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) Monday 27th July 2020

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

**held remotely via Zoom on Monday 20th July 2020 at 19:15**

**Present:**

Cllr Watkins [Chair] Cllr Daw

Cllr Beechey [Vice Chair] Cllr Savage

Cllr Rabagliati Cllr Adcock

Cllr Cooper

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 5 members of the public

**21. Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**22. Public Questions**

1. One public question was submitted to the Clerk ahead of the meeting. Mrs Hannah Parkinson enquired about the village model. Her father restored the model some time ago and has been storing it ever since, but it is large and heavy so needs to find a new home. If no place could be found for it then it was indicated that the model would have to be taken to the tip for disposal. Mrs Parkinson wanted and received confirmation that no ‘ownership’ issues would arise if the model had to be disposed of. Councillors discussed and it was agreed that an email would go out about it via Neighbourhood Watch to see if any interested parties. Cllr Adcock said that depending on the dimensions it may be able to be stored on the balcony in the Old Chapel Centre. Clerk will liaise with Mrs Parkinson.

**Action 1.**

2. Mr Adrian Butcher raised the ongoing issue of cyclists coming down Kings Ride at dangerous speeds. He suggested could a cattle grid be placed at the bottom to slow them down? Cllr Beechey said he believes that that would cause problems for horses. Clerk reported that she was sure this came up previously at a SLR meeting but would need to check records. Clerk will do this and liaise with Mr Johnson at East Sussex County Council. **Action 2**.

**23. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Savage was not present, and no apologies have been received.

1. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

No report or attendance.

*Cllr Savage joined the meeting*

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

Cllr Shing reported that now lockdown is easing that most of ESCC services are back to normal service. There is going to be a public consultation about the new Exceat Bridge in the coming weeks.

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

Cllr Lunn apologised for missing a few meetings recently, it has been a very busy time for Wealden. Cllr Lunn reported that WDC have been supporting local businesses with grants during the pandemic and the village hall should have received a grant. Environmental health have been very busy checking safety issues and giving advice before reopening premises. There will no doubt be challenges ahead with a possible second wave when the schools reopen in September. Waste and recycling continue and have done a great job, the new Biffa contract is running smoothly. Traffic management plans, SDNPA have noticed a significant increase in tourism traffic in the South Down National Park area. They are aware of the problems it has been causing, one of them being dangerous parking. Cllr Lunn continues to liaise about the River Cuckmere and there is an ongoing debate at the moment as the funds are now available to do the work, but the permit required to do the work was denied by the Environment Agency. The Sloe Lane triangle issue continues as it has been going back and forth between WDC and ESCC as to who is responsible and as yet there is no resolution. It just requires one or two signs to be placed. He will be having a further conversation over the coming days and it may well need to go to the Committee Services meeting. Cllr Adcock asked Cllr Lunn about people accessing the River Cuckmere for paddle boarding and canoeing. Cllr Lunn said the responsibility of the Cuckmere is ESCC, when it transfers over to SDNPA APC will be able to liaise with officers there about it.

1. **Declaration of interests**

Cllr Daw and Cllr Watkins declared an interest as they are part of Alfriston Emergency Group [AEG]. Cllr Daw declared she is now the deputy warden for St Andrews Church.

1. **Minutes**

28.1 To agree as a true record the Minutes of the APC meeting held on 18th May 2020

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Daw seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC meeting held on 18th May 2020 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

28.2 To agree as a true record the Minutes of the APC public meeting held on 30th June 2020

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Daw seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC public meeting held on 30th June 2020 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*The above minutes could not be signed as it was a remote meeting, but they will be signed in due course.*

1. **Finance**

29.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: July 2020

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Savage seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances for July 2020. [Appendix A]. **MOTION CARRIED**

*The finance report and invoices could not be signed as it was a remote meeting*, *but they will be signed in due course.*

29.2 To approve the quarterly audit for Q4 2019/20

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Rabagliati seconded a motion to approve the quarterly audit paperwork for Q4 2019/20. **MOTION CARRIED**

