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 15th March 2021 at 19:15**

**Present:**

Cllr Watkins [Chair] Cllr Daw

Cllr Beechey [Vice-chair] Cllr Rabagliati

Cllr Cooper Cllr Bell

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 42 members of the public

**134**. **Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded attendees to keep the mute button on unless they wished to speak, in which case please raise a hand.

**135. Public Questions**

Clerk reported that two public questions had been submitted.

The Clerk explained that the first question concerned a video, which surfaced on social media over the weekend of 6th/7th March, of a private Zoom meeting recording which included Cllr Savage, not as a Parish Councillor, but as a member of the public, who gave his views on the current covid vaccine and invited 1,000 people to a Freedom Festival at Pleasant Rise Farm over this Easter. A number of complaints have been submitted to the Chair and Clerk. The procedure when receiving complaints is to refer them to the Monitoring Officer [MO] at Wealden District Council [WDC]. The Clerk liaised with the MO on Monday 8th March to seek advice. No formal investigation has been undertaken as that would require a member of the public to make an official complaint in writing to the MO, and none has been received. The MO reviewed the information provided and suggested that Cllr Savage was spoken to. Two emails were sent to Cllr Savage by the Clerk, with the Chairman copied in. It was noted that neither WDC or APC have the power to suspend or remove a Councillor from office. All complainants were updated with the procedure that the Clerk has undertaken.

An email from Ms Martha Lawes was received which was also on behalf of 8 other named residents, providing the following comments and associated questions:

*On behalf of the parishioners listed below I would like to submit the following questions for inclusion at Monday’s APC meeting. The questions relate to the You-Tube video dated 8th February 2021 (viewed by over 8000 people) in which Cllr Savage invites up to 1000 anti-vaccers to camp at Pleasant Rise and hold a Freedom Festival over Easter.*

*In light of the fact that such a gathering will still be illegal under the current Corona Virus legislation and the fact that inviting 1000 unvaccinated people to gather en masse in Alfriston will potentially put parishioners at risk of disease and possibly even death, our questions are as follows:
1. Does Cllr Savage believe he has met the standards of conduct required of him as a Parish Councillor?
2. Does APC believe that Cllr Savage has met the standards of conduct required of him as a Parish Councillor?
3. Will Cllr Savage publicly withdraw his invitation and formally apologise to Parishioners for*

*seeking to put them in harm’s way?*

*4. And finally will Cllr Savage now stand down from his role as Parish Councillor?*

The Clerk explained that Cllr Savage was due to attend this evening but was not present at the meeting this evening which will be discussed under apologies. Cllr Savage was sent the public questions ahead of the meeting and in his absence he had submitted a statement to be read out. This is as follows:

*I was disheartened to hear of the reactions of people to my impromptu appearance on Rachel Elenaugh’s zoom support call in early Feb. The ethos of the call was to provide an open uplifting forum for people to share in these times of difficulty. There are many people who are lonely depressed and at times feeling suicidal. The statics are terrible!*

*Rachel set up the call as a support mechanism to give a platform on which to openly and freely express oneself. As a young policeman my oath had three major tenants. 1. To uphold the peace. 2. To protect life and property. 3. To prevent and detect crime.*

*I have taken this binding oath seriously. Lately being involved in helping people less advantaged than me. It was with this in mind that I offered the opportunity of a festival at Pleasant Rise. I have organised many over the years at the farm!*

*As many countries have and are lifting ‘lock down’ restrictions I had no reason to think given the changing nature of COVID that there was not a possibility to hold a festival in April.*

*Obviously this would not be done, given my background, in contravention of any applicable rules. As regards to being anti vax I have had vaccinations through my life.*

*I suggest that as is well know in psychological terms, the complaints are classic cases of mirroring or projections, when you see it in someone you clearly have those unresolved issues within you. Time for some deep reflection here maybe! The admin of one site that attracted some comments had to take them down as they were very inflammatory!*

The Clerk explained that questions 1, 3 and 4 were for Cllr Savage to answer, and no response has been given by him, nor can APC answer on his behalf. In regard to question 2 this was handed over to the Chair. Cllr Watkins explained what has been done so far and explained APC have no power to do anything and that the police will not do anything unless a gathering actually take place. Cllr Beechey said that the question is straightforward, and that APC should answer it. Cllr Watkins then asked each Councillor what they had to say.

