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 15th July 2019**

**Present:**

 Cllr J Watkins [Chair] Cllr S Daw

 Cllr N Beechey [Vice Chair] Cllr S Rabagliati

 Cllr V Cooper Cllr C Adcock

 Cllr R Savage

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

 Approximately 16 members of the public

**59. Chairman’s Welcome**

 Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**60. Public Questions**

1. Mr Hugh Chapman explained that he lives on the corner of Kings Ride and Broadway. It has been raised in the past but cyclists continue to come down off the South Downs Way at such speed, at least 20mph and it is very dangerous. If you are driving along the Broadway, you don’t see them and they don’t see you until it is too late. A sign has gone up but it is very small and low so can’t be seen clearly. Signage was a good attempt but it is not working. There is now loose gravel at the bottom of the track which is making the situation more dangerous. There needs to be a different solution. As there was an event last week, it was suggested that organisers of these events can send out information to the riders to inform them, also that they need to get off their bike and push it across the White Bridge, not speed across it on their bikes. Clerk will speak to ESCC about this again. Action 1.

2. Mrs Katie Salmon said that there are weeds coming out of the guttering, it looks so messy. Clerk to speak to East Sussex Highways about this. Action 2.

3. Mr Graham Clarke stated that as he has restored the model of the Village, it now needs somewhere to be displayed. Does anyone have any ideas? Clerk to send out an email about this. Action 3.

1. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

No report and attendance.

1. **Report from Vanessa Rowlands – SDNPA, Parish rep for East Sussex**

Mrs Vanessa Rowlands attended the meeting and wished to thank the Parish Council for their support and nomination to SDNPA. She found out she had been accepted on the 27th June and attended induction the following day. The first full Committee was held on the 2nd July, the local plan was adopted at that meeting which was great after such a long period. It is available online to look at. Mrs Rowlands reported that she effectively wears two hats, Parish Councillor for Cuckmere Valley and also as member of the SDNPA. She was voted onto the Authority by the Parishes of East Sussex, but is not there as a representative. SDPNA members regard themselves first and foremost as Members of the Authority and would act in the best interests of the National park as a whole, rather than as representatives of their appointing body or any interest groups.

There will be workshops for Parish Councils in October 2019. The SDNP have developed a Citizen Panel which anyone can attend, further information can be found here:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/discover/research/citizens-panel/>

The full committee and the Policy committee both meet 6 times a year. Mrs Rowlands will also sit on the working group for the Seven Sisters Country Park, this should be going through in April 2020. SDNP will be celebrating 10 years this year, information for this will be published on Friday. Mrs Rowland’s email for anything SDNPA related is Vanessa.Rowlands@southdowns.gov.uk

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

Cllr Stephen Shing reported that there is a cabinet meeting being held tomorrow, on the agenda is County Council expenditure. They have a defect of £20 million so they need to either receive more money from the Government or more cuts to local services could happen again. Cllr Savage stated that he had a video he would like to send Cllr Shing about the creation of money, he will email it over.

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

Cllr Michael Lunn reported on the new process for garden waste. It is an opt-in/opt-out process and costs £50 per annum. If any residents have issues opting in and/or paying for it on a debit card please contact the Customer Service Dept in the first instance. Cllr Lunn sits on the Pevensey and Cuckmere Haven Inland Water Board which is a stakeholder group consisting of the Environment Agency [EA], Wealden District Council [WDC] and SDNPA. It was a heated and challenging debate and the issue has now been raised as severe as it is affecting the flow of the river. A letter has been sent from above to EA to ask them to clear the shingle ASAP. The EA have stated it has cost them £30k to clear in the past, it has now increased to £60k. County Council have proposed sale of the assets of Seven Sister Country Park to SDNPA, Cllr Lunn is supportive of it and would like to see an office from SDNPA over this way. If there are any enforcement issues, please let Cllr Lunn know so he can chase them. Those who have opted out of the brown bins these will be collected, there is no date as yet and there are a lot around the Village. Cllr Lunn has confirmed he will find out a date so they do not have to sit out in the streets awaiting collection. Action 4 for Cllr Lunn to find an exact date for their collection.

1. **Apologies for absence**

No apologies received.

1. **Declaration of interests**

Cllr Cooper declared an interest in agenda item 77.3 as her huband has provided a quote for the gates.

Cllr Savage declared an interest in agenda item 78.1 as he is part land owner of one of the applications.

1. **Minutes**

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Cooper seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2019 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Watkins duly signed the minutes.

