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 remotely via Zoom on Monday 21st September 2020 at 19:15**

**Present:**

Cllr Watkins [Chair] Cllr Daw

Cllr Cooper Cllr Savage

Cllr Rabagliati Cllr Adcock

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately two members of the public

**45. Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**46. Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

**47. Apologies for absence**

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Beechey.

1. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

No report or attendance.

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

Cllr Shing reported that the new Exceat Bridge consultation has ended, and they are awaiting the conclusion although it is believed a lot of positive feedback was received. The planning application for this should be received by the end of the year. There was a recent Alfriston traffic meeting which was positive, and this should go to public consultation later this year. East Dean surgery has now closed so Cllr Shing is liaising with local surgeries to ensure they can cover those who are housebound. Cuckmere River has had £95,000 allocated to it for the EA to clear the shingle over the next 5 years.

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

Cllr Lunn reported that he is very concerned with the issues about Covid testing at the moment. It is disturbing to hear that those who require a test can’t access one and if they do it is miles away. He has asked if anyone has these issues to please let him know. He spoke about the Wealden Local Plan and that the key concern is housing numbers and that it will increase traffic in the village. The SDNPA board are still awaiting an outcome of the transfer of Seven Sisters Country Park over to them, there is a business plan and £1 million has been put aside for CIL money. They have assured that there will be a dedicated South Downs office with other co-agencies present so it will be a large hub.

Cllr Lunn spoke about the interventions with the Environment Agency [EA] and confirmed they have put aside £95k over the next 5 years to remove the shingle. Hopefully action will take place but he is not hopeful. Cllr Rabagliati said he went for a walk the other day and he said the river is flowing well again over the last 4/5 days and that there had been a small breach on the western side.

Cllr Savage asked Cllr Lunn that he mentioned the high number of covid cases but there is no mention of the severity. Cllr Lunn confirmed that it has been low numbers in Wealden due to the rural location. Cllr Savage also asked about the white planning paper and what that meant for rat running around Alfriston and likely through Litlington.

Mr Richard Brown asked to provide a quick update whilst on this subject instead of waiting at the end of the meeting under Flood Forum, this was agreed. Mr Brown updated that he is the Deputy Chair at Cuckmere Valley Parish Council and he also sits on the Water Level Board. He explained that he has been working with Maria Caulfield MP and she has been incredibly helpful. The water board are trying to work with the EA to encourage better management of the river. The plan is to try and get the EA to pass over the responsibility to the water board who is a competent and motivate group to get the issues properly addressed. Mr Brown spoke about the reed bed near Deans Place and suggested that if it was to be properly fenced, cattle could be put in there who would do an excellent job grazing the reed bed.

It was agreed that information would be sent around to Councillors.

1. **Declaration of interests**

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

1. **Minutes**

52.1 To agree as a true record the Minutes of the APC meeting held on 20th July 2020

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

1. **Finance**

53.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: Sept 2020

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Savage seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances for Sept 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.*

53.2 To ratify National pay scale increment and backpay

Clerk explained that NALC had decided to increase the increments across the board on the Clerks pay scales, therefore this increment needs to be processed and they have said nationally to backdate from April 2020. APC’s payroll provider has been informed by NALC and will be doing this in October. Cllr. Savage proposed and Cllr. Cooper seconded a motion to approve the national pay increment and back pay. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. **To ratify decision for the new litter bin in the Square and moving one to the Tye**

The Clerk explained that following recent discussions with litter issues on the Tye, new bins have been considered. It has been agreed to move the round concrete bin in the Square to the Tye so there is an increase in capacity there, and then a new double sized bin will replace the concrete one and sit alongside the existing double bin thus increasing capacity in the Square also. We hope this will help solve the issue of the bins overflowing. The new bin has been ordered so awaiting installation from WDC. Cllr Daw proposed and Cllr Cooper seconded the moving and purchasing of a bin for the Tye and Square. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. **To consider and agree how to proceed with the Housing Needs Survey**

