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 16th November 2020 at 19:15

**Present:**

Cllr Watkins [Chair] Cllr Daw

Cllr Beechey [Vice-chair] Cllr Savage

Cllr Cooper Cllr Rabagliati

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 5 members of the public

**68. Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**69. Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

**70. Apologies for absence**

No apologies.

1. **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

No report or attendance.

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

No report or attendance.

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

Cllr Lunn reported that WDC continue to support the hub which is still receiving a lot of calls for support especially during this second lockdown. There has been an increase in numbers in the Wealden area for covid which has resulted in more test centres being opened. There have been talks about whether covid inspectors would be beneficial, but it was deemed not suitable for the Wealden area. Other services have continued to be maintained, however the Council offices recently had to shut due to a positive case, so they are being affected. Cllr Lunn asked residents to follow the advice and stay safe. The local plan is still ongoing and there has been a glimmer of hope that an algorithm has been set up to help establish housing need, the outcome of this may be smaller numbers. There is no update on the Cuckmere but to date there has been no major flooding.

1. **Declaration of interests**

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

1. **Minutes**

75.1 To agree as a true record the Minutes of the APC meeting held on 21st September 2020

Cllr. Savage proposed and Cllr. Daw seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC meeting held on 21st September 2020 were a true and accurate record. MOTION CARRIED.

1. **Finance**

76.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: Nov 2020

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Rabagliati seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances for November 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.*

76.2 To approve the quarterly audit paperwork for Q2 2020/21

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Beechey seconded a motion to confirm the Q2 audit paperwork had been circulated and approved. MOTION CARRIED

76.3 To approve the mid-year finance report for 2020/21

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Cooper seconded a motion to confirm the mid-year finance report had been circulated and approved. MOTION CARRIED

1. **To ratify decision to adopt addition to Standing Orders to cover remote meetings**

At the APC meeting in September 2020, Councillors agreed to adopt an addition to the Standing Orders to cover remote meetings. This was ratified at this meeting.

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Rabagliati seconded a motion to ratify the addition to the Standing Orders. MOTION CARRIED

1. **To agree how to proceed with ESCC grass cutting 2021/22**

Clerk reported that as in previous years, ESCC would like to know how to proceed for 2021/22 for the urban cuts. There are three options:

1. ESCC do the two urban cuts at no cost to APC.
2. ESCC do two cuts and APC pay them to do 4 cuts so 6 in total at a cost of £610 by the APC
3. APC take on the cuts and receive a £305 contribution from ESCC.

The Clerk explained that APC have opted for option 3 for the past 2 years and the cuts have been included in the schedule with our contractor. Cllr Savage proposed to go with option 3 and Cllr Beechey seconded this decision. MOTION CARRIED. Action 1 – Clerk to inform ESCC.

1. **To discuss and agree the timeline for the co-option process of a new Councillor / To**

discuss and agree to fill the vacancy on the Planning Committee until election in May 2021

Clerk reported that due to the resignation of Caroline Adcock, there is now a vacancy. All vacancies get reported to Wealden District Council [WDC] and a notice is published. WDC have confirmed that no election has been called so the vacancy can be filled by co-option. It was explained that APC will publish widely an advert at the beginning of December, a reminder email will be sent out at the beginning of January and any candidates invited to the January 2021 meeting to have 2 minutes to speak on why they wish to be a Councillor and then it will be a vote by show of hands. Clerk is available to speak to anyone who may be interested.

Cllr Watkins asked what would happen if anyone does not come forward. Clerk said she would get confirmation on this from SALC and WDC, but it is believed that APC would sit with a vacancy until the next election. Cllr Beechey proposed, and Cllr Cooper seconded the co-option process and timeline. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Cllr Rabagliati reported that the most notable item to report is the receipt at the end of last week of ESH’s response to the APC questions on the traffic management issue.  This clarifies which elements ESH are prepared to pursue themselves and gives cost indications for other measures that they might support, but not fund.  ESCC have asked for further clarification on some of the features that the APC subcommittee has requested, and we need to respond further to ESCC on several points.  The rate of progress on this matter is frustratingly slow. Clerk will arrange a meeting of the subcommittee. Action 2 – Clerk to arrange Traffic Subcommittee meeting for next week.

Prior to the second lockdown, increasing violations of the parking on the pavements and double yellow lines along the High Street.  Several reports to ‘Project Crackdown’ were made of the offending vehicles.  Unfortunately, this situation is not likely to improve until parking offences are decriminalised by WDC. Both Cllr Rabagliati and Cllr Daw will be attending the Wealden Parish conference on Wednesday, to be held using Microsoft Teams.  Cllr Rabagliati will, as last year, be asking the question about parking enforcement!