29.3 To approve the quarterly audit for Q1 2020/21

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Savage seconded a motion to approve the quarterly audit paperwork for Q1 2020/21. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. **To consider and discuss a recreational space for young people in Alfriston**

Cllr Watkins opened the meeting so Ms Jemima Jenner could speak to the meeting as she had recently sent in an email on this subject. Ms Jenner explained that there is nowhere flat or concrete in the village for young people to roller blade or play basketball. They play in the road but this is obviously neither ideal or safe. Transport out of the village is limited to go to areas that do have such facilities. Cllr Beechey agreed with Ms Jenner. The issues are in finding a location and the cost, he has been thinking on this and proposed a netted tennis court area on the Recreation ground where the goal post is currently situated. This could incorporate basketball hoops, be used for roller skating etc. APC have no funds to do this so it would need to be done by obtaining grants and fundraising.

Cllr Watkins confirmed this was a great idea and would support.

Cllr Savage explained that he has 3 vacant tennis courts at Pleasant Rise farm that could be used in the interim however would need to speak to the other owners and look into the insurance aspects. Cllr Adcock suggested the school playground could be used in the evenings but Cllr Daw explained that this is not possible for insurance purposes as a teacher needs to be present.

Cllr Beechey thanked Cllr Savage for his kind offer in the short term but the Parish Council need to put something in place that they would own and manage for years to come. Cllr Beechey asked all Councillors if they were happy in principle to progress this idea and for him, Ms Jenner and Clerk to work together to see what can be done. All Councillors agreed.

1. **To ratify decision to proceed with installing a gate at the top of the Recreation Ground**

Cllr Watkins reported that due to another recent attempt of travellers accessing the Recreation ground, Councillors have agreed via email to proceed with installing a gate. Clerk confirmed that three quotes were requested but only two were received. Councillors decided via email on which quote to go with and the contractor has been instructed to undertake the work over the coming weeks. Cllr Daw proposed and Cllr Rabagliati seconded a motion to approve the installation of a gate on the Recreation ground. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr Beechey raised the now apparent gaps in the hedge along the top of the Recreation ground, it has been suggested that the concrete bollards currently situated along the Furlongs behind the fence are redundant so they could be moved to the top of the Rec to fill the gaps. Cllr Savage said after removing two with AEG they are not very deep in the ground but very heavy and would require machinery. Cllr Beechey confirmed that there would be a digger to assist with this. All Councillors agreed it is worth looking at how much this would cost to do. It was also discussed that Clerk would speak to AEG about re-digging the two they have moved at the bottom of the Recreation as these could now be moved to create an entrance onto the Rec. **Action 3.**

1. **To discuss and consider a request to change the purpose of one bay on Tye Road**

Cllr Watkins reminded Councillors that an email was received in May 2020 asking if one of the disabled bays at the Wingrove end of Tye Road could be changed into a purpose bay for ‘Commercial Vehicles Only’. Cllr Rabagliati stated that there was no justification for this and would make no difference. Cllr Daw agreed and said they would still need to wheel deliveries up to places and does not see the need. Cllr Beechey agreed that no need and justification plus there are only two disabled bays at that end so doesn’t seem right to remove one of those.

Cllr’s Adcock, Savage and Cooper all agreed with the above. Clerk will report back to the resident who wrote in with this request. **Action 4.**

1. **To discuss litter bins in the village**

Clerk reported that following the recent issue of litter on the Tye this has been put on the Agenda for discussion. Cllr Rabagliati said that the provision of bins in the village centre is not adequate, they are often over flowing and he feels that more bins are needed on the Tye.