1. **Finance**

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

Clerk read out the statement of finances, there were a few questions. Cllr Beechey asked about the broken bollard on the Tye. Clerk explained that Trowell Building Services were asked to quote for the work, they did not provide a quote but undertook the work, without being asked and billed APC a significant cost. Clerk has spoken with the Chair and it was agreed by them that this invoice would be paid but APC should not use them again due to the cost.

Cllr Rabagliati asked about the electricity bill for the clock, it was explained that this was a 6-month bill and it is always high due to the standing charges. Cllr Adcock asked about the Housing Needs Survey as she thought a grant was being received for this. Clerk confirmed that this is being paid by a grant which APC have now received and Action in Rural Sussex have been commissioned to undertake the survey.

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

 [Appendix A]. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

 68.2 To approve Quarterly Audit for Q1 2019-20

 The quarterly audit for Q1 2019-20 has been circulated via email to all Councillors.

 Cllr. Adcock proposed and Cllr. Savage seconded a motion to approve the Q1 audit for 2019-20.

 **MOTION CARRIED**

1. **To discuss and agree a way forward with APC’s business phone line from landline to mobile**

Clerk reported that part of her role is to try and save the Parish Council money. Looking at the phone system that was set up when Clerk took over the role, it is an expensive system which is not being used. Clerk receives on average 1-2 calls a week, mostly sales with the occasional resident call, the Clerk hardly uses the phone as either communicates via email or her own mobile phone. The costings for this system are high, between £230 - £325 every 3 months. There could be a huge saving made if it was agreed for the Clerk to purchase a standard mobile phone contract and use that for all calls. As the Clerk is in the process of purchasing a house, the business address for APC will need to be changed so perfect time to change phone number also. All Councillors agreed that this was a good idea. Cllr Savage proposed and Cllr Rabagliati seconded a motion to change the phone system. **MOTION CARRIED.**

1. **To discuss and agree a way forward for a sub-committee re traffic calming measures**

Cllr Watkins stated that as the decision has been made to have no traffic lights, there needs to be a way forward and a sub-committee has been discussed previously. Cllr Watkins asked Cllr Daw and she stated that it is a good idea and that there is a need to involve everyone that has been a big part of the lights not happening. Cllr Beechey was asked for his thoughts, he stated that it is a good idea and a sub-committee is the best way forward but it needs to be as small as possible, Cllr Beechey suggested APC Highways portfolio holder, 1-2 members from Conserve Alfriston and Mrs Vanessa Rowlands from SDNPA and Cuckmere Valley Parish Council. Chair and Vice Chair for APC are automatic members of Committees. The sub-committee would be a reporting committee to full Council and would not have decision-making powers. There are a number of documents that have been drawn up; TPA, Conserve Alfriston but there is the opportunity to start afresh as there was always a focus on trying to find what might be an acceptable alternative to traffic lights. Cllr’s Daw and Cooper were supportive of this. Cllr Rabagliati agreed on the membership and suggested that Maria Caulfield MP should be added to the membership. He also stated that the remit for the sub-committee should be to look at ideas and funding, build consensus and see the implementation of sensitive traffic calming measures, loosely based on the foundations of the Conserve Alfriston proposals but not gospel, but in order to develop. Cllr Adcock agreed with the membership and remit but feels there needs to be a way that the Village could feed in ideas so they feel like they have contributed, it was confirmed that the meeting would be a public meeting and minuted. Cllr Savage agreed with the way forward. Clerk to arrange the meeting. Action 5.

1. **To discuss the proposed sculpture following the public consultation**

Clerk reported that the public consultation for the proposed sculpture was circulated with a deadline date of 12th July. The sculpture group held a presentation at the Village stores on the 29th June. The Clerk has received 16 responses; 10 for the Sculpture and 6 against it. Of the 10 for it, 5 of them were against it being on the Tye. Cllr Watkins opened up the meeting so Cheryl from the Sculpture Group could report, she stated that they received 116 signatures from residents and they all want it on the Tye. It is not known if any of these 116 contacted the Clerk as paperwork has not been seen or provided. Cllr Adcock asked had it been decided what the sculpture would be placed on. Cheryl said it has not been looked into yet as they were awaiting a decision but they feel that a slab of concrete would be best. Clerk asked had an insurance company confirmed that they will provide insurance as APC’s insurance have said they would not cover. Cheryl stated that they have received confirmation from a company who would insure it. Cllr Savage raised the safety concerns and the need for a safety audit on it. Cllr Adcock likes the thought of a Sculpture but has concerns over the safety aspect, as has Cllr Daw and Cllr Cooper. Cllr Watkins explained that she has heard there is going to be a Trust set up for the Sculpture who will be responsible for its maintenance, insurance, ongoing costs etc. It was explained that from the number of responses received by APC, the Tye was not the preferred location. Cllr Daw proposed and seconded by Cllr Beechey that the Tye is not the proposed location. Cllr Savage proposed the Tye as the location, this was seconded by Cllr Adcock. A vote then took place and the results were Cllr’s Savage, Adcock, Rabagliati and Cooper for the Tye, and Cllr’s Daw and Beechey against the Tye. The vote show in principle support for the sculpture and Tye as location but health and safety need to be looked into as well as planning permission.