Cllr Beechey asked if residents had been updated about the correspondence with Sussex Police. The Clerk reported that following a letter being sent at the end of the September to the new Chief Constable at Sussex Police, email correspondence has taken place with a few different departments. A lady from Sussex Safer Road Partnership is now receiving a weekly spreadsheet from the Clerk on any reports of vehicles parking on double yellow lines in the village. This can no longer be reported via Crackdown as it is not an option anymore.

Discussions with a Sergeant within the Neighbourhood Policing Team has confirmed that the Police do not have the resources to come to Alfriston for patrol but she has confirmed that PCSOs will be sent to see if they can deter parking on the double yellow lines. The same Sergeant is looking to enlist the support of her colleagues in the road policing department who have access to weigh bridges and other assets that could assist us. She will come back to us in due course on this.

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

Cllr Cooper reported that the allotments are still full and there is now a waiting list. She also confirmed that the water supply has now been turned off until March 2021.

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**

Cllr Savage explained that nothing new to report. Cllr Beechey asked if the broken fencing on the Litlington side of the White Bridge could be reported. The Clerk confirmed that this has been reported twice and the Clerk at Cuckmere Valley PC has confirmed receipt and has explained there is a ‘situation’ over it that was not expanded on. However, the Clerk will report again. Action 3 – Clerk to report fence to Cuckmere PC.

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

Cllr Daw reported that the Remembrance Service on Wednesday on the Tye went beautifully and the Royal British Legion would like to know if it can be held there annually. Cllr Daw will get them to liaise with the Clerk to make an official request for permission.

Cllr Daw explained that there will not be a large Christmas tree this year as it is too costly to pay to close the road and purchase the cable license. A smaller tree has kindly been donated by Graham (Alfriston Gallery) to go in the hole with no road closure needed. Norvetts have donated money to be able to purchase battery operated lights and the Village Store is purchasing the batteries. Stars from the School will be hanging on the tree with messages from the pupils and stars will be available to purchase in the square for a small donation, to write on and hang on the tree. Any donations will be given to Crisis at Christmas and the local food bank. All Councillors expressed their thanks to those donating and to Cllr Daw for arranging.

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

85.1 Update on playground improvements

Cllr Beechey reported that the replacement infant swings have been received but sadly the wrong connection links were sent. The Clerk is sourcing these and with help from her husband they should be installed this weekend. A few weeks ago, a paper was sent out to give a general idea of what type of equipment that could be installed as part of a scheme to improve the playground, and most importantly to give an idea of the sort of costs associated involved. Two local mothers have responded to say that they are interested in assisting with fundraising so we will be working with them to see what we can achieve. The plan is to improve the area at the top of the playground by replacing the large swings, seesaw and slide.

85.2 Update on space for young people

Cllr Beechey reported that this has not moved forward hugely yet, but Ms Jemima Jenner is circulating a survey to obtain support for this area. There has been discussion on setting up a small committee for this project which will sit apart from the Parish Council but work with it, which will enable more funding options to be available to them for this project as the Parish Council has access to limited funding schemes.

85.3 To discuss and consider the parking area/ access to riverbank and Deans Place garden

Cllr Beechey reported that James Dopson, Deans Place, has been in contact as parked vehicles have been blocking the access to the Deans Place and riverbank opposite the Wingrove car park entrance. There are two parking bays on the left-hand side but there should be a space for access to the Deans Place by foot, large wheelchairs, or AEG emergency vehicle if water is to be pumped. It was discussed and agreed that the best option would be to install two wooden posts with a chain and padlock to prevent parking in that area. Councillors were content for Cllr Beechey and Clerk to investigate this further and obtain quotes. Cllr Beechey raised that the Wingrove bins continue to be put in the parking area despite their bin storage being opposite. Clerk will contact them yet again about this. Action 4.

Cllr Beechey expressed his thanks to Cllr Rabagliati for helping to move the concrete bin from the Square to the Tye. There are now 4 bins situated on the Tye which should assist with the litter issue. Cllr Rabagliati asked when the Tye would next be cut as grass is looking long, Clerk will email grass contractor to find out. Action 5. Cllr Daw said to please let her know if the dog bag dispensers need filing as she does not always walk past them. Thanks were given to Cllr Daw for taking on this job.

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

86.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

SDNP/20/03894/LIS Follers Manor, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5TT SDNPA granted

SDNP/20/03656/HOUS Pyewacket, 19 Deans Road, Alfriston, BN26 5XJ Ongoing

SDNP/20/03841/FUL South Downs Way, Kings Ride, Alfriston, BN26 5XW Ongoing

SDNP/20/03619/HOUS Burnt House Cottage, Alfriston, BN26 5TS Ongoing

SDNP/20/04069/HOUS Clifton House, High Street, Alfriston, BN26 5SY Ongoing

86.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

SDNP/20/01924/HOUS Garden Cottage, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TT SDNPA granted

SDNP/20/03338/HOUS 6 Smugglers Close, Alfriston, BN26 5TG Application withdrawn

86.3 Enforcement updates

Cllr Beechey asked at the earlier Planning meeting whether there were any updates about the signage at the Shot Coffee House. Clerk will seek an update from the enforcement officer. Action 6.