Cllr Daw disagreed as she would not like to see more bins on the Tye, there are 3 available. She feels that businesses need to take responsibility for their own rubbish. Cllr Beechey agreed that no more bins needed on the Tye, need to ensure all three are being used not just the one near the Gun Room. The Clerk said she could look into the capacity of the bins in the Square but from memory they are expensive and would need to see if it would change the cost of the emptying contract. Cllr Adcock agreed would need to speak to WDC to see if the capacity would increase the emptying costs, she also felt that businesses could provide their own bins. Cllr Savage agreed with the above. Cllr Daw said when she recently went to Pevensey the bins had small signs on saying ‘please take your litter home’. Clerk confirmed that she will look into bigger capacity bins and report back to Councillors**. Action 5.**

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

Cllr Rabagliati reported that a meeting is being held next week with East Sussex County Council about the traffic proposals. He also reported that the recent pothole report he compiled has resulted in all of them being repaired.

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

Cllr Cooper reported that there have been several issues recently at the allotments. The bins have continued to be overflow so a letter was sent to all plot holders from Cllr Cooper. There are no funds to buy a third bin so they need to manage the two they have and if required, take additional materials to the garden waste in Seaford. A leak was identified between the two troughs but this has now been repaired. A padlock was placed on the ball cock box but Clerk is aware of this now and has a key, this was put on to prevent plot holders attaching a hose pipe which has damaged the troughs in past years.

1. **Report on Public Transport – Cllr Savage**

Cllr Savage internet connection was patchy so had left the meeting for a short while. Clerk confirmed no update other than Cllr Savage is attending the AGM next week for Cuckmere Buses so a report will be available at the next meeting.

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

Clerk confirmed there was no update.

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

Cllr Daw reported that the bridle way sign at Drusillas has not been put back up. Clerk will look into this. **Action 6.** Cllr Daw explained that she had a meeting the previous week with the owner of Deans Place to discuss the recent flooding issues and the correspondence with the Environment Agency. They can’t seem to get any further and would like APC’s support. There have been suggestions about changing Exceat into a wetlands as a group recently did in Somerset. Deans Place Owners would like to arrange a meeting at Deans Place with the Somerset group to find out more. All Councillors agreed that an initial research meeting would be supported. Cllr Daw will update when more is known, and a meeting has been arranged.

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

Cllr Beechey thanked the task force members who recently sanded down and repainted the goal post on the Recreation ground. He will be sourcing a new bracket and a net for the goal post. Cllr Beechey informed the Clerk that the padlock for the large gate into the playground is missing, Clerk will look into this. **Action 7.**

39.1 To approve risk assessment on not opening playground whilst social distancing in place

Cllr Beechey explained that all Councillors had had sight recently of the risk assessment drawn up by the Clerk showing why the playground can’t be reopened for the time being due to the covid-19 rules in place for cleaning and associated insurance reasons. All Councillors confirmed that it was the right decision and would be reviewed regularly. New signs will be made up and sent to Cllr Beechey. **Action 8.**

Cllr Daw proposed and Cllr Adcock seconded the motion for the playground to remain closed for the time being due to covid-19. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr Beechey explained that the water fountain repairs will not be considered at this meeting until more is known from the government about the supply of water fountains. At the present time this is not appropriate. The Clerk will continue to keep this on action log until a decision can be made**. Action 9.**

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

40.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

**SDNP/20/02013/LIS** Burnt House Cottage, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TS APC s*upported*

**SDNP/20/01116/HOUS** Downsmere, The Broadway, Alfriston, BN26 5XH APC s*upported*

**SDNP/20/01807/HOUS** Old Farm Cottage, Winton Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UH APC s*upported*

40.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

**SDNP/20/01514/HOUS** Pailin House, 6 Kings Ride, Alfriston, BN26 5XP Refused by SDNPA

**SDNP/20/01531/HOUS & SDNP/20/01532/LIS** Clifton House, High Street, Alfriston Ongoing

40.3 Enforcement updates

Cllr Adcock reported that three enforcement issues remain: the sign for Smugglers, the sign for the care home and the contractor sign attached to SDNPA footpath sign.