**Cllr Rabagliati** – he supports free speech but does not support any action that would breach legislation/rules. The video was made before any announced timetable to lift lockdown was made.

**Cllr Bell** – does not wish to knock Cllr Savage as he has doesn’t think he has done anything particularly wrong. He may have been unwise, and he might want to withdraw the invitation and answer the questions asked of him, as he hasn’t.

**Cllr Cooper** – feels that Cllr Savage is entitled to his own opinion but very wrong to invite people given the current circumstances and that he should withdraw the invitation and apologise. She feels he has not breached the Code of Conduct as she can’t go against the MO.

**Cllr Daw** – Agreed with everyone else and said and as Cllr Savage often says Alfriston is precious to him, it was a very very silly invitation. She noted that APC have done all they can and our hands are tied. He should make sure he retracts and apologises.

**Cllr Beechey** – The question asked does not relate to the Cllr Savage’s views, which he is entitled to hold and are not abusive or offensive. The question also was not, has he breached the code of conduct. The question was whether Cllr Savage has met the standards required of him. The question related to the invitation to 1,000 people to Pleasant Rise Farm. The meeting recording was on the 8th Feb so prior to the announcement of a route out of lockdown. He felt it is unnecessary to refer in the question to anti-vaxxers and unvaccinated people attending in the question as it’s not necessary to the question and risks an accusation that the answer is based on Cllr Savage's beliefs. Cllr Beechey is of the opinion that the invitation does not meet the standards expected of a Parish Councillor and it was not in the interests of the parish or its parishioners for the invitation to have been made; all Councillors know they need to be careful what they say.

Ms Lawes was asked to speak as she had sent in the public questions. Ms Lawes stated that she wanted to make it clear that it may have been a private Zoom meeting but someone put it on social media for her and others to view freely. She thanked Councillors for their responses and is aware that APC can’t remove Cllr Savage, nor has she asked this to happen; what Ms Lawes wanted was Cllrs’ views on Cllr Savage’s behaviour. She felt incredibly let down by Cllr Savage, after a year in which the community has worked together to keep everyone safe, and for him to publicly invite people, against the law, to attend to put residents in harm way, is very disappointing. Ms Lawes felt very let down by Cllr Savage’s actions and by the fact that he didn’t have the decency to attend and respond to her questions, which would have been appropriate and polite of him. Ms Lawes would still like a real response to the questions asked of Cllr Savage.

Cllr Watkins said that Cllr Savage would be written to and informed of the views expressed, and see if he has any response. Ms Lawes said that she would like to have a real response, and not a statement that does not answer any of the questions. Clerk confirmed that she will write to Cllr Savage. **Action 1.**

The second public question was received from Ms Liz O’Neill, copied below:

*In light of the very public claims made by Cllr. Savage on his YouTube ‘Pleasant Quantum Rise’ Site on Friday 19th of February, that he has, “Talked to the park (SDNPA?) and has put in a planning application, a pre-planning , for 9 affordable houses because the village doesn’t have that sort of accommodation. They were very open minded that I didn’t have the money or cooperation from family to go forward so we have done a lot of preparatory work there.” Was this considered a potential site for affordable housing by APC and in any way linked to the recent Housing Needs Survey for Alfriston and are the APC aware that he is making these claims?*

The Clerk confirmed that she had looked into this following receiving this question. A pre-application was submitted to SDNPA in March 2018 which is on the website for anyone to view. Cllr Savage is not obliged to inform APC of submitting a pre-application. Clerk reported that some confusion has arisen about the Housing Needs Survey [HNS] so to clarify, the idea of a HNS came from a member of public asking for it to be considered at an APC meeting under public questions. This was placed on the agenda for next meeting and discussed. After many discussions it was agreed that a HNS would be commissioned by APC, however no public money has been spent on this as it has been entirely funded by the Alfriston Community Land Trust. The HNS was not commissioned due to this pre-application. The Clerk confirmed the answer to the questions was that the land had not been considered by APC and the pre-applicatin was not linked to the decision on a HNS. The Clerk was not aware the claims were being made. Cllr Beechey confirmed that APC have never considered any specific sites for potential affordable housing since he has been on the Council; he also had never heard of this Pleasant Quantum Rise website so was not aware of the claims. Cllr Bell reported that he and Cllr Watkins went to a SDNPA Planning workshop 3/4 years ago where possible sites were discussed and only two were raised by them in Alfriston. Pleasant Rise was not one of them. Ms O’Neill was at the meeting and was asked if she would like to add anything further. She thanked Councillors for their time and felt the question had been answered.