Clerk reported that in June 2019 an estimate for a Housing Needs Survey was received from Action in Rural Sussex [AiRS]. Funding was given for this survey from the Alfriston CLT and 50% of the invoice was paid for the survey to take place. The survey was delayed by many reasons by AiRS, 18 months later they are now ready to proceed but the costs have gone up so the new estimate adds on just under £1000. APC do not have these funds. It was discussed and all Councillors agree that they should honor the original estimate as it is not the fault of the Parish Council that it has been delayed. It was agreed that a letter would be sent explaining our disappointment. Action 1. Clerk will also contact the Alfriston CLT to find out their current position. Action 2.

1. **To agree and ratify APC’s formal response to ESCC re traffic calming measures**

Cllr Watkins reported that this report has been delayed. The Clerk explained that when it has received sign off from the Traffic Sub Committee it will come to the full Council via email for review and final agreement before submitting to ESCC. It can then be ratified at the November 2020 meeting. Cllr Adcock said that she feels that SDNPA should be involved in this matter. The Clerk confirmed that two representatives from SDNPA sit on the Sub Committee and have been involved in meetings and receive all correspondence.

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

Cllr Rabagliati’s internet connect was poor throughout the meeting, he had sent his report to the Clerk ahead of the meeting, so the below report was read out for him.

*Traffic Management. Since the last APC meeting on 20 July, the APC Traffic Management Sub Committee has met with ESCC Highways to discuss ESCC’s response to the APC proposals for a valley wide solution to the High Street’s traffic issues.  Since that meeting, ESCC have sent an updated response which included indicative costings for implementation of the individual proposals.  The APC Traffic Management Sub Committee has met again to discuss these and is in the process of drawing up its formal response.  This will be published in the near future.*

*The APC Traffic Management Sub Committee is ambitious in its plans for the elements of the scheme and is pushing for its proposals to be taken to formal stakeholder consultation.  The overall cost of implementation would be substantial, but not unrealistic for a scheme of this significance.  As previously notified, ESCC have indicated that they wish for the implementation to take place in the coming financial year.*

*Twittens.  I am disappointed that there has been no progress in repairing the water leak in the Twitten behind the Gun Room.  This was reported to SE Water last week on 14 and 17 September, and has become progressively worse, to the point that the twitten to White Bridge is now impassable.*

*Wealden Climate Change Conference.  At the beginning of September I attended an all day online conference run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy for Parish Councillors in the Wealden District.  This conference was aimed at presenting ideas and resources for parish councils wanting to take action on environmental issues and declare ‘Climate Emergency’ themselves.  The online nature of the conference was somewhat tricky to navigate, however, I have received a full package of the resources that were presented, and I am very keen that APC should engage with and drive forward initiatives for everyone on the parish  to get involved.  I would like to share this information with other Councillors with the goal of participating in wider schemes in this important battle against Climate Change.*

*I have today received an invitation from Lewes District Council to participate in a Climate Action Forum for Lewes District and intend to join their first Zoom meeting in October.*

*Litter pick.  Over the last 2 Sundays, Michael Anderson’s team of litter pickers has been out to the North and South of the village from Drusilla’s to High and Over.  Considerable thanks is due to this volunteer team.*

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

Cllr Cooper explained that nothing new to report.

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

Cllr Savage explained that nothing new to report.

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

Clerk reported that the two broken horse signs near Drusillas have been reported yet again.

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

Cllr Daw would like her thanks noted to Mrs Barbara Wilson and family for the new bench in the village square. She explained that the grass cutters are doing a fantastic job in the village which the Clerk was delighted to hear and will pass it on to the contractors. Cllr Daw expressed her thanks to Mr Roger Cooper for the excellent new gate at the Recreation ground. She mentioned a discussion with a resident who had sent a letter to the Parish Council about a smell from the fields behind the Broadway. Clerk confirmed this letter had not been received. Cllr Adcock confirmed she had received this handwritten letter and explained to the sender that the Parish Council could not do anything about a smell and recommended they contact the Environment Agency. Cllr Daw asked if she was to continue liaising with Mr Michael Clinch about the flooding issues at Deans Place or is Cllr Adcock taking this over? It was discussed and confirmed that it should remain with Cllr Daw as she started the work and it comes under her portfolio.

