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 19th April 2021 at 19:15**

**Present:**

Cllr Watkins [Chair] Cllr Daw

Cllr Beechey [Vice-chair] Cllr Rabagliati

Cllr Cooper Cllr Bell

Cllr Savage

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 14 members of the public

**154**. **Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**155. Public Questions**

Clerk reported that public questions from the March 2021 meeting were still outstanding for Cllr Savage. Clerk re-read the questions out:

*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?*

Clerk stated that question 2 had been answered previously by APC but questions 1, 3 and 4 still needed a response from Cllr Savage.

Cllr Savage said his response to question 1 and 4 was ‘no’. In regard to question 3, Cllr Savage asked whether the authors of the questions had actually seen anything happen at Pleasant Rise Farm over the Easter weekend. Clerk asked Cllr Savage if those were the responses to the questions to which he confirmed they were.

**156. Apologies for absence**

No apologies.

**157. Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

No report or attendance.

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

Cllr Shing reported that no ESCC meeting recently as they are in the purdah period. There is a meeting scheduled soon. Cllr Shing said he is hopeful that he will be re-elected and will continue to work with APC.

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

Cllr Lunn reported that issues continue with the Cuckmere as the water board is going through a lengthy legal process. When he has further information, he will provide an update. Litter picking issues on the A27 but Maria Caulfield MP has been working on this.

**160. Declaration of interests**

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

Cllr Daw reported that she is now a Churchwarden for St Andrews so wanted to declare an interest.

**161. Minutes**

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

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

**162. Finance**

162.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: End of Year 2020/21 and April 2021

Cllr. Cooper proposed and Cllr. Savage seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances for End of Year 2020/21 and April 2021. [Appendix A]. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

**163. To discuss and agree how to proceed with future meetings following remote meetings**

**legislation expiring on the 7th May 2021**

Clerk reported that in May 2020 legislation was changed to allow for Parish and Town Councils

to hold meetings remotely. This legislation expires on the 7th May 2021 and a Government

decision was taken last week not to extend this. Due to the current roadmap out of the pandemic, 6 people can meet indoors from 17th May. This means future meetings until all restrictions are lifted would have to be limited to the Clerk and 5 Councillors. This would exclude 2 Councillors and also the public, which goes against APC’s meeting regulations and is something the Clerk and Councillors feel strongly should not happen as APC want to be open and transparent.

The Clerk submitted a report to Councillors with some proposed ideas to aid their discussions.

Cllr Cooper said she was happy to meet in the AWMH but we should not exclude the public.

Cllr Beechey said we should hold the May meeting earlier with the AGM on the 4th May whilst can still hold meetings remotely. No meeting in June and then back to ‘normal’ face to face meetings from July 2021, as the roadmap allows for this. Cllr’s Daw, Savage and Rabagliati agreed with Cllr Beechey’s suggestions. Cllr Bell asked could we not have a meeting outside in June?

A lengthy discussion was held around the idea of meeting outside and the logistics of it.

Cllr Watkins asked Councillors to vote if they wish for the June meeting to be cancelled.

Cllr’s Watkins, Beechey, Cooper, Daw, Rabagliati and Savage raised their hands.

Therefore, the June 2021 meeting will be cancelled. Clerk will send out an email explaining and confirming the meeting information for May. **Action 1.**

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

Cllr Rabagliati reported that there is an upcoming Strengthening Local Relationships [SLR] meeting this coming Friday 23rd April and on the 14th May there is a site meeting being held with ESCC and other stakeholders about the traffic proposals. *This meeting will follow the rule of six outside guidelines.*

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

Cllr Cooper confirmed that nothing new to report.

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

Cllr Savage confirmed that nothing new to report.

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

Cllr Savage confirmed that nothing new to report

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

Cllr Daw reported that the Whiteway footpath is still closed although people are still using it and the Twitten running down behind the Gun Room is closed. Clerk stated that she is aware about the Whiteway footpath and it is on the agenda for the SLR meeting on Friday. Clerk will liaise with Cllr Daw about the Twitten closure to obtain more information in order to report it and seek an update. **Action 2.**

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

Cllr Beechey reported that litter on the Tye is still a problem. We increased capacity by installing a new bin recently so now 4 bins on the Tye. Cllr Beechey confirmed that all 4 bins were jammed and overflowing. It is understood that they get emptied twice a week and it is believed, but may be incorrect, that the bins are emptied on a Friday and Monday. They have not been emptied on Friday 16th or on Monday 19th so Clerk will chase this first thing tomorrow. **Action 3.**

Cllr Daw explained that foxes continue to get into the bins and scatter litter everywhere.

Clerk confirmed she will look into the fox lid proof bins again and get all the information and submit a report to Councillors. **Action 4.**

Cllr Beechey reported that the works commence on Wednesday 21st April on the Tye path and are expected to last around 2 weeks. There has been further communication with Mrs Adcock about the playground and a positive email was received this week from a lady who has set up a Friends of Alfriston playground group, who are being very proactive. APC look forward to working with them. Cllr Beechey has not yet been able to remove the broken swing but this will be done in due course.