Cllr Watkins stated that as 30 minutes had passed, the meeting would now be closed and no more public questions accepted at this current time.

**136. Apologies for absence**

Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllr Savage as he said he was in an area where he had no internet coverage. Cllr Beechey noted that APC had to decide if the apology is accepted and had some questions. Cllr Beechey asked when the apologies were received, Clerk confirmed this evening at 18:15. How were the apologies received, Clerk confirmed via email. When did Cllr Savage receive the public questions and had he acknowledged, Clerk confirmed he would have received them same time as all other Councillors had and he confirmed verbally with the Chair on Friday 12th. Clerk could not answer where Cllr Savage was and why he was travelling during a period of lockdown restrictions. Cllr Beechey indicated that absent satisfactory answers to these questions he would not accept the apology. All Councillors confirmed their agreement not to accept this absence and the Clerk will email Cllr Savage asking for further information. **Action 2.**

**137. Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

Maria Caulfield sent her apologies for being unable to attend the meeting, but submitted the following report:

*Cuckmere river - I have been meeting with the Environment Agency and the Friends of Cuckmere regularly and the five-year maintenance plan is now in place which means annual drainage of the river mouth will happen every autumn to help prevent flooding in Alfriston and work has also been done on the sluice gates and while there was flooding this year, hopefully it was slightly less than previous years. We are now working on demaining the river and handing it over to the local drainage board who can then take on the management at a local level in future. We expect to know more about this before the summer.*

*Covid - We are now working towards lifting restrictions and the timescale for this has been set out by the PM. Schools went back in the last week and further restrictions will be lifted on the 29th March, if no increase in cases is experienced. I am aware that parish councils are keen to see that virtual meetings can continue, and I am pushing ministers for a decision on this.*

*Pot holes* - *£5.9 million has been allocated to East Sussex who are working their way through repairing the roads. If you have any roads in need of repair do let me know and I can follow this up with the County Council*

*Rural Crime Team* - *The police have set up a rural crime team to help tackle issues such as thefts and break ins on farms, dog thefts, sheep worrying and trespassing. The team are happy to come and meet with parish councils and can provide advice to rural communities on crime prevention. Please do let me know if you need the contact details.*

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

Cllr Shing reported that the Exceat bridge application will be going to SDNPA at the beginning of April. The transfer of the Seven Sisters Country Park has been delayed until the Summer. Regarding the High St Traffic meeting, this will need to be after the elections in May, however he noted money had been approved at a recent ESCC meeting for the project. Cllr Rabagliati asked if the amount was known, Cllr Shing did not have it to hand but the paperwork could be found under the recent Lead Member Transport meeting. Clerk will find this and circulate. **Action 3.** *In fact, £40,000 has been allocated by ESCC for the design stage.*

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

Cllr Lunn reported that he was present at the water board meeting and stated it is a bit more complicated than what Maria Caulfield MP has suggested. It is the handing over of the legal responsibility and the management of the land, they need to see if the board is the appropriate authority. It is a lengthy legal process and we are just at the start of it so it will take a very long time but the positive is the parties are committed and talking to one another.

**140. Declaration of interests**

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

**141. Minutes**

141.1 To agree as a true record the Minutes of the APC meeting held on 15th February 2021

Cllr. Bell proposed and Cllr. Cooper seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC meeting held on 15th February 2021 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**142. Finance**

142.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: March 2021

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Cooper seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances for March 2021. [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.*

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

Cllr Rabagliati reported that under Traffic Management, so far we have been unable to have the planned site meeting with East Sussex Highways and Maria Caulfield MP, owing to Government COVID restrictions on meetings.  We are being advised by East Sussex that meetings can only be held online, and these only during the next 2 weeks, after which purdah rules prevent any further meetings until after the May Local Government elections.  Since it is believed that the scheme designer has never visited the village, it was felt that the further discussions with him and ESH about the future of our High Street should include a site visit. APC have been holding out for an on-site meeting, to ensure that local knowledge of all the issues informs the decision-making process.