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

Clerk reported that the new gate had been installed at the Recreation ground which is now padlocked. Huge thanks again to Mr Roger Cooper for all his work on this, also for the repairs to the playground gate. The metal chain at the bottom of the Tye has been fixed and a new padlock has been put in place. This is only for the use of emergency services so the code will not be given out. A lot of work is being done on the playground improvements and the space for young people, a meeting has been set up to get some drawings done for potential new equipment and a survey is being signed to show a need for the space in the village for young people. Hopefully there will be something in place for the November meeting to decide on.

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

63.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

**SDNP/20/01924/HOUS** Garden Cottage, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TT Comments submitted

**SDNP/20/03338/HOUS** 6 Smugglers Close, Alfriston, BN26 5TG Comments submitted

63.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

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

**SDNP/20/02013/LIS** Burnt House Cottage, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TS Granted.

**SDNP/20/01116/HOUS** Downsmere, The Broadway, Alfriston, BN26 5XH Granted.

**SDNP/20/01807/HOUS** Old Farm Cottage, Winton Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UH Granted.

63.3 Enforcement updates

Cllr Adcock reported that all the recent signs that were reported for enforcement to SDNPA have now been removed. APC did write to them to ask them to do this and Clerk confirmed a follow up email was sent to them with thanks. The new sign near Deans Place that has appeared for Mistila was discussed, Cllr Adcock and Cllr Rabagliati feel happy with this as it is small but it will be reviewed if more start to appear.

**64**.  **Reports from Outside Bodies**

*64.1 Volunteer Task Force*: no update.

*64.2 Heartstart*: no update.

*64.3 Alfriston Emergency Group*: no report received.

*64.4 Flood Forum* – this was covered earlier in meeting by Mr Richard Brown.

*64.5 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report received.

*64.6 Twinning Committee* – no report received.

*64.7 Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect* – no report received.

*64.8 St Andrew’s Church* – no report received.

*64.9 Clergy House* – Cllr Daw reported they will not reopen until March 2021.

* 1. *Cuckmere Buses* – no report received.

1. **Correspondence to The Clerk**
2. Clerk asked if Councillors were happy to do a poppy wreath for the Remembrance Service in November 2020 as usual. This was agreed so Clerk will arrange for a cheque to be drawn up for £15 for the RBL.
3. Clerk read out a letter of thanks from Mrs Hannah Parkinson thanking the OCC and Cllr Adcock for arranging the storage of the village model so her father can now have access to his shed again!
4. Clerk explained that she has been informed it is best to add an addition to the Standing Orders to include remote meetings due to Covid as it is likely to continue until May 2021. Councillors confirmed they had sight of this document and all agreed. Cllr Rabagliati proposed, and Cllr Cooper seconded a motion for the addition to be adopted into the Standing Orders. **MOTION CARRIED**. Clerk explained she has brought it up this way to get it approved but it will be on the agenda for the November 2020 meeting to receive official ratification.
5. Clerk read out an email from a lady who lives in the Broadway who stated that the speeds of cars, lorries and the bus have increased. The email also stated that vehicles are parking dangerously where the new wooden barrier has been erected. It was discussed and the bus company will be spoken to and the Clerk will put her in touch with Cllr Rabagliati who will do some checks. When the Alfriston Speedwatch is up and running, which will hopefully be soon, the Clerk will ensure that the Broadway is covered on a few shifts.
6. **Public Questions**

Mr Jon Boxall asked if the Clerk would put him in touch with the Flood Forum. Clerk confirmed she would do this as she has his email address.

1. **Date of next meeting**

The last meeting of 2020 will be held remotely via Zoom on Monday 16th November 2020 at 19:15.

Signed: 

**APPENDIX A**

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