ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**CLERK TO THE COUNCIL** 33 Swaines Way

Victoria Rutt Heathfield

East Sussex

TN21 0AN

Tel: 07936 904743

E-mail: [clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk) Wednesday 26th February 2020

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

**held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 17th February 2020**

**Present:**

Cllr Watkins [Chair] Cllr Daw

Cllr Beechey [Vice Chair] Cllr Rabagliati

Cllr Cooper

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 7 members of the public

**149. Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**150. Public Questions**

No public questions.

**151**. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

No report or attendance.

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

Cllr Shing reported that last Tuesday, ESCC full council meeting agreed an increase of 1.95% to Council Tax. ESCC have a £6million budget to spend on repairing potholes and improving the services for social care. Cllr Shing attended a meeting with East Dean Parish Council who were upset at the traffic flow through their village, since then some temporary traffic lights have been installed on the Exceat bridge which is working well. Cllr Shing confirmed he is corresponding with Winton Street residents about their concerns.

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

No report or attendance.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Adcock and Cllr Savage.

1. **Declaration of interests**

Cllrs Watkins and Daw declared an interest as they are part of Alfriston Emergency Group.

Cllr Daw declared an interest as she works at the Clergy House.

1. **Minutes**

156.1 To agree and sign as a true record the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2020

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Cooper seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2020 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Watkins duly signed the minutes.

156.2 To agree and sign as a true record the Minutes of the confidential meetings

held on 14th January 2020 and 10th February 2020.

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Rabagliati seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the confidential car park meetings held on 14th January 2020 and 10th February 2020 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Watkins duly signed the minutes.

1. **Finance**

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

Cllr Rabagliati asked about the cost of the jubilee clock. Clerk explained that this is a quarterly bill and it is high due to a standing charge. Clerk has looked into it previously to try and save money. Clerk to look into this again and the possibility of converting to battery. Action 1.

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Beechey 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 ratify the decision to increase allotment prices by £5.00**

Cllr Watkins reported that at the January 2020 meeting it was decided that allotment plots would be increased by £5 per plot. Since renewals went out at the end of January, plot holders have commented that if you lease two half plots, this is more than the cost of a whole plot. Councillors discussed this via email and agreed that if plot holders’ lease two half plots, it should be the same price as a whole plot.

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Beechey seconded a motion to ratify the decision to increase the allotment plots by £5.00. **MOTION CARRIED**.

1. **To ratify the wording for adding outside bodies into the Standing Orders**

Cllr Watkins read out the proposed wording to be added into the Standing Orders.

The meeting was briefly opened so Mr John Hurwood could make a comment as he felt he was not included in this section, after discussions it was agreed he would come under ‘representative to’. The wording agreed was –

*APC, entirely at its discretion, may invite a local group or society, amenity organisation or similar, or representative of or to such a group, to become an Outside Body listed on the APC agenda. A representative of or to such an Outside Body shall be invited to deliver a report to each APC ordinary meeting. Such reports will not be part of the closed session of the meeting.  
Being invited to become an Outside Body confers no rights or status. By making any invitation to become an Outside Body APC does not endorse or encourage any acts, activities or omissions of the Outside Body and APC does not as a result of any invitation to become an Outside Body adopt or accept any liability arising out of any acts, activities or omissions undertaken by the Outside Body. The Outside Body shall remain its own entity responsible for*

*its own acts or omissions. The decision to invite a body to become an Outside Body, and any decision of APC to rescind such an invitation, shall be by resolution moved on notice [Outside Bodies in place at 17/2/2020 shall be deemed to have been invited by resolution].*

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Daw seconded a motion to ratify the decision to add outside bodies into the Standing Orders. **MOTION CARRIED**.

1. **To agree if the volunteer Task Force should be added as an outside body**

Cllr Watkins asked all Councillors their thoughts on this matter, no objections raised and it was agreed. Cllr. Cooper proposed and Cllr. Daw seconded a motion to approve the decision for the volunteer task force to be added as an outside body. **MOTION CARRIED**.

1. **To open grass cutting tenders**

Clerk reported that 5 grass tender envelopes had been received. Clerk opened the envelopes and recorded a response from 4 as two were from the same company. Responses recorded from Tim Jordan, Chaffin, Honeysett Groundcare and John O’Connor. The Clerk will now undertake a comparison exercise which will be shared with Councillors in a few weeks in order for them to make a decision and award the contract at the March 2020 meeting. Action 2.