Regarding potholes and maintenance, Cllr Rabagliati is gathering a list of Highways (and Twytten) repairs including potholes and blocked culverts, etc.  He hopes to complete this in the next week or so.  If anyone is aware of any items that should be included in this list, please contact Cllr Rabagliati. One item on this list is the state of the flint walls to the Twitten running west from Market Square up to Smugglers Close which is in need of some repair.  We are looking to establish what authority is responsible for this.

The repairs to the handrail along White Way have not yet been completed.  This was given high priority (28-day turnaround) and the works will be undertaken soon.

Mr Michael Anderson has kindly coordinated dates for further litter picks along the South Road up to High and Over on Sunday 21st, and the Lullington Road on Sunday 28th.  Thanks are due to this team for their good work. Finally, Cllr Rabagliati is intrigued to hear of the £45,000 funding approval, announced just now by Cllr Shing, when no final agreement on the program has been reached.  We should make further enquiries on this matter.

Cllr Watkins asked Councillors how they wish to proceed about the site meeting. Cllr Beechey explained that the person who has been instructed to write the report, we believe has never visited the village so does not know the layout. A face to face site meeting would be helpful so it was agreed that one would be arranged for after the election, in mid-May. Clerk will liaise with ESCC and others to arrange this socially distanced meeting. **Action 4**

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

Cllr Cooper was having Zoom technical difficulties so Clerk confirmed that allotment renewals had all been received and there were 4 vacant plots, however there is a lengthy waiting list so Clerk is working through this list and meeting some plot holders at the site mid-week so by the end of the week the plots will be full again. At the February APC meeting, the Clerk raised the request for a polytunnel. SDNPA have come back with the informal opinion that planning permission would not be needed if the Parish Council carried out the work but would be required if the plot holder wished to erect a polytunnel. Cllr Cooper rejoined the meeting and reminded Councillors of her comments at previous meeting that if we say yes to this request, many other plot holders could request one and do we want this at the allotment site, as the one being requested is 6ft. Councillors discussed, and all agreed that polytunnels should not be allowed at the allotment site.

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

Nothing new to report.

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

Nothing new to report.

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

Cllr Daw asked for permission to dig up the snowdrops by the Pre School and move them to under a tree, so they are not lost in the upcoming Tye path works. This was agreed by all.

Cllr Daw reported that £787.19 has been raised for Lee’s bench and it has been suggested after a conversation with Mr Harmer that it should go near the net and scoreboard on the Recreation Ground. This was agreed and Clerk will work with Cllr Daw to get this arranged, ideally before the first cricket match of the season. **Action 5.**

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

Cllr Beechey reported his thanks to the AMWH for all their hard work on obtaining the majority of the funding for the Tye path project. All money has now been raised, the works will commence on Wednesday 21st April and the path will be closed for at least one week.

Recent work has commenced on replacing the broken and missing concrete bollards along the Tye with nicer wooden ones, it is work in progress but eventually will have all wooden bollards. The broken gate to the Clergy House track has now been replaced with a new working wooden gate.

The new bollard and chain area is now in place opposite the Wingrove car park after an issue was rightly raised by Deans Place about vehicles always blocking access to the hotel gardens. It was unfortunate that the AEG Chairman took it upon himself to go and speak to our contractor about the works. APC chose to install the bollards, the primary objective was to have sufficient access for a large wheelchair and sufficient room for a 4x4 type vehicle. A width of 3.5m was discussed. AEG were consulted and following the works were upset that it was 42cm narrower. There is still sufficient space to get the pump into the space, just with careful manoeuvering. There would be a cost involved to moving the bollard which does not appear to necessary to incur considering we spend public money.