SDNPA enforcement officers have sent letters but no response and there seems to be no plans for them to take it further. Cllr Adcock suggested APC writing a letter to SDNPA asking them to press further on enforcement issues in the village. All Councillors agreed, Cllr Adcock will draft a letter to be sent. **Action 10.**

**41. Reports from Outside Bodies**

*41.1 Volunteer Task Force*: Cllr Adcock reported that the task force undertook the work on the goal post on the Recreation ground. Volunteers met recently with WDC to show them what work has been undertaken in the car park to ensure this continues. Discussion was had about the white bridge as Cllr Adcock recently contacted Clerk to see if it could be painted. The white bridge is the responsibility of ESC, who were contacted to see if the painting could be undertaken, however the response was the bridge would not be painted for cosmetic reasons work, would only be done for structural reasons. ESCC did say they may give permission for the volunteers to paint the bridge but this is a large undertaking due to requiring scaffolding and Environmental Agency being involved due to materials in the Cuckmere. Cllr Adcock will liaise with the volunteer who raised this issue.

*41.2 Heartstart*: Cllr Watkins explained that nothing new to report.

*41.3 Alfriston Emergency Group*: no report.

*41.4 Flood Forum* – Mr John Hurwood reported that Cllr Lunn updated on the Cuckmere recently so nothing new to update. He would however like to be invited to attend the meeting at Deans Place with Somerset to which Cllr Daw confirmed he is on her list.

*41.5 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report.

*41.6 Twinning Committee* – All activities currently suspended.

*41.7 Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect* – no report.

*41.8 St Andrew’s Church* – Ms Diana Monteath-Wilson sent in a report stating that socially distanced services are being held on Wednesday and Sundays at 10am.

*41.9 Clergy House* – Cllr Daw reported that no date yet for the Clergy House to reopen.

*41.10 Cuckmere Buses* – Clerk reported that they are holding their Annual Meeting on Monday 27th July to which Cllr Savage will be attending.

1. **Correspondence to The Clerk**
2. Clerk reported that a S137 grant has come in from Cuckmere Flood Forum for £70. This was agreed.
3. Another request for a S137 grant has come in from Cuckmere Buses. In previous years APC have given them £200, however due to budget restraints this financial year the budget for grants was reduced to £300 so if this is awarded it would only leave £30 in the pot for the remainder of the year. It was agreed that support is needed for the Cuckmere Buses for everything they do and a grant of £150 was awarded.
4. Clerk confirmed that all Councillors had received the document from residents in Sloe Lane which Cllr Lunn updated on earlier. Clerk will send an email to ESCC about this and provide an update to residents in Sloe Lane. **Action 11.**
5. Clerk reported that a resident has written in about an experiment she has been undertaking by providing free dog poo bags at strategic points around the village. This has reduced the amount of fouling on the footpaths. The resident has supplied over 600 free bags but can’t continue to keep funding them. Councillors considered and all agreed it was an excellent idea. Clerk will research this and the costs and report back to Councillors. **Action 12.**
6. Clerk reported that well over a year ago APC agreed that a Housing Needs Survey was required. Funds were received from Alfriston CLT and Action in Rural Sussex [AiRS] was paid half the invoice in July 2019 to undertake the survey. Since then, despite numerous chase emails being sent by the Clerk, the survey has not been undertaken. When chased recently AiRS asked APC to consider if they still wanted the survey to be done considering the Alfriston CLT were not as committed.

APC agreed that there is still a need and results are valid for 5 years. They have been paid for the service so would like to see it be undertaken. Clerk will email AiRS to confirm would like the survey to proceed and ASAP. **Action 13.**

1. **Date of next meeting**

The remainder of APC meetings being held in 2020 will be held remotely via Zoom. They are:

Monday 21st September 2020 at 19:15

Monday 16th November 2020 at 19:15

1. **Public Questions**
2. Mrs Hannah Parkinson asked if the traffic meeting with ESCC arranged next week was for Parish Council only. Clerk confirmed that the meeting was between ESCC and APC and the meeting would be minuted which will be published after the meeting once minutes have been approved. Cllr Beechey pointed out that the meeting is with only APC at ESCC’s request.

Signed: Victoria Rutt - Clerk and RFO

**APPENDIX A**

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