ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**CLERK TO THE COUNCIL** 33 Swaines Way

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**Minutes of a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC)**

**held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 18th November 2019**

**Present:**

Cllr Watkins [Chair] Cllr Daw

Cllr Beechey [Vice Chair] Cllr Savage

Cllr Cooper Cllr Adcock

Cllr Rabagliati

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 8 members of the public

**103. Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and wanted to give a personal thank you on behalf of her fellow Councillors and residents of Alfriston to Alfriston Emergency Group [AEG] for all their hard work to clear the water with the recent flooding.

**104. Public Questions**

1. Ms Holly Jones from the Clergy House asked if permission could be granted to plant some snowdrops along the Clergy House wall to make it prettier. Cllrs agreed.

1. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

No report and attendance.

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

Cllr Shing reported that the traffic management proposals presented at County Hall on the 25th October has gone down very well. They are taking time to look at the proposals. East Sussex County Council [ESCC] have received funding from Government for social care and the Council Tax has been increased by 2% for social services. Cllr Shing confirmed that County are prepared for snow conditions this winter.

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

Cllr Michael Lunn wanted to inform all of a timeline so everyone is aware of what happened with the recent flooding. On the 6th Nov at 09:27 he was contacted by Maria Caulfield MP as she had received phone calls with concerns about the flooding, however she could not do anything due to purdah. At 11:15 Cllr Lunn made a phone call to Cllr Bob Standley [Leader of Wealden District Council] as homes at West Dean were cut off and Alfriston Road was shocking. They discussed that morning whether to evoke the emergency plan, after visiting the areas that afternoon Wealden evoked the emergency plan at 17:00.

On the 7th November the EA stated that they had taken the initiative themselves and decided to clear the shingle. Cllr Lunn is appalled that it had to get to this situation for the shingle to be cleared. He is very unhappy and an article went out on Friday in the Sussex Express [page 3] all about it.

Cllr Lunn explained that officers from the Wealden Emergency team have been excellent and when asked by Cllr Lunn they attended and arranged for additional pumps to be placed in the Willows. He stated he went down to see the shingle being cleared on Saturday and it created a vast improvement on the water levels very quickly. Cllr Lunn stated he will be raising the recent issues with EA at the next Full WDC board, the water board meeting and parliament. He suggested that APC write a letter also. It was agreed that Cllr Adcock will draft a letter and circulate to Cllrs for approval. Action 1.

Mrs Vanessa Rowlands from Cuckmere Valley Parish Council said to speak to Mark Lamb from Friend of Cuckmere as he has been heavily involved in this

1. **Apologies for absence**

No apologies received however Cllr Beechey did contact Clerk to report he would be a late arrival.

1. **Declaration of interests**

Cllr Daw and Cllr Watkins declared an interest as they are part of Alfriston Emergency Group [AEG].

1. **Minutes**

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

held on 9th September 2019 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Watkins duly signed the minutes.

1. **Finance**

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

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

[Appendix A]. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

111.2 To approve the Q2 2019/20 audit paperwork

Cllr. Watkins proposed and Cllr. Daw seconded a motion to approve the Q2 audit paperwork

for 2019/20 **MOTION CARRIED**.

1. **To consider and approve a request to change the name of the Recreation Ground**

Clerk reported that a letter has been received asking for Councillors to consider renaming the Recreation Ground the ‘John Harmer Ground’ or similar to recognise the dedication of Mr John Harmer to the Village of Alfriston. Cllr Rabagliati liked the idea but does not think the whole ground should be renamed, he suggested just the Pavilion itself? All Councillors agreed that it should not be the Recreation ground but the Pavilion is ideal with it’s link to the Cricket Club. A plaque could be installed to ensure it is clear. Cllr Daw proposed that the Pavilion would be renamed ‘The Harmer Pavilion’, this was seconded by Cllr Cooper. **MOTION CARRIED.** Clerk will speak to the author of the letter to make arrangements.

Action 2.

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

113.1 Taskforce Update

Cllr Rabagliati reported that in West Street the soil along the wall outside The Old Rectory has been cleared, and East Sussex Highways have been asked to look at the possibility of surfacing to the edge to ensure that regrowth does not occur.  We await an update after their inspection.

Dene Car Park entrance, bulbs have been sourced and planted on the grass area beside the toilets.  We look forward to the seeing the results in the Spring.

