstart*: no report.

*55.2 Alfriston Emergency Group*: Mr Vernon Reynolds reported that there was flooding in the village on the 10th June, AEG attended and managed to clear the water. They have recenty helped ESCC put up the new signs at the White Bridge. Mr Reynolds said following the travellers attempt to gain access to the Rec, AEG would be happy to install the gates. He suggested that as there are funds in the pot for the bus stop, could they be used for the gates? Mr Reynolds also wanted it noted that it was good of Mr Andrew Keer of ESCC to thank AEG for their work re the traffic light trial at the Lead Member Meeting.

*55.3 Flood Forum* – no report.

*55.4 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report

55.5 *Twinning Committee* – no report

55.6 *Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect* – no report.

*55.7 St Andrew’s Church* – Ms Diana Monteath-Wilson reported that the work is being done on the spire and completion date has been set as the end of July.

*55.8 Clergy House* – Mrs Sylvia Daw reported 9,000 visitor’s year to date so this is up from last year. They will be opening Fridays in July and August. On Wednesday 19th and Thurs 20th June, work will be undertaken to obtain a confirmed date of when the house was built. It was reported that the new Rector met with Holly at Clergy House recently and will be working together.

*55.9 Cuckmere Buses* – no report.

**56.** **Correspondence to The Clerk**

1. Clerk reported that the British Heart Foundation have asked if they could position two marshalls and a first aider at the Kissing Gate Walk on Saturday 13th July for the South Downs Way Off Road bike ride. This was agreed by Councillors.
2. A request has come in from a couple who are getting married at the AWMH in August 2020, they have asked if it is possible to put a tee-pee style tent out on the grass area outside the doors for children to sit in for some quiet time. The tent is 3x3m wide and 2m high. APC agreed that they could under the conditions that no food or drink is served inside, that only children access the tent and it is put up and removed on the same day. St Andrews needs to be consulted about this as it would be situated on the Glebeland so Clerk will do this prior to responding to the couple. Action.
3. Clerk reported that Mr Dan Larkin has responded about the tree queries, he has confirmed that the tree at the top of Star Lane has died. The two trees on the Tye, the Copper Beech and Mountain Ash can both be moved in Autumn/Winter so this will be done and Mr Larkin will move the most appropriate one to replace the dead tree in Star Lane. An annual tree inspection will take place shortly, Clerk to liaise with Mr Larkin. Action.
4. Alfriston School have asked for an A board in the Square for the week from the 19th August and a Tye Road closure on the Bank Holiday Monday from 08:00 – 16:00. Both requests were granted permission by Councillors.
5. Two grant requests have come in, one from Cuckmere Buses for £200 and one from Cuckmere Flood Forum for £70. Both were granted last year at the same amounts and Clerk confirmed this was budgeted for. Permission was granted and Clerk to arrange payment. Action.

**57. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 7.15 pm on **Monday 15th July 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 Adrian Butcher reported that signs have gone up on Kings Ride for cyclists but they are very small and have white writing so can’t be seen. Cyclists are now also speeding down the twittens. Clerk will raise the signs with ESCCC. Action.
3. Mrs Vassell asked could the smaller gap in the hedge on the Rec which could be an access point, could it be filled with a hedge? It was agreed it would be considered.
4. Mr Adrian Butcher stated that the teepee tent under Clerks Correspondence could be placed on the patio as it is part of the Village Hall.
5. Mrs Vassell asked could be hedgerow at the back of the Recreation ground be looked at when the volunteers do a village walkaround.
6. Mrs Vassell stated it is excellent that so many allotment plots are being taken up but can anything be done about those plots that are renewed each year but are not attended. Clerk to look into this as there should be something in the allotment contract re this. Action.
7. Mrs Vassell asked could the Neighbourhood Plan look at the change of use for some properties i.e. looking at the problem/issue of rented properties being changed into holiday lets. Cllr Daw will look into this.
8. Mrs Katie Salmon reported that hedgerows are encroaching again on pavements. It was confirmed these would be noted on the village walkaround. Mrs Salmon also reported that she feels that the money given for the bus stop should not be used for the gate at the Recreation as that was not the reason that residents donated the money, it was for a bus stop. Councillors agreed.
9. Mr Neil Parkinson said it was a good day for the village following the decision for no traffic lights. He wanted his thanks noted to all Councillors past and present who pushed for this result as this has been going on for a long time. Thanks also to Cllr Shing and MP Maria Caulfield for their support. He said we now need to move forward and decide how to proceed; it would be good to move forward together with APC and Conserve Alfriston. It was suggested a sub-committee meeting could be formed on which non-Councillors could sit. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
10. Mr Vernon Reynolds asked for an update on the Housing Needs Survey. The Clerk reported that the funds have now been received from Alfriston CLT so Mr Tom Warder at Action in Rural Sussex [AiRS] is due to send the first invoice which as soon as payment has been received, AiRS will commence the survey.



Signed: Victoria Rutt – Clerk and RFO

**APPENDIX A**

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**APPENDIX B**

Report from Cllr Stephen Shing, East Sussex County Council

Consultation on the proposal to cease the meals in the community subsidy. The consultation will run for 10 weeks, and close on 6 August 2019. In February 2019, around 750 people received a subsidy of £4.10 per meal on a full cost of between £4 and £8 per meal. In addition, two lunch clubs (28 clients) in the county receive the subsidy.