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

170.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

**SDNP/21/00912/HOUS** Glebe Edge, North Road, Alfriston, BN26 5XB

**SDNP/21/01459/FUL** The Star Inn, High Street, Alfriston, BN26 5TA

**SDNP/21/01727/FUL** Mistila, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TP

**SDNP/21/01326/LIS** The George Inn, High Street, Alfriston, BN26 5SY

Cllr Bell reported that the above 4 applications were discussed at the Planning meeting prior to this meeting, all were approved by the Committee, but some objections were raised to the proposed lighting plan for The Star Inn.

170.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

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

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

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

170.3 Enforcement updates

Cllr Bell reported that SDNPA have been very slow at responding to him with updates. A visit has been made to the village by the enforcement officer but Cllr Bell is yet to receive an update about this.

Cllr Bell explained that he feels that APC should sit down and draft a strategy on how we want Alfriston to look in 5, 10, 15 years’ time, as it has changed dramatically over the years. The Clerk confirmed that she had liaised with Cllr Daw that very morning about starting to look at a new Parish Plan for APC. Cllr Beechey said if it was specifically planning related it would be a Local Plan, not a Parish Plan.   
Cllr Bell said that everyone was missing the point. Cllr Beechey explained that the process for drafting one of these plans is detailed and it is a process that involves both APC and the local community. Cllr Lunn said it would be good for the Clerk to speak to SDNPA to find out who their neighbourood planning officer is and to find out the process to develop a Neighbourhood Plan as this holds a legal status. Clerk will look into this and find out all the information about each plan available and submit a report to Councillors. **Action 5**. [*This action will not be started for a week as Clerk is working on the Annual Return and Internal Audit.*]

**171. Reports from Outside Bodies**

*171.1 Volunteer Task Force*: Mrs Adcock stated that nothing new to report.

*171.2 Heartstart*: Cllr Watkins stated that nothing new to report.

*171.3 Alfriston Emergency Group*: Mr Steve Woodgate reported that the bollard has now been moved on Tye Road. They are looking to clear some road stone on the National Trust land.

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

*171.5 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report.

*171.6 Twinning Committee* – they are still unable to go to France so no update.

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

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

*171.9 Clergy House* – no report.

*171.10 Cuckmere Buses* – no report.

*171.11 AWMH* – Mr Adrian Butcher reported that the patio was repointed over the Easter break. The Pre School continue to use the Hall and July and August are looking busy for weddings which is good.

**172. Correspondence to The Clerk**

1. Clerk reported that the Pre School would like to change their date for using the Tye and Recreation ground in September from 18th to 25th. Permission was granted.
2. The Clerk explained that some emails and a letter had been received from a resident who lives on the Broadway stating that balls being used at the goal net are flying across the road into their garden, hitting windows at time. The children/young adults are then crossing the road and trespassing into their garden collecting the balls.

Discussions were held around what could be done to prevent this. It was agreed that the Clerk would find out how much it would be to install a large new post to the right hand side of the goal post and to hang a large net behind to stop this. Clerk will feedback to Councillors in due course. **Action 6.**

**173. Public Questions**

1. Mr Adrian Butcher said the run through the village over the weekend was great to see but due to the closure of Star Lane, the route was detoured down Rope Walk which was not suitable and hard to social distance. Clerk will contact SDNPA about this and feedback to the organisers of the event. **Action 7.**
2. Mr David Lewis said about the above event, it needed better marshalling.
3. Mr David Lewis reported that the grass cutters are using machines too large for the land and they have done some damage to the Glebeland. Mr Lewis will send pictures to the Clerk and she will then liaise with Cllr Beechey about this as his portfolio. **Action 8.**
4. Cllr Beechey stated that there are two cones and a road closure sign in the Square leaning up against the tree. They relate to Star Lane but look like they have been dumped. Clerk to report to ESH. **Action 9.**
5. Mr John Hurwood said he has a copy of the old Parish plan, it was started in 2005 and completed in 2008. He said it is a lengthy detailed process and thought should be given before starting it. He will lend his copy to Cllr Daw for information.
6. Cllr Lunn asked if Alfriston had met their dedicated PCSO. Clerk confirmed that he has been on long term sick but contact has been made and he will be attending a future APC meeting. He is not dedicated in that he will be attending the Village on a set date each week, he is more a point of reference for anything APC or resident need.
7. Cllr Daw confirmed that the memorial benches for Lee have been ordered. They are being installed on Thursday 22nd. Once done the plaques will then be ordered.

Cllr Watkins expressed her thanks to Cllr Daw for arranging this.

**174. Date of next meeting**

The Annual General Meeting is being held on Tuesday 4th May, 19:00 on Zoom, followed by the usual monthly APC meeting.

Signed: Mrs Victoria Rutt – Clerk and RFO

**APPENDIX A**