Kings Ride substation, a small group of volunteers cleared much of the overgrown plants around this area. Tasks in the near future will include completing the work around the substation and removal of weeds from the Twytten from Market Square to Smugglers Close. The task force wants to record their thanks to those who give up their time to help keep the village tidy.

Cllr Adcock asked the Clerk about the removal of the dead tree at the top of Star Lane and the moving of one on the Tye. Clerk confirmed that Dan Larkin is well aware of this and will be moving it when he is available at end of Nov/beginning of Dec. Cllr Adcock asked about the water fountain, Clerk updated that this has been repaired numerous times with two different types of taps, it continues to leak. Next steps for the fountain need to be looked into in the New Year. The road going out of Alfriston was discussed, the stretch opposite the Willows car park within the 30 zone. Clerk explained the issues with ESCC cutting this in the past, it is believed we could add this to the grass cutting contract that will be going out to tender in January 2020. Clerk will liaise with ESCC and research this. Action 3.

Cllr Adcock reported that there is a website called social media market place that has 6 employees from East Sussex Highways who can come to the village for 2 days in December to do tasks for free. It was suggested that they could tackle the hedge at the top of the Recreation Ground. Clerk would like to know more about this as is slightly dubious so Cllr Adcock will send her over the information and an email will be circulated in due course.

*Cllr Beechey arrived and took over as Chair due to Cllr Watkins losing her voice.*

113.2 South East Water works update

Cllr Rabagliati reported that a public meeting was held at the end of last month where South East Water representatives answered questions about the High Street closure to through traffic from January to May next year.  This work is for the much-needed replacement of the old water main.  The meeting was very well attended.  Since that meeting, we have received a copy of the planned diversion routes and signage, as specified by ESCC Highways, and this is available for inspection tonight.  As mentioned, this is the signage specified by ESCC, and SE Water have indicated that they are willing to consider additional signage.  As part of the SE Water works and diversions, the exit to The Dene car park is to be made 2 way.  This will allow traffic to gain access to the back of the village without having to travel up North Street. We have also been advised of 2 further week long overnight road closures from 25 to 29th November and 2nd to 6th December for separate works by SE Water.

113.3 ESCC traffic meeting update

Cllr Rabagliati reported a stakeholder meeting was hosted at County Hall to discuss the way forward, following the decision at the Lead Member Meeting in June, not to proceed with traffic lights in the village.  At this meeting we were introduced to Cllr Dowling , the new Lead Member who replaces Cllr Nick Bennett.  As she is new to the role, the meeting was led by Karl Taylor from ESCC.  Mr Taylor presented some plans for a village wide set of measures including:

* + 20mph speed limit, village wide
  + Possible 20 mph roundels on road surfaces
  + Coloured surface treatment
  + Review of yellow lines in the High Street
  + Improved HGV weight limit signage, and
  + Possible gateway features

ESCC proposed that, between December 2019 and March 2020, these ideas would be developed, leading to a public consultation in April/May 2020. Cllr Beechey was then asked to present the recommendations prepared by Alfriston Parish Council.  For those that have not seen them, these proposals are available on the Parish Council web site, and support a valley-wide set of measures that include and extend those proposed by ESCC.  These proposals were well received by Mr Taylor and those present at the meeting. The ideas presented by APC will be studied closely by ESCC and costings created for presentation at a future meeting.

Cllr Rabagliati reported that at the recent Parish Conference he attended they spoke about setting up a Climate Emergency Group. It seemed like a good initiative and Parish Councils should get involved. It was agreed that it is something APC would like to be involved in and Cllr Rabagliati will circulate the information once received.

Cllr Rabagliati reported that after being hit a second time, the bollard outside Waterloo Gallery has been removed, pending a permanent replacement. He ended his update by thanking residents who filled in the drain in the Twytten by Rope Walk where the drain cover had gone missing.  This has been reported to East Sussex Highways.

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

Cllr Cooper reported that a meeting was held with the Clerk and a plot holder to discuss some of the overgrown plots. The plot holder was written to about them and they have since been vacated. Clerk confirmed that a gentleman recently took on 3 vacant plots so there is now only one remaining. A skip was recently ordered to give the plot holders a good chance to do a tidy up. It is looking very smart up there now.