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

162.1 Taskforce Update

Cllr Rabagliati reported that since the last Parish meeting, the Taskforce has been very busy. A few weeks ago, with the help of 8 volunteers from East Sussex Highways, the task force spent a full day tackling the hedging to the top end of the recreation ground, clearing away considerable amounts of dead wood, brambles, and other vegetation that had become out of control.  They hope to follow on from this work, and complete the clearance in due course.  Many thanks to all of the volunteers, and they hope to get the ESH team back in the not too distant future. The following Saturday, the Taskforce volunteers planted snowdrops along the bank of Whiteway leading out of the village, they look forward to seeing these in flower next Spring. The daffodil bulbs planted by the entrance to the Dene car park are growing well and will soon be in flower. Task Force members will shortly be helping in Michael Anderson’s annual litter pick to the roads to North and South of the village. Thank you to all the task force volunteers.

162.2 South East Water works update

Cllr Rabagliati reported that he has been in contact with Mr Steve Anthony, customer service manager from Clancy Docwra. Report received from SE Water is that the move to longer appropriate sections has enabled good progress to date. The decision to have the second team excavating trial holes requires longer sections but does provide a known secure route for the pipe to be determined. The reason for use of heras panels are well known and understood. The current section from River Lane to Star Lane will be fenced appropriately.

SEW apologised if individuals wanted 10m sections of fencing as initially proposed, but having a longer run allows for faster working. The trench today has gone superbly and the team have extended as far as Tavern on The Tye.

SEW must allow the team to find the best route and then go for it and the trial holes are providing a massive benefit. This does mean a much longer section than first thought but will greatly enable SEW to get out of the main business/shop area faster. SEW and Clancy hope that the village understands and supports the ongoing site assessments and decisions all focused on getting the job done as quickly as possible. Any business which needs deliveries and has concerns must speak with the team on site and they will assist in ensuring all deliveries are maintained.

162.3 ESCC traffic meeting update

Cllr Rabagliati reported that confirmation has been received that a stakeholder meeting with ESCC is going to be arranged for April 2020. APC are hopeful that its plan will form a significant part of any ESCC plan.

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

Cllr Cooper reported that all renewals have gone out, 5 are yet to respond but hopeful that it will be a full house as have two people on the waiting list who would be willing to take any plots that become vacant.

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

Cllr Daw reported that today she walked up towards Seaford, there are lots of cut down trees and branches have been left on the verge which with the recent wet weather they are starting to slip and could cause an accident. The path is also very slippery and dangerous underfoot. Clerk to report this issue to ESH and copy in Cllr Daw. Action 3.

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

165.1 Update on WDC’s plan to take over control of car parks

Clerk reported that two confidential meetings, on the 14th January and 10th February, have been held regarding APC’s response to WDC’s take over of the car parks. Minutes were taken and have been agreed at the meeting tonight and placed in the official minute file. These will be published when the Council no longer deem this matter confidential. The Clerk can publish the latest response from Mr Scott at Wealden which Clerk will add under appendix B and add to the website. Councillors have a further matter to discuss but as it is confidential, Clerk asked Councillors if they are happy to adjourn this part until after the meeting for it to be discussed in confidence. All Councillors agreed.

165.2 To discuss a response to WDC’s proposed new layout for the Willows

Cllr Beechey feels that APC should object to the proposed lines in the Willows as it would suburbanise the car park and WDC have said in the past it would cost around £5k to renew the white lines. In the past 35yrs there have not been lines, so why the need for them now? It would appear that lines in the car park area will provide fewer spaces than at present. APC do agree but welcome the lining of one half of the coach bay to create more car spaces. All Councillors agreed with the objection. Clerk will draft something to circulate to all Cllrs for approval to submit against the consultation. Action 4.

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

Cllr Daw reported about the Neighbourhood plan and that she is still reviewing this. Cllr Daw also updated that she is meeting with a lady from Action in Rural Sussex this week so will have an update at the March meeting.

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

167.1 Update on Tye footpath

Cllr Beechey reported that no further update, still remains that planning permission is in place but funding is not currently.