Two emails have been received by Mrs Caroline Adcock about the playground. Cllr Beechey firstly explained Mrs Adcock’s emails perpetuated the misconception that the document sent out late last year was a settled plan, rather than an indication of costs associated with an ambitious scheme. Mrs Adcock stated in her emails that a number of parishioners are interested in developing a plan and raising funds for the playground, but they do not wish to reveal their identity or work with the Parish Council at the moment. Cllr Beechey explained that he has always been keen for the wider community to be involved, especially as they have better access to grants, as Parish Councils are very limited. APC has asked Mrs Adcock to put the interested parties in touch with APC, but Mrs Adcock says they do not wish to be contacted at present. Cllr Beechey suggested that Mrs Adcock is passed the baton to work with the interested local group to come up with ideas and to report back to APC, and APC are happy to assist if required. All Councillors thought it was a great idea and thanked Mrs Adcock and look forward to seeing what is brought back. Cllr Beechey raised that the group should be careful when fundraising not to say money is being raised for a particular item of equipment or scheme, in case that is not what is ultimately agreed. Fundraising needs to be more general, i.e. for an improvement project. The ultimate decision on what happens at the playground will lie with APC, but APC are happy to hand over the baton to see what can be achieved.

Mrs Adcock also raised that there is no padlock on the large gate in the playground. Cllr Beechey reported that the padlock has disappeared 3 times now. Clerk is going to replace yet again but this time no one will be given the code. **Action 6.**

Cllr Beechey reported that the broken swing will be removed and Clerk will obtain a quote for a new swing so Councillors can decide if it worth the expenditure or wait to see if there is a total refurbishment of this area. **Action 7.**

**149. Report from Planning Committee – Cllr Bell**

149.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

**SDNP/21/00621/TPO** 2 The Broadway, Alfriston, BN26 5XL

**SDNP/20/05790/LIS** The Star Inn, High Street, Alfriston, BN26 5TA

**SDNP/21/00499/FUL** Land South of North Road, Alfriston, East Sussex

149.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

**SDNP/20/05444/HOUS** 21 Deans Road, Alfriston, BN26 5XJ

**SDNP/21/00033/TPO** 15 The Broadway Alfriston BN26 5XL

**SDNP/21/00034/TPO** 13 The Broadway Alfriston BN26 5XL

**SDNP/21/00035/TPO** 11 The Broadway Alfriston BN26 5XL

**SDNP/21/00036/TPO** 9 The Broadway Alfriston BN26 5XL

**SDNP/21/00039/TPO** 7 The Broadway Alfriston BN26 5XL

**SDNP/21/00040/TPO** 8 The Broadway Alfriston BN26 5XL

**SDNP/21/00041/TPO** 10 The Broadway Alfriston BN26 5XL

**SDNP/21/00042/TPO** 12 The Broadway Alfriston BN26 5XL

All the above applications have been approved by SDNPA.

149.3 Enforcement updates

Cllr Bell reported that he has been made aware of 3 possible breaches, he has reported them to SDNPA and await their findings. He will report back at the next meeting.

**150. Reports from Outside Bodies**

*150.1 Volunteer Task Force*: Mrs Adcock reported that the task force have not met for a while but good news is that subject to permission granted from SDNPA, a wooden bus shelter will shortly be installed in the Willows car park.

*150.2 Heartstart*: no update.

*150.3 Alfriston Emergency Group*: Mr Steve Woodgate stated that he does not wish to get into an argument about the recently installed bollards on Tye Road. AEG are grateful for APC installing them. If the width had been 3.5m it would make life easier, however now there is a lot of manoeuvering and the vehicle can’t go forward as would block Tye Road and can’t go right back as it is soft ground and risk of getting stuck. Mr Woodgate explained that AEG would be willing to move the bollard over by the 42cm, free of charge, subject to APC approval. He also updated that they had a recent evening of pumping which went well.

Cllr Beechey thanked AEG for the offer of moving the bollard free of charge and all said Councillors would need to agree. Cllr Beechey explained he would be happy for them to move the bollard but is not sure whether the wooden post would survive the removal, so would need to be on the understanding that if any damage, AEG would need to replace the bollard with a like for like one. All Councillors agreed that AEG could move the bollard.

*150.4 Flood Forum* – Mr John Hurwood stated that nothing new to report.

*150.5 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report.

*150.6 Twinning Committee* – no report.

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

*150.8 St Andrew’s Church* – no report.

