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 9th September 2019**

**Present:**

Cllr Watkins [Chair] Cllr Daw

Cllr Cooper Cllr Rabagliati

Cllr Savage

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 9 members of the public

**82. Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**83. Public Questions**

No public questions.

1. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

No report and attendance.

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

No report and attendance.

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

Cllr Michael Lunn reported that he has not received any complaints about the waste bins recently, please ensure he is sent any complaints so he can rectify any issues. He explained that even though a new company is being used, it is mostly the same contractors so they know the layout of the Village so missed bins should not be happening. He explained that he had a debrief with MP Maria Caulfield following the traffic sub-committee and they both support APC. He gave a warning that as the nights are starting to close in, they do see a spike in rural crime so please be vigilant. If you see any non-emergency criminal activity, you need to report via 101 but online is quicker to use - <https://www.sussex.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>

Cllr Lunn said that all households should have received notification about registering for voting. WDC have got an emergency Brexit team meeting regularly to discuss social housing and emergency issues, all big projects are on hold until Brexit is resolved. Litter on the A27 have been raised, this is an ongoing issue which will not stop but trying to get contractors out there to clear up as much as possible. An update on the Seven Sisters Country Park is still ongoing, as and when it transfers over to SDNPA, there should be an office there so it is easier to access than Midhurst. A lengthy discussion was held between Cllr Savage and Cllr Lunn about the Police service and the disappointment in the level of service received. Cllr Lunn ended his report by reminding everyone to let him know of any issues via email - [cllr.michael.lunn@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.michael.lunn@wealden.gov.uk).

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Beechey and Cllr Adcock.

1. **Declaration of interests**

Cllr Rabagliati declared an interest regarding the South East Water issue as he is a trader on the High Street

and Cllr Daw also declared an interest in the same issue as she lives on the High Street and will be affected.

1. **Minutes**

Cllr. Cooper proposed and Cllr. Daw seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the meeting

held on 15th July 2019 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Watkins duly signed the minutes.

1. **Finance**

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

Cllr. Savage 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**

1. **To discuss and agree recommendations from the Traffic Management Sub-Committee**

Cllr Watkins asked had all Councillors received a copy of the proposals drawn up by the Traffic Management Sub-Committee. All Councillors present confirmed that they had received and read them.

Cllr Rabagliati suggested that one addition should be made to the proposals, that a roundel is put in at the entrance of Dene car park, not just the exit. The benefits would be to remove the ambiguity of right of way that exists heading South on West Street and Sloe Lane, discourage cars driving fast on West Street and mark clearly the beginning of our special central zone. All Councillors agreed for this to be added.

Cllr Daw thanked the Committee for all their hard work on this. Cllr Watkins confirmed that a stakeholder meeting is being held on the 25th October where these proposals will be discussed, APC are asking if the meeting could be hosted in the Village instead of County Hall. It will be decided who attends on behalf of APC nearer the time. Due to the length of the proposal document, the Clerk will circulate this with the minutes as a separate appendix. Appendix B.

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

92.1 Taskforce Update

Cllr Rabagliati reported that the task force is a small group of volunteers who give up a few hours to perform lightweight maintenance tasks around the village. They have been meeting up on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings recently and have made some great inroads into tidying up the village streets. So far they have achieved the following:

* Cutting back the trees and vegetation by the Willows car park exit onto North Street, improving visibility and safety at this corner
* Pruning the tree and clearing weeds in the Dene car park adjacent to the public toilets
* Sweeping and clearing the bank by Rose Cottage
* Sweeping Market Square, High Street and West Street
* Clearing vegetation along West Street outside The Old Vicarage.  The owners have kindly offered to arrange for the removal of the accumulated soil.

Huge thanks to all those who have given up their time to help.  Many comments and thanks from villagers and passers-by have been received. The task force has many more jobs on their list and would encourage volunteers to join them for what is a worthwhile way of spending a couple of hours.

92.2 South East Water works update

Cllr Rabagliati reported that positive communication has been happening with SE Water and Clancy Docwra regarding the works starting in January 2020. The original plan was for it to be a 6-month project but this has now been reduced down to 5 months, completing by end of May. There is hope that the time will continue to be reduced as the project is underway. APC have a good working relationship with them and hope this continues. They are holding a public consultation meeting on Tuesday 29th October in the evening where all can attend and ask questions. Businesses have met with the team and a meeting has been arranged to discuss the compensation process.

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

Cllr Cooper reported that a meeting is being held between the Clerk, Cllr Cooper and a plotholder on Wednesday at 10:00 to discuss some issues. A further report will be available at the next meeting.

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

Cllr Daw reported that a few weeks ago, following some strong winds, AEG came straight out to clear the trees in order to reopen the blocked road. A huge thanks to them and Clerk will write to AEG on behalf of APC to thank them. Action 1.

A resident asked Cllr Daw when the dead tree in the triangle would be removed. Cllr Daw confirmed to the resident that this is in hand, our tree warden Dan Larkin will be removing it and replanting a tree there when the time is right.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

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

97.1 Update on Tye footpath

Clerk reported that the Tye path planning application has been approved. Funding options now need to be looked into.

97.2 Update on Playground

Clerk reported that APC are aware of the broken swing and quotes will be brought to the next meeting for discussion and consideration as they need to be replaced ASAP.

The water fountain was discussed as we continue to have issue with it. The water has been turned off but it still continues to leak?! Cllr Daw suggested applying for a grant to have a total replacement. There are grants available but not ones that APC could apply for. Cllr Daw will raise with AEG to see if they would apply for the grant in order to get a new water fountain/ tap on the Tye.