167.2 Update on Playground

Cllr Beechey reported that this is remains the same. Cllr Daw has some information that she will pass to Clerk which may be helpful for grant funding.

1. **Report from Planning Committee – Cllr Adcock** 
   1. Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting
   2. Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

**SDNP/19/06041/FUL** Pleasant Rise Farm, Cuckmere Road, Alfriston, BN26 5TN. *Application still in progress.*

**SDNP/19/06017/HOUS** The White House, West Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UN

*Decision pending at the end of February 2020*

* 1. Enforcement Updates

Cllr Adcock was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following report to Clerk. The structure that has been erected behind 1 The Broadway had received planning permission back in 2016. The signs on the wall of the Shot Coffee House are being looked into by the enforcement officer and will be fed back to Cllr Adcock in due course.

**169. Reports from Outside Bodies**

*169.1 Heartstart*: Cllr Jen Watkins reported that they have received some new defibrillator cabinets. The one in AWMH and Selmeston will be changed as they are more weather proof. Cllr Beechey asked if there was a defibrillator on the Recreation ground. Cllr Watkins said there is not but could speak to the Cricket Club to see if one could be installed on the Pavillion. Action 5 for Cllr Watkins.

*169.2 Alfriston Emergency Group*: no report.

*169.3 Flood Forum* – Mr John Hurwood reported that the river isn’t going down yet, it is expected to start to go down from tomorrow.

*169.4 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report.

169.5 *Twinning Committee* – no report.

169.6 *Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect* – Ms Jilly Byford sent in the below report: Christmas planning has commenced and then committee is being chaired by Mr Nick White. Mr White has informed Ms Byford that the heavy metal sleeve was taken out this year leaving a muddy hole with no structural support, therefore he would like to discuss if still willing to supply a Christmas tree. Clerk to discuss this with ACC to get clarification. Action 6.

With the ongoing water works, all of the village and valley businesses are trying very hard to keep things positive, ACC would like to encourage all residents and visitors to the valley generally to shop locally - almost everything you could ever want or desire can be found in this amazing area - so think local please.  There has been a huge impact on footfall especially in the village - some traders say it is down by as much as 90% on usual, but it is recognised that the works need to be done and it is appreciated that currently the workmen seem to be a little ahead of schedule.   ACC are in constant touch with Steve Anthony of the Clancy Group and thank him and his team who are doing their best to keep things moving. ACC are meeting a couple of days after the February APC meeting, they are currently renewing membership. Although not an ACC event, ACC would like to give a shout out and shameless promotion to two of our members who are organising a Pancake Race on Sunday 23rd February, this is community based and a good village turnout would be wonderful.

*169.7 St Andrew’s Church* – no report

*169.8 Clergy House* – Ms Holly Jones sent in the following report. The house opens for the new season on Monday 2nd March and will be open to Sunday 20th December.  They will mostly be five days a week opening apart from July and August when they will be seven day opening in order to try to help make up the expected shortfall due to the water works. The garden is flooded badly again, it has been constant with barely any respite since October.  Obviously the same for everyone else in the village who are situated near the river.  They will wait and see what lasting damage there could be to the conservation area.  Due to the orchard and front flower borders being submerged it has made it impossible for the volunteers to do any maintenance work in large areas of the garden.  The lawn will take quite a while to recover.  The houses hopes to appoint a new permanent gardener this week, they have been without one since last year.

*169.9 Cuckmere Buses* – no report.

1. **Correspondence to The Clerk**
2. Clerk reported that permission has been granted via email since the last meeting for the upcoming Pancake Races to run across the Tye.
3. An email has been received from Wealden District Council asking for Town and Parish Councils to allocate an area for flowers and a condolence book in the event of the death of the Sovereign and Duke of Edinburgh. This was discussed and agreed by all Councillors that the Clerk would speak to St Andrews about placing the condolence book inside the Church and flowers will be placed alongside the Church wall near the water fountain. Action 7.
4. Residents have emailed in asking if the two-way entrance/exit at the bottom of Dene car park is going to remain after the water works as it is very welcome and has improved the situation. Councillors agree that it should remain so Clerk will put this in writing to WDC as they have verbally agreed but not seen anything in writing to SEW or Clancy not to reinstate. Action 8.
5. A resident has complained about the cement mess around the new water meter covers in the footpath. Cllr Beechey stated that he saw a worker the previous day sanding the cement so believe this has now been cleared. The Clerk said that Clancy have committed to doing a street clean after all the water works so will ask them to include the footpaths also. Action 9.
6. A resident who lives along the Furlongs has written in asking for support to get ESH to extend the yellow lines that are already present on the east side of the Furlongs by the Deans Road junction so as to prevent parking opposite their drive as it causes great difficulties for them to be able to enter/exit. Councillors agreed to support this as it has been an ongoing issue. The resident is arranging for ESH to come and review the situation so Cllr Rabagliati will be informed of the meeting so he can attend on behalf of APC.