*150.9 Clergy House* – no report.

*150.10 Cuckmere Buses* – no report.

*150.11 AWMH* – Mr Adrian Butcher reported that the hall is still shut but the Pre School are still using it and a wedding arranged for April has been rescheduled for later in the year. The patio area is about to be repointed.

**151. Correspondence to The Clerk**

1. Clerk reported that permission had been granted via email that St Andrews could arrange a covid safe Easter trail on the Tye over the Easter weekend.
2. A request had come in from the Pre School to use the Tye and Rec on the 18th September for a Fun Run. The Rec would be if there was no cricket match, Clerk will liaise with Mr Harmer. Cllr Beechey asked Clerk to find out which area of the Tye they would like to use. Clerk will find out and email Councillors. **Action 8**.
3. Request from Mr Clancy asking if APC would consider opening dialogue with BT on behalf of the community to address the broadband current issues within the village. This was agreed. Clerk will action. **Action 9.**
4. Mr Joshua Grove has sent in an email regarding the Post Office. The email is below and if any business is interested please let the Clerk know and contact can be made.

*I am writing to you in regard to the current Post Office service offered in Alfriston.*

*It has come to our attention that the hall in which we operate in the Old Chapel Centre will be unable to accommodate us for use on a Saturday due to other bookings/commitments.*

*Due to staffing constraints and associated costs involved in additional staff costs to run a outreach which is already running at unviable we can only operate outreach services to communities in Sussex on Saturdays. Secondly costs involved in the hall hire are at estimated £36 a week which therefore makes the service cost unviable to myself as an independent post master.*

*To give you a brief understanding, Post Office Ltd cover a cost to me of a fixed payment to cover the service this fee includes my time, cost of location, travel expenses & staff costs.
This payment just about covers the rent on the hall and therefore leaving me at a loss in running this service. I am very keen to continue a service for the community of Alfriston but need to ensure this is profitable viable and also on a Saturday as previously discussed.*

*I am in the process of approaching a few independent retailers some of which I have previously spoke to regarding this to see if they would allow us to incorporate inside their stores on a Saturday.I hope to work with you to find a suitable solution for Alfriston to ensure we can continue to serve the community.*

1. Clerk reported that the Remembrance Lead for The Royal British Legion Sussex County contacted asking if Alfriston would like to be involved in a parade and lighting of a beacon. It was discussed that Alfriston doesn’t have a beacon, although beacons have been lit previously on the hill west of Winton St. Clerk will go back to get further information. **Action 10.**
2. The Cuckmere Valley Horticultural Society are asking for permission to use the Tye in the event that they can’t use the hall due to covid. It would be on the 21st August if it has to go ahead outside. They would also like an A board for the week before to advertise it. Permission was granted.
3. Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex have submitted a S137 grant request for £500. Clerk confirmed that no payment has been made to them in this financial year and although we have gone over the S137 budget for this year, we have made savings elsewhere i.e. not renting the hall due to covid so have the funds available. All Councillors agreed to grant them £500.

**152. Public Questions**

1. Mrs Adcock thanked Councillors for the green light to look into the playground, she is not promising anything but feels a comprehensive public consultation is a good first step and she will report back to APC step by step. The gate mentioned by Cllr Beechey was not the correct one, it is the small entrance one which is believed to have lost the automatic closure mechanism. Cllr Beechey stated that he checked this recently and it did work but would go and double check again this week. **Action 11**.

Mrs Adcock said that in regards to the above mentioned email relating to the Post Office, they have given a date of 23rd June to continue on a Saturday. It is such a shame that there is a clash of events but need regular PO slot so as to not lose customers as there has been some recent disappointment when PO has been shut.

1. Mr Jon Boxall asked how many people were invited to Pleasant Rise Farm by Cllr Savage as there has been mixed reports. Cllr Watkins confirmed that it was 1,000 people.
2. Mr Adrian Butcher asked whether it could be considered that pedestrian access is open down Star Lane at weekends when the contractors are not working. Clerk will ask the question. **Action 12.**

**153. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be Monday 19th April 2021 at 19:15 via Zoom.

Signed: Victoria Rutt – Clerk and RFO

**APPENDIX A**

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