ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a CONFIDENTIAL car park meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC)**

**held in the Committee Room, AWMH on Monday 17th February 2020**

**Present:**

Cllr Watkins [Chair] Cllr Daw

Cllr Beechey [Vice Chair] Cllr Cooper

Cllr Rabagliati

**Apologies:**

Cllr Savage

Cllr Adcock

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

*During the APC meeting held this evening, the ongoing communications with Wealden District Council [WDC] were raised. It was explained that the ongoing discussions between Councillors remained confidential and that there was an item that needed further consideration this evening so Councillors agreed to adjourn this item until the confidential meeting could take place following the main meeting.*

Cllr Beechey explained that he had circulated the draft PAP letter to all Councillors.

Cllr Beechey reported that he has spoken today with Mr Ian Davison, who is the legal advisor through SSALC [Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils], and who agreed to have a quick free of charge conversation. Mr Davison does not think there is a good argument for judicial review. He said that Wealden’s Off-road Parking Order 2015 states they charge for parking in Willows and Pevensey, therefore they can charge. He said that having a policy doesn’t mean that anything is set in stone. Cllr Beechey and Councillors thought that if a policy is in place, it should be followed.

Cllr Beechey then had a phone call with the legal advisor through APC’s insurance broker who was interested in the argument and felt it may be reasonable. They would need to review further documentation from APC in order to agree to proceed and agree that a JR is about challenging a process that has been made by a public body.

It was explained that the insurance process is a bit back to front, the advisors assess the case and decide if to take it on, once a decision has been made they then check to see if everything would be covered under the insurance policy.

Issuing a PAP letter to WDC will not cost or bind APC to anything, it just sets out to WDC that APC are determined and willing to bring this argument into play. APC at this stage have nothing to lose.

Cllr Watkins expressed her thanks to Cllr Beechey for all his hard work on this. Cllr Beechey said that he was happy to do the work but, as per his earlier emails, it was extremely important to make it clear, and everyone should understand, that in undertaking this task he is not holding himself out as a lawyer, is not providing legal advice, is not acting as a lawyer and brings no expertise legal or otherwise to the task. All present indicated they understood.

The meeting ended by Cllr Beechey stating that he is keen to consider the draft PAP letter some more and develop it over the next week but APC also had to have an eye on the timetable for bringing a JR.

MEETING END

Signed: Cllr Jen Watkins [Chair]