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

Cllr Daw reported that a tree came down at top of Kings Ride but she reported this to Wealden who came out and dealt with it quickly. She wanted to express her thanks to AEG for all the hard work clearing trees and flood water.

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

Cllr Savage thanked AEG for all the hard work clearing the coach park and Willows so it could still be used. Clerk reported that Wealden are meeting on the 18th December to discuss whether they are going to take the car park back in house or offer the lease to APC. An expression of interested is required, Councillors all confirmed they have had sight of the proposed document and support it. Cllr Watkin proposed the document and this was seconded by Cllr Savage. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Clerk confirmed that this would be sent to Wealden the following day. There is a need for Councillors to meet about the car park but as this would contain commercially sensitive information which we do not want in the public domain, it will be a confidential meeting. This meeting will be minuted and once a final decision has been made the minutes will be published.

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

Cllr Daw thanked Cllr Rabagliati for attending a recent meeting for her. She will report back following the next meeting.

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

118.1 Update on Tye footpath

Cllr Beechey reported that funding now needs to be looked at following planning permission being granted. Cllr Beechey opened the meeting so Mr Adrian Butcher could confirm that the Alfriston War Memorial Hall Committee have agreed to put aside £3k towards the resurfacing works. The Hall Committee is going to liaise with the church to see if they have any funds and to start to look at funding. It was agreed that the APC finance committee will look at ring-fencing some money for this project when setting the budget for 2020/21.

118.2 Update on Playground

Cllr Beechey reported that the Clerk is meeting with Mrs Kelly Ellis this week to discuss a variety of ideas for the playground that might be achievable at a minimal cost.

1. **Report from Planning Committee – Cllr Adcock** 
   1. Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

**SDNP/19/04164/FUL** Mistila, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TP. Granted by SDNPA

**SDNP/19/03949/HOUS** Frog Firle Manor, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TT Granted by SDNPA

**SDNP/19/03407/FUL** Timbers, Sloe Lane, Alfriston, BN26 5UU Ongoing

**SDNP/19/04224/FUL** Steamer Cottages, 2 High Street, Alfriston, BN26 5TY Granted by SDNPA

**SDNP/19/04226/HOUS** 3 The Laines, The Furlongs, Alfriston, BN26 5XS Decision pending

**SDNP/19/04555/FUL** The Star Inn, High Street, Alfriston, BN26 5TA Ongoing

**SDNP/19/04530/FUL** Abbeyfield House, North Road, Alfriston, BN26 5XB Ongoing

**SDNP/19/04749/FUL** 1 Rose Cottage, Rope Walk, Alfriston, BN26 5SZ Ongoing

**SDNP/19/04842/LIS** 1 Steamer Cottages, High Street, Alfriston, BN26 5TY Ongoing

* 1. Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

No applications

119.3 Enforcement Updates

No update.

**120.**  **Reports from Outside Bodies**

*120.1 Heartstart*: no report.

*120.2 Alfriston Emergency Group*: Mr Vernon Reynolds reported on all the work that AEG have been doing. On the 2nd Nov there were 5 trees down on Alfriston Road. A bush came down on A27 so they went to that. A tree down on Berwick Road. On the 6th Nov they dealt with water in Willows car park, in evening they had pumps working in those areas, pumped out a lot of water, water was still rising and coach park flooded again on the 7th. On Nov 8th, evening rush hour, AEG did traffic control due to so many cars being stuck. They helped at Deans Place following a request from them as concern due to ground floor residents in the hotel. Pump was deployed there. That evening the EA delivered the pump to the Long Bridge. 9th Nov, verbal request from EA to help.

AEG confirmed they have calculated that they have pumped 700,000 litres of flood water. Mr Reynolds confirmed that it has been a lot of hours and a total cost of around £300 of fuel used for vehicles and the pumps. He said any monetary contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Cllr Beechey thanked everyone who assisted and asked Cllrs on thoughts of a monetary contribution.

Cllr Savage proposed £150 and this was seconded by Cllr Beechey (dependent on AEG providing receipts). **MOTION CARRIED.**

Clerk will speak to AEG’s treasurer to process this and Mr David Lewis will get a receipt from Berwick petrol station. Action.

Mr David Lewis wanted to add that AEG are looking at a new pump, one that can pump very quickly.