**87. Reports from Outside Bodies**

*87.1 Volunteer Task Force*: no update.

*87.2 Heartstart*: Cllr Watkins reported that batteries have been changed in the defibrillators and the new units will be put up early 2021.

*87.3 Alfriston Emergency Group*: no report received.

*87.4 Flood Forum* – Mr John Hurwood reported that a meeting was scheduled on the 2nd November but was cancelled due to covid. Mr Hurwood contacted the EA to seek an update on the river mouth and the use of a pump again this winter. After obtaining permission from APC and WDC, the EA have placed a pump alongside the Willows car park toilets. They will maintain this and ensure it is working when needed. Cllr Lunn stated that earlier this year emergency work was done, and the EA have argued about landscaping the shingle, Cllr Lunn feels that it should be left to the natural systems to move the shingle. Mr Hurwood suggested that APC should write to Mr Levitt at the EA to thank him for use of the pump again. Action 7.

*87.5 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report received.

*87.6 Twinning Committee* – nothing new to report as all events on hold.

*87.7 Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect* – ACC is temporarily suspended at the moment.

*87.8 St Andrew’s Church* – no report received for the meeting however Ms Monteath-Wilson emailed the following day to say all service information will be in the Cuckmere News December edition.

*87.9 Clergy House* – Cllr Daw reported that a full update will be sent in for the January 2021 meeting on how next year will look for the house, some changes will be made.

*87.10 Cuckmere Buses* – no report received.

1. **Correspondence to The Clerk**
2. Clerk reported that SDNPA have responded about the Kings Ride problem of cyclists speeding down coming off the South Downs Way. They have had discussions and will be installing some new bespoke signs however they said in email they do not feel these will have much effect. It was discussed and suggested could speed bumps be put in place. If signs only way forward, then need to meet to discuss and agree placement of them. Action 8 – Clerk to contact officer.
3. Clerk confirmed that a Wealden officer has confirmed that a new sign will be installed at the entrance to Sloe Lane by the end of November.
4. Clerk reported that WDC have written about issues in the Dene car park following the new entrance/exit at both ends. There have been a few reports of speeding, near misses and the one-way system being ignored. All Councillors agreed that the change has had a hugely positive impact on the village and square so it would be a great shame to change back, however they would be supportive of measures such as speed humps at the entrance/exit, better markings to show the one way system and WDC should speak to the bus companies about the bus incidents and using the car park as a bus stop. Action 9.
5. A grant request from Wealden Citizens Advice has come in for £250. Clerk explained that we have not received a request from them before. Cllr Beechey asked Cllr Lunn if there have been any changes to funding for them. Cllr Lunn was not aware of any. Clerk explained that there are some funds available in the grant budget pot and other areas that we could dip into following the mid-year report. All Councillors agreed that they deserve the money as they are an excellent service. Cllr Beechey proposed a grant of £200, this was seconded by Cllr Rabagliati.Action 10.
6. Clerk has received another report of overgrown hedges along the Furlongs resulting in the elderly having to step out into the road with their walkers and parents with their pushchairs. This is becoming dangerous. Clerk to obtain the addresses so letters can be sent to the owners. Cllr Daw suggested that a line is included in the letter that if they are unable to cut back and/or afford to get the work done, they should contact the Parish Council so the volunteer group could look into assisting. Action 11.
7. Request received from the Rude Mechanicals asking if they could perform on the Tye on Thursday 29th July 2021, from 4pm to 11pm. All Councillors agreed.
8. Cllr Beechey confirmed that a resident had contacted him asking why the playground remains open during this lockdown. To confirm the playground did not need to be shut during this lockdown and will remain open with signs up informing users that the equipment is not cleaned.
9. Clerk reported that Wealden have set up a roll of honour for those who have gone above and beyond during the global pandemic. The Parish Council nominated the Cuckmere Support Network as a whole and they will be receiving a certificate in due course. They have been placed on the roll of honour on Wealden’s website.
10. **Public Questions**

1. Mrs Katie Salmon would like to fully support future Remembrance Services being held annually on the Tye. She also expressed her thanks to the Parish Council for everything they have done this year.

1. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be Monday 18th January 2020 at 19:15 via Zoom.

In 2021, the meetings will revert to being held every month except for the months of August and December. The meetings will continue to be held remotely via Zoom until further notice.

Signed: 

**APPENDIX A**

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