1. **Report on Highways & Twittens – Cllr Rabagliati**
	1. High Street Update

Cllr Rabagliati reported that a response has been received by Cllr Claire Dowling, new lead member at ESCC for Transport and she has stated that a Stakeholder meeting will be arrange for mid-September.

* 1. Tidying up the Village

Cllr Rabagliati said that he felt that the Village is very messy at the moment, he did a recent walk around with Cllr’s Daw and Adcock and they have created a list of things that need doing. An advert is going to be published for volunteers and it can be found under Appendix B. The tree warden report will be shared with all Councillors once received. Clerk to speak to id verde about supplying dates prior to them attending so they can be met with to ensure they are strimming the correct areas.

Cllr Beechey asked as on the subject of tidying the Village, could the person who constantly parks their vehicle on double yellows outside the Village store over the weekend be spoken to again. Clerk confirmed numerous letters have been sent and no response. It was suggested that a visit would be tried and if not, it will be escalated. Action 6.

* 1. South East Water pre meet re January 2020

Cllr Rabagliati updated that there was a pre-meeting held on the 9th July with South East Water to discuss the upcoming water mains work starting in January 2020, from Willows car park to Tye Road in 4 phases. They confirmed that the Willows car park would not be affected, three coach bays in the Willows will be used for them and the Dene car park will not be closed but at times the exit may become two way if agreed by Highways. There is a public meeting being held on the 29th October for residents and businesses to receive an update and ask questions. There may be a separate meeting being arranged for Traders. Concerns have been raised regarding all the paint over the High Street following the survey work, contractors have said it will biodegrade within 6/8 weeks but it was felt they should come and clean it away sooner. Cllr Adcock has a concern that they are going to dig up the pavement, Cllr Watkins confirmed that they said they will preserve the bricks where they can or purchase new ones that match. Cllr Rabagliati suggested APC ask SE water to contribute to having a small party at the end of the works to publish that the village is back open and to encourage visitors back to the Village. Cllr Savage stated it is very unfair on businesses and he feels that they could undertake the work a lot quicker. Cllr Watkins confirmed that there will be further updates once the survey results have been returned. Cllr Rabagliati to draft a letter to SE Water. Action 7.

Cllr Daw attended a SKATE meeting about the A27, she reported that there is still difficulty with getting on the roundabout from Alfriston but it is still going ahead and no further update as yet.

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

Cllr Cooper reported that the allotments are very untidy so a letter was sent to all plot holders last week. A request has come in for a plot holder to ask a tree surgeon to look at something on his plot, this was agreed but Clerk to check if this was at his expense or APC’s. A request has come in for a small skip for the day in order for plot holders to do a good clear out, this was agreed. A request has come in for a small bonfire on the 5th November to do one final clear up, again this was agreed.

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

Cllr Daw reported that the walk along the South Downs Way, used for the Duke of Edinburgh award, from the top of Weavers Lane which emerges at the bottom of the drive of Pleasant Rise campsite is not well sign posted and very over grown. This needs to be reported to SDNPA and Mrs Vanessa Rowlands stated she will chase this up.

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

Cllr Savage reported nothing to update. Clerk reported that she has nearly completed APC’s costings for the car park and we are still awaiting costings from Wealden. Clerk has chased this and is attending WDC’s offices next week so will chase again. For clarification, APC as yet do not have a decision to make as we need to await whether the car park will be offered to APC. Once a decision is made by WDC, a meeting will be arranged for Councillors to agree a way forward; whether we fight for the car park, take the lease over or decline the lease for the car park. This is ongoing and Councillors will be updated when further information is provided.