*120.3 Flood Forum* – Mr John Hurwood reported that the Flood Forum met on the 4th Nov, he was not able to attend but Mr Rod Young attended on behalf of the village so huge thanks to him. The meeting was mostly occupied by discussing the long letter received from the Environment Agency [EA] on why they were following government policy and why they could not do anything even though they wish they could. Maria Caulfield MP said it was government policy and could not be changed. Mr Hurwood expressed this thanks to EA for installing a second pump at their cost as it cleared a lot of water.

*120.4 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report.

120.5 *Twinning Committee* – no report.

120.6 *Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect* – no report.

*120.7 St Andrew’s Church* – Ms Diana Monteath-Wilson raised two minor corrections to the minutes from the 9th November. The spire was shingle not slate as stated and the grant will be for the external walls. The minutes were corrected and initialed by the Chair and Clerk. Ms Monteath-Wilson confirmed that prior to the grant application it will need to go through a listed building consent application first. She confirmed that the spire is now complete and at a dedication service on Sunday, the Rector thanked everyone involved in fundraising. As there is no APC meeting in December, there will be a number of upcoming services in December and the dates will be in the Cuckmere News.

*120.8 Clergy House* – Ms Holly Jones reported that the garden has been severely flooded, it is the worst for many years. National Trust Rangers had to come and check the equipment in the sheds. The levels are starting to slowly go down but likely the garden will be closed for a while. They will be opening in November and December at weekends only. The house will be decorated the first weekend in December. Thank you to the Old Chapel Centre who have accommodated the Clergy House staff for their Christmas event following the upcoming election taking over the Village hall. Next year the Clergy House will be opening 7 days a week in July and August to try and gain back some deficit following the High Street closure at beginning of the year. It is the National Trust 125th anniversary next year, celebrations will be launched in the New Year.

*120.9 Cuckmere Buses* – no report.

**121.** **Correspondence to The Clerk**

1. Clerk reported that since the last meeting, permission has been granted via email for an A board for the Royal British Legion and an A board for the WI.
2. A request has come in from Alfriston School PTA asking for the use of the Tye and Recreation Ground on Saturday 13th June 2020for Sussex Day. They are speaking to Mr John Harmer to see if the Recreation Ground is available. Permission was granted as long as no cricket fixtures.
3. A request has come in from Alfriston Pre-School for the use of the Tye and Recreation Ground for their Fun Run on 26th September 2020. It was agreed as above, permission granted as long as no cricket fixtures.
4. Permission for the Seaford Half Marathon to have a refreshment stop at White Bridge on Sunday 10th May 2020 was granted.
5. A lady who owns a business in Litlington has asked if she can place a sign on the turning to Litlington. Councillors confirmed that APC can’t grant permission to place signs there.
6. East Sussex Highways [ESH] have asked how APC would like to proceed with grass cutting next year. Option 1 is for ESH to do 2 cuts a year at no cost to APC. Option 2 is for APC to fund ESH to do 6 cuts a year at a cost of £610. Option 3 is for APC to take responsibility for all the urban grass cutting and ESH will contribute £305 towards this. Clerk reported that as of last year we decided on Option 3. It was agreed that we would continue under option 3.
7. A request has come in from AWMH to ask if APC would like a page on their new website. It was agreed that a page is not needed but if they could put a link to the Parish Council website that would be helpful.
8. Cllr Sylvia Daw spoke about the Christmas tree in the Village. A large tree has been donated and a bigger hole has been dug for it to go in. Huge thanks to David Lewis for all the hours it took to get a cable licence for the lights to be put up and across the road. Cllr Daw said that as it is becoming tricky each year to obtain the licence it was thought whether it was worth looking to see if a socket could be installed in the Square for events that happen, it would be no cost to the Parish Council. Councillors agreed it was worth looking into so Cllr Daw will continue with her enquiries.