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

98.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

The planning meeting had to be cancelled so no applications have been considered. Planning meeting to be arranged ASAP.

98.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

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

**SDNP/19/02424/LIS** Burnt House, Whiteway, Alfriston *Still ongoing with SDNPA*

**SDNP/19/02543/HOUS** 3 The Laines,The Furlongs, Alfriston *Application was withdrawn*

**SDNP/19/03221/TPO** 14 Smugglers Close, Alfriston, BN26 5TG *No longer on system*

**SDNP/19/03076/FUL** Pleasant Rise Farm, Camp Site, Alfriston, BN26 5TN *Still ongoing with SDNPA*

98.3 Enforcement Updates

No update.

**99.**  **Reports from Outside Bodies**

*99.1 Heartstart*: no report.

*99.2 Alfriston Emergency Group*: Mr David Lewis updated that they have a few new members. There are plans in place for Christmas. He asked could the proposed traffic route for the diversion for SE Water works be sent to him as soon as it is received so they can start planning.

*99.3 Flood Forum* – no report.

*99.4 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report.

99.5 *Twinning Committee* – no report.

99.6 *Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect* – Ms Jilly Byford sent in the following report.

“ACC are due to meet tomorrow night, but since our last meeting we have met with Steve Anthony and Jeremy Dufour of Clancy and South East Water respectively. So far, we have found them helpful in terms of promising to be on site for the duration of the works, and up to now answering traders’ questions as and when asked. We hope this atmosphere of cooperation and understanding will continue throughout the entire project. They seem to appreciate the concerns that traders have in terms of the disruption and possible loss of business, we hope that this will translate into action if the time comes. We will continue to monitor and keep in close contact with both the water company and their contractor.

As a group we are endeavoring to contact other business communities to see if we can learn anything from their experience. It is felt that anything that can be done to make the village more accessible to visitors and local shoppers would be helpful. To that end we are hoping to talk to Wealden Council about suspending parking fees for the duration of the works, create press and PR locally to tell people that we are open for business and ensure that any signage coming towards the village is of a positive nature. SE Water assured us that the digital signs on the A27 and A259 will have the words ‘Village open for business’ prominently at the fore and updated regularly.

In other news, we are sad to see the closure of Wallow, and continued closure of the old Steamer Trading building. It is not good for business if shops stand empty, so we hope that new businesses will take over very soon. On a positive note, we are delighted that The Star is starting a new chapter in it’s long and historical story. We look forward to welcoming Olga Polizzi and her team into the village, and look forward to the grand opening next year. It is hoped that all the businesses will benefit from guests staying at what will be a destination boutique hotel.”

*99.7 St Andrew’s Church* – Ms Diana Monteath-Wilson reported that the spire is not yet complete but it will get there, there has been an issue with sourcing the slate. It should be finished end of September; it has to be by end of October due to bats. They have a priest coming to help Stephen called Christian James. Kelly Ellis is also coming to help with the visiting of residents. The next massive grant will be applied for and this is for the windows and bells. The harvest lunch is being held in the hall on the 6th October.

*99.8 Clergy House* – Cllr Daw reported that they have had a lovely summer, lots of children’s event. Autumn and Christmas ranges is about to go into the shop and it is free to just go into the shop.

There will be free entry on Saturday 14th and Saturday 21st September for Heritage days. Sunday 6th Oct will be celebrations for Apple day. There will be Halloween events being held in the October half term. They are looking for a gardener if anyone knows of anyone who may be interested.

*99.9 Cuckmere Buses* – no report.

**100.** **Correspondence to The Clerk**

1. Clerk reported that a request has come in from the couple who recently asked for Teepees out on the Glebeland for a wedding in August 2020. The teepee request was declined by the Church due to safeguarding concerns; the couple are now requesting to put out rugs, hale bales and large games. Clerk explained that the Church have asked her to look at the lease in more detail to see if they need to continue to give permission or whether APC as the managing agents should only be able to grant permission. This will be looked into and reported back in due course.
2. Clerk read out an email sent from Mr Burt Trowell on the 23rd July whom was unhappy with the comments made in the July minutes about his expensive removal of a bollard. Clerk explained the circumstances around this comment as Mr Trowell was asked to quote for the job, not to undertake the work that day. Mr Trowell’s email and the Clerk’s response was read out in full.
3. The phone number for the Clerk has now changed. It is no longer 01323 870212, this has been cancelled. It is now 07936 904743 as of the 9th September. The postal address for the Clerk will be changing next month, this will be published in due course.
4. On Thursday 3rd October, the loss adjustors for South East Water will be visiting the Village and coming into each business to discuss their individual concerns and to make all businesses fully aware of the compensation process. Further information on this will be going up on the noticeboard and website.

**101. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 7.15 pm on **Monday 14th October 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.

**Please note the change of meeting date for October 2019.**

1. **Public Questions**
2. Ms Diana Monteath-Wilson explained that she has received a copy of the lease for the Glebeland from the Diocese and it looks like APC may have all management decisions but this was just looked at briefly. Clerk and Ms Monteath-Wilson will discuss outside of the meeting. Action 2.
3. Mr David Lewis spoke about the traveller issues in Seaford recently and that Councillors should consider barriers for the Recreation Ground. If there was a barrier and they broke in, they could then be removed by the Police due to criminal damage
4. Cllr Daw said she has raised money to get a contractor to make the hole in the High Street wider in order to order to purchase a bigger Christmas tree. She is going to look into this and report back for information.

Signed: Victoria Rutt - Clerk and RFO

**APPENDIX A**

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