The proposal would mean that people would pay the full cost of their meal if they wanted to carry on using this service. It is important to note that the proposal is not to close services, rather to stop offering the subsidy which is not means tested. The Council budgeted to spend nearly £500,000 on the subsidy last year.

 The consultation sets out East Sussex County Council (ESCC) plans to improve the way we support working age adults, to build on people’s strengths and maximise their independence, and achieve better and more cost-effective care. The closing date is 13 August 2019.

ESCC research has shown that ESCC spend more on packages of care for working age adults than similar local authorities. ESCC providing long-term care to more people and have a higher number who are receiving their care in a residential setting. ESCC had a budgeted spend on working age adults of nearly £50 million net last year. There are currently over 2,500 working age adults receiving a long-term package of care from ESCC. ESCC planning to save £247,000 from the budget this year.

**Eastbourne Airborne weekend**

Have been working with East Dean Parish in 2013 for providing temporary traffic lights for the Eastbourne Airborne weekend in Exceat Bridge, it is working very well and is going for provide temporary traffic lights at the Eastbourne Airborne weekend in August.

**Update on the Replacement Exceat Bridge**

The first Design Review Panel met with the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), who are the planning authority, took place in May, to start discussions around the new bridge design and alignment options.

Planning Application Submission to South Downs National Park target in early 2020.

**Seven Sisters Country Park**

Lead Member for Resources, Councillor Nick Bennett today, 17-6-2019, approved the publication of Notices in relation to the following transfers: (a) Ditchling Common Country Park to be leased to the Sussex Wildlife Trust for a peppercorn rent through a long lease with the S106 funds for the Ditchling Common Management Contribution (c £400k) also transferred;(b) The freehold of Ouse Estuary Nature Reserve to be transferred to Newhaven Town Council subject to the final terms being agreed for this and Riverside Park;(c) Riverside Park to be leased to Newhaven Town Council for a peppercorn rent and for the lease to be subject to appropriate restrictions in relation to the history of the site as a former landfill site.

To award South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) preferred bidder status with a view to transferring the freehold of Seven Sisters Country Park subject to the completion of an agreement regarding the terms of the transfer. To delegate authority to the Director of CET to agree the terms of any transfer and to publish notices in relation to the transfer. These terms will include (a) reference to the preliminary negotiation and offer from SDNPA submitted in December 2018 and (b) negotiation of a clawback clause such that the County Council would benefit from the proceeds from any future sale, transfer or development.

I am strongly opposed to transfer of the Seven Sisters Country Park.

But I happy to support the transfer of the other sites as no objections

Seven Sisters Country Park is a unique iconic status of ESCC and valuable asset of ESCC.  It needs a good management to promote it further, it is unthinkable that our council want to Transfer that mean give it away, just because potential maintenances cost.

Currently Seven Sisters Country Park is no cost to our council, instead there is surplus income in the region of £35k from Seven Sisters Country Park car park. The SDNPA bid envisages £1.4m of investment at SSCP with ambitions for a further £7m, there is No guarantee the further £7m will be invested and the time scale. Once the Seven Sisters Country Park freehold is transferred, that will be the end of it for ESCC. Our council will lost it asset forever, there is no clawback value have been recommended yet.

The site currently is protected by the site’s planning and nature conservation

designations, and that most of the land was designated ‘open access’ land.

This could be change of use or it boundary or change the policy by central government or ownerships, all those factors is unknown and not control by our council, the further expect value will increase.

**APPENDIX C**

Report from Cllr Michael Lunn, Wealden District Council

**Waste and Recycling**

A number of residents have contacted me regarding the opt pay for service green garden bin collection which is charged at £50 per annum. Some elderly residents are struggling to register and pay as cheques are no longer accepted by the District Council. If you are aware of any such cases please direct them to Customer services at the Wealden District Council in the first instance and inform me. I am keen to understand how big a problem it is.

**Pevensey Levels and Cuckmere Valley Waterways Board**

As your District Council representative, I raised the ongoing concerns regarding the shingle at the river mouth. The Environment Agency have indicated that they have no plans and no budget to clear the shingle in the short term. The Board agreed to write to the Minister and copy in local Members of Parliament. The issue has now been elevated to severe risk, meaning that properties within Alfriston are now at risk from flooding, although the Environment Agency have assured me that if that were to be the case pumps would be re-installed. However, I am seeking a long-term solution. There are also proposals to pass the asset to South Down National Park Authority for long term management and this may allow investment and greater resources to resolve the issue.

**ESCC Traffic Management**

Although this is an ESCC issue, I can confirm that representations were made to ESCC at the highest levels to ensure residents views were duly taken into account. I welcome the opportunity to have a more constructive and valley wide approach to traffic modelling and will keep a close eye on these issues.

**South Downs National Park Authority**

Although I have been appointed on the Board no meetings have taken place yet. First meetings due in July where I will be able to give the Parish Council more of an update.

Cllr Michael Lunn

17th June 2019