1. **Report on Strategic Planning – Cllr Daw**
	1. Report on the focus group on ASB and vandalism

 Cllr Daw attended a meeting that focused on Anti-Social Behaviour and Vandalism. She was asked how safe she felt in the Village out of 10, 10 being safe. Cllr Daw gave Alfriston a 10, others gave their Village a 3 or 4. There is no full report for this meeting as yet as Cllr Daw and Clerk are awaiting the minutes but this will be an ongoing meeting that APC will attend and Cllr Daw will be speaking to other Parish Councils who have employed a Police warden due to no Police in the Village anymore.

* 1. Update on Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Daw had nothing to report at this time, it is still ongoing.

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

77.1 Update on Tye footpath

Cllr Beechey reported that it is still ongoing with SDNPA, a meeting is being held next week with Mr Boyson.

77.2 Update on Playground

Cllr Beechey reported that this is still ongoing.

77.3 To update and agree securing access points to the Recreation Ground

Cllr Beechey updated on the access points to the Recreation Ground off the Broadway. It was considered that a hedge could be planted to bridge the smaller gap but the tree warden said it is too dry and dark for the hedge to grow so not an option. A quote has been provided by Mr Roger Cooper to install a gate in the small and large gap. No comparison quote as yet but Hailsham Roadways would be considerably more expensive. It was discussed whether it was something that APC want to proceed with. Cllr’s Savage and Rabagliati do not feel that we should spend the money when there is no risk. Cllr Savage stated he spoke to Mr Trevor Leggo at SSALC about it and Mr Leggo said that the risk is minimal given the powers available in East Sussex to move travellers on. Cllrs Daw and Beechey said on our heads be it if travellers do go on the Rec. Cllr Savage proposed that we would not spend public money on these gates when there is no risk, this was seconded by Cllr Adcock.

1. **Report from Planning Committee – Cllr Adcock**
	1. Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting
* *3 The Laines – supported by APC in June.*
* *14 Smugglers Close – supported by APC on 15/07.*
* *Pleasant Rise Farm – supported by APC on 15/07.*
* *Burnt House – neutral support by APC on 15/07.*
* *Chylowen – supported by APC on 15/07.*

Further information on the above can be found on the Planning Committee minutes.

 78.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

 **SDNP/19/02497/LIS** 9 North Street, Alfriston *Supported by SDNPA*

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

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

78.3 Enforcement Updates

Cllr Adcock said there was nothing to report. Clerk asked Cllr Adcock if she had had an update from SDNPA re the Star Inn parking signs as not heard anything. Cllr Adcock will find out. Action 8.

***Cllr Savage left the meeting.***

  **79.**  **Reports from Outside Bodies**

*79.1 Heartstart*: no report.

*79.2 Alfriston Emergency Group*: no report.

*79.3 Flood Forum* – Mr John Hurwood asked would the EA still have access to the pump in Mr Harmer’s field when SE Water as also using the field. This was confirmed that they would, SE Water are aware of this.

*79.4 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report.

79.5 *Twinning Committee* – no report.

79.6 *Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect* – Ms Jilly Byford sent in a report

*79.7 St Andrew’s Church* – Ms Diana Monteath-Wilson was unable to attend but sent a report to the Clerk stating that spire works will be completed by 31st July and that the Alfriston Summer Music Festival will be commencing next week

*79.8 Clergy House* – Cllr Daw reported that the House have received nearly 12,000 visitors this year so far. Stephen Gray is doing a talk this Thursday at 10.30 on ‘The Clergy house as part of the village’.

There is a Children’s summer search running over the school holidays Friday 26th July to Sunday 1st Sept which is a bird themed search around the garden, they are also participating in Trust wide campaign ’50 things to do before you’re 11¾ ‘which encourages families to connect with and explore nature. Each NT property will have different activities to take part in. The House is also looking for second hand book donations if anyone has some.

*79.9 Cuckmere Buses* – no report.