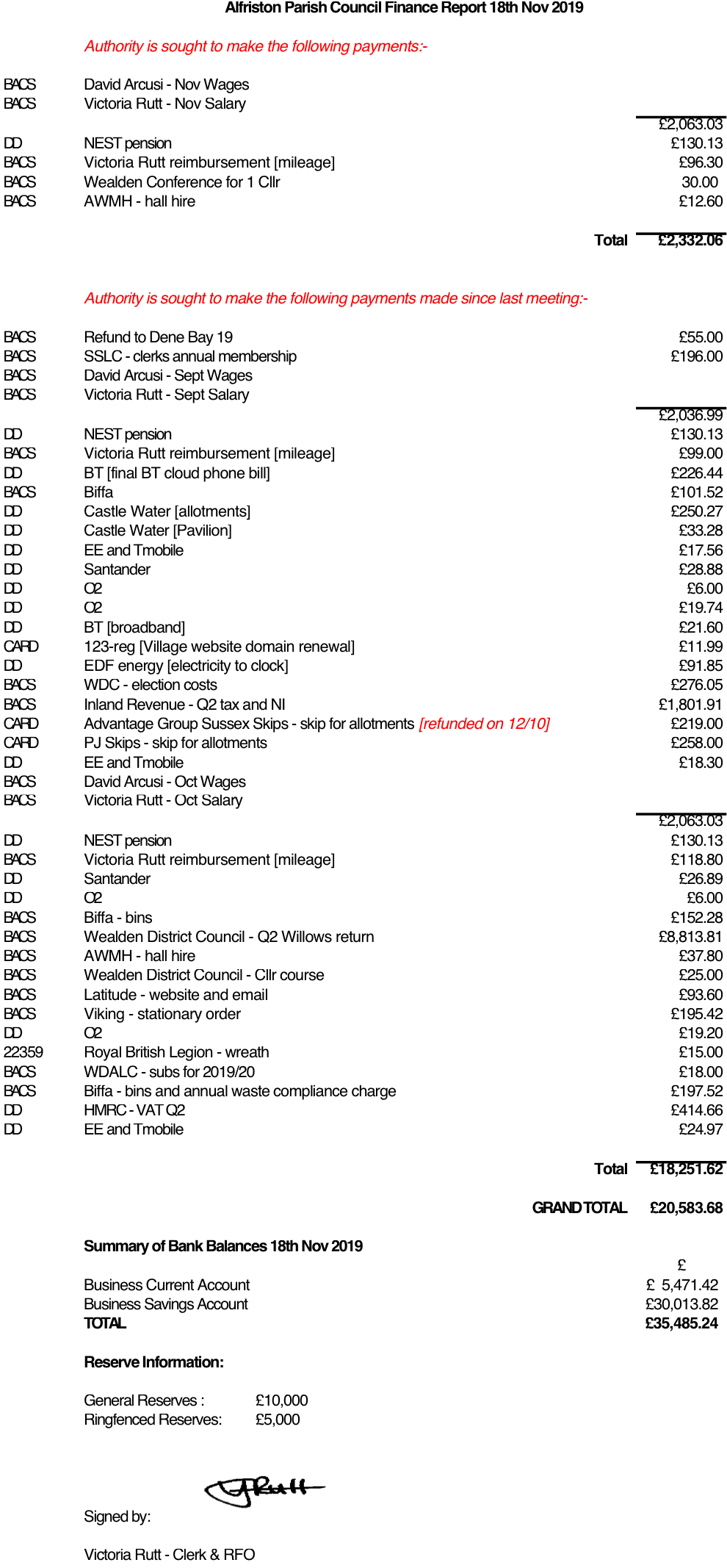
**122. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 7.15 pm on **Monday 20th January 2020** 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 about the Timbers planning application and whether the Parish Council have a policy that properties outside the Conservation area can be pulled down and rebuilt. Cllr Beechey explained that all planning applications are considered on a case by case basis.
3. Mr Vernon Reynolds wanted to express his thanks to Mr and Mrs Daw and Mick for all their hard work making the hole bigger for the Christmas tree.
4. Mrs Vanessa Rowlands said it has been approved for new SDNPA entry signs to go up near Drusillas and at Hindover. There is also a plan for village signs with SDNPA logos next year; Mrs Rowlands is pitching to SDNPA to include the Cuckmere Valley.
5. Mr Adrian Butcher reported that the hall are taking delivery of their chairs in 2/3 weeks so if anyone needs or knows of anyone who could make use of the chairs please contact him. Mrs Rowlands said it is worth contacting a company called Furniture Now who will come and collect them and distribute to those in need.
6. Mr Nathan Pope said that he felt that the Council should nominate a lead for the Climate plan that will come into force soon following earlier discussions raised by Cllr Rabagliati. It was confirmed that it would likely fall under the portfolio of Strategic Planning so Cllr Daw will lead on it.

Signed: Victoria Rutt - Clerk and RFO

**APPENDIX A**

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