**171. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 7.15 pm on **Monday 16th March 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 John Hurwood asked about the flooding along the Furlongs, the Chair and Clerk confirmed that this issue has been reported many times. The manager at ESH finally responded today and it is on a 14-day turnaround.
3. Ms Nicky Vassell wanted her thanks noted for the volunteers work on the hedge at the Recreation ground, it looks a lot better.

Signed: Victoria Rutt - Clerk and RFO

**APPENDIX A**

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**APPENDIX B**

**Email received from Wealden on Thursday 13th February 2020**

Dear Victoria

Thanks for your email, albeit I am slightly taken aback at the tone and content. In particular I’d ask you to reflect on the wording in your final paragraph and consider whether that is helpful to constructive partnership working.

Just to be clear, there is no reluctance to answer questions but if you refer to earlier emails you will see that the vast majority of questions you have posed have been answered.

I also understand that you have had discussions with my officers about the car park and that you have agreed a date of 6th April as being the effective date of transfer. It seems therefore that you have accepted the decision and on a practical level, are moving forward with implementing it. You email approach does seem at odds with that.

Nevertheless, to try and draw a line under this, I can advise as follows:

i) what documents and/or materials your committee had to assist you in the decision making process; - see my emails of 6th & 14th  Jan below. If they are not clear, we considered the information you submitted alongside a cost analysis of the two options together with a report from officers.

ii) whether we can have copies of said documents and/or materials; - these are internal documents that were for our Asset Management Group

iii) the detail of what other options were considered by you; - see email of 14th Jan. If that isn’t clear, I can clarify that we considered carrying on with the current arrangement versus taking the management of the car park back in house.

iv) what is meant by “in the best interests of the wider residents of Wealden” as set out in your email as a reason for your decision; - I disagree with you that these words are meaningless.

v) the extent to which the fact that you already manage other car parks in Wealden influenced your decision; - see my email of 14th Jan below

vi) why you have concluded that the same standards you allude to in your email could not be met by APC’s continued management of the car parks; - I am unclear about the point you are seeking to make here

vii) what WDC’s intention (short and long term) is vis a vis keeping open the public toilets in both car parks; - see my email of 28th Jan

viii) whether WDC intend for charge for parking in the Willows post 1st April; - see my email of 28th Jan

ix) if the answer is ‘yes’ to viii) above, how you say that fits within WDC’s policy not to charge for parking owned/managed by WDC within Wealden; - As you know, the charges at the Alfriston (and Pevensey) car parks are only possible due to Wealden agreeing and approving the charges through our car parking order and fees and charges register. It is not correct therefore to imply that continuing with that arrangement does not fit with our current policy. For a number of years now, Wealden’s policy has been to charge for the tourist car parks at Alfriston and Pevensey.

x) whether any consideration was given to engagement with APC before finalising you’re decision; and – we did engage with APC. This was clarified in my emails of 6th, 14th & 28th Jan

xi) to what extent was there consultation with our local Cllr, Cllr Lunn, before your decision was taken. – see email from Cllr Lunn

I trust that the above helps the Parish Council and that we can now move forward with this matter.

Kind regards

Trevor

**Email sent to Wealden on 13th February 2020**

Dear Trevor

Thank you for your response. Whilst Alfriston Parish Council (APC) have been discussing with Wealden officers the logistics of a handover, this should not be taken to mean that APC accept the District Council’s decision is a proper one, nor that APC agrees with it.

APC will respond to you fully in due course.

Kind Regards

Victoria Rutt