 **80.** **Correspondence to The Clerk**

1. Clerk reported that since the last meeting it has been agreed that the Pre School could use the Tye for the afternoon on 23rd July for their sports race with children and families.
2. Permission granted for the mobile bar and small van to access the Tye for the South Downs Summer Music Festival on the 23rd – 29th July.
3. A request has come in for six spaces to be reserved on Tye Road for the Commemorative dinner being held on Tuesday 20th August 2019. Arrival from 5pm. Councillors discussed and agreed that if the organisers attend Tye Road on 20th August and there are six space available they could cone them off using AEG cones. It would be a need for 4 spaces as they could use the top two reservable bays at the top if permission granted from AWMH and St Andrews.
4. It has been raised that Alfriston’s Facebook page has not been updated in over a year and there are 1,500 followers. Ms Penny Macleod has volunteered to take it on and regularly update. Councillors agreed.
5. A request for a horse to come onto the Tye as part of a wedding celebration on the 21st September was agreed by all Councillors.
6. A resident has asked would more elm trees be planted in Winton Street following the ones removed due to disease. This is not Council’s responsibility but it is understood that elm trees will grow back.
7. A resident has asked whether some free tree packs could be obtained from the Woodland Trust as would love to see more wild flowers along the banks. It was agreed that it is a lovely idea but you can’t just scatter seeds and it is needs organising and maintaining. Clerk to speak to resident.
8. Clerk reported that following previous meeting when decision was made to remove all bins, A boards and flags from the Tye, the owner of the Tavern on the Tye has not removed his two wheelie bins. He has been written too twice and met with. The owner states that they are too heavy for him to lift up the steps, and there is nowhere else for him to store them. He would like APC to reconsider their decision. Councillors discussed and it was agreed that there can’t be one rule for one, and not the other. The previous owners have not had to put them on the Tye. The Clerk has obtained the title deed of the Tye it clearly shows the boundary the Tavern wall so the bins are on the Tye. Cllr Daw said if that part of the road is APC’s property they need to do something about the hedge. Clerk will get this actioned. Action 9.

It was agreed by Councillors that Clerk would write to Tavern on the Tye asking for the removal of the bins from the Tye and that they are only put out on collection day. Action 10.

**81. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 7.15 pm on **Monday 16th September 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 Neil Parkinson wanted to thank APC for inviting Conserve Alfriston to be a part of the sub-committee and supports the need to look for sensitive traffic calming measures. He would hope that the initial meeting would not debate the Conserve Alfriston proposals as there has been a public consultation on them and Mr Parkinson will try his best to present what was raised.
3. Mr Neil Parkinson felt it was strange how APC have run a public consultation for the sculpture, only 16 responses received, 10 were for it but 10 were against having it on the Tye so strange how it is then voted on as individual opinions and not APC and taking into account the consultation. Mr Parkinson feels that APC should now go to the public saying it is clear there is going to be a sculpture in the Village, would you like it on the Tye, Star Lane, Recreation Ground or a Gateway etc.
4. Mrs Vanessa Rowlands suggested that as part of the planning process it may be wise to ask a landscape appraiser to do a walk around of the Village and they can tell you the best place in the Village for it.
5. Cllr Michael Lunn stated that as Wealden District Councillor he has concerns about the planned water works and that you need to have a dedicated project manager, Clerk confirmed there is one in place. He raised that a question should be asked whether the Parish Council or businesses will receive any compensation and put in an end date and say there will be a fixed penalty if it goes beyond that date.
6. Mr John Hurwood asked could something be done about the noise that the lights make in the AWMH. Clerk will report this. He also raised the lack of signs on the South Downs Way, there should be signs on there.

Signed: Victoria Rutt - Clerk and RFO

**APPENDIX A**

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**APPENDIX B**

**ALFRISTON TASK FORCE**

A small group of enthusiastic volunteers met several times last year to tackle untidy areas of the village and we called ourselves the Alfriston Task Force. I am delighted to announce that Stephen Rabagliati and Sylvia Daw are members of this team and together we are building a head of steam to continue and expand efforts. Since the three of us are also Parish Councillors we hope that this will ensure our efforts are integrated with all Council responsibilities.  We want to bring together other groups who are making fantastic contributions to the village including Alfriston Emergency Group, Michael Anderson's litter picking group, Alfriston Traders and a number of individuals who are all volunteering to do their bit in making Alfriston a beautiful place which deserves our care and attention; we want you to join us in our push to make it the best in Sussex.

Following on from efforts last year to tidy up the Willows car park we have put together a to-do list, highlighting areas which require attention.

Why not join the growing band of helpers and make a difference? There are plenty of jobs to suit a wide range of interests and abilities, from keeping a close eye on things and suggesting ideas to cutting back overgrowth, mending signs and finding funding and resources.  Even a couple of hours when you can spare it would be much appreciated.  We plan to hold regular meetings lasting a couple of hours, finishing with a drink and a chat.  All welcome.

If you are interested please contact Caroline on 01323 870536 or cradcock@hotmail.co.uk

There’s no commitment; we will keep you updated and you can join in when and how you can.