ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

[www.alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk)

**CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**  33 Swaines Way

Mrs Victoria Rutt Heathfield

 East Sussex

TN21 0AN

Tel: 07936 904743

E-mail: clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk Monday 2nd August 2021

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

**held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 26th July 2021**

**Present:**

Cllr Watkins [Chair] Cllr Daw

Cllr Beechey [Vice Chair] Cllr Bell

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 11 members of the public

**34**. **Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting since March 2020.

**35. Public Questions**

Clerk has received one question from Mrs Caroline Adcock. The question was read out in full so context could be given. The question was as follows:

*The lockdown rules were a legal requirement based on a Government directive. Any breach of these rules should be enforced by Government representatives i.e. the police, and Government agencies such as local councils. Members of the public alerted the police to the event well in advance and the police visited on the day. It was evident at the time that there was a clear breach of the rules and the police had first hand evidence that this was happening. Questions for the police: Why was nothing done to stop the event? Why should taking action depend on members of the public who have no personal grievance other than the wish to see the police carry out their duties? It is known that the police have interviewed various people, including the organiser of the event but have been unable to contact Cllr Savage*

*The questions I wish to raise tonight are as follows:*

1. *Is the council willing to carry out its duty to uphold the Government directive e.g. by asking the police why no action was taken to stop the event and why there is still some doubt that the matter may not be pursued based on the fact that members of the public are not willing to give statements or attend court?*
2. *Is the council willing to consider the fact that this is the second time Cllr Savage has ignored previous complaints and has done nothing to address them. In fact, he has blatantly disregarded them and gone ahead with an indoor event clearly in breach of the Government directive.*
3. *A vote of no confidence and disciplinary action is the very least that residents of Alfriston should expect.*
4. *Please can the council respond as to what they are going to do next?*

Cllr Watkins asked if any Councillor wished to make a comment. Cllr Beechey reminded everyone present that which had been said previously, that APC have no power to do anything re another Cllr’s conduct, and that any complaints should be directed to the Monitoring Officer [MO] at Wealden District Council [WDC]. He believes there is a good reason why Parish Councils are not able to take disciplinary action against fellow Cllrs, primarily to prevent witch hunts from taking place. Cllr Beechey explained that APC does not have any authority to hold a vote of no confidence, and all matters should be directed to the appropriate authority. Cllr Bell asked whether the Standing Orders can be changed and something added re a vote of no confidence? The Clerk confirmed that a number of the Standing Orders are compulsory but a discussion could be held to have something added in. Cllr Beechey asked the Clerk to check with SSALC as to the propriety of amending the Standing Orders to include such a provision. Ms Patsy Embry asked whether Parish Councillors were happy with what happened. It was explained that no Parish Councillors were present so are unable to comment on hearsay. Mrs Adcock stated that a Parish Councillor did attend as Cllr Rabagliati informed her that he did. When the Clerk asked whether Cllr Rabagliati attended as a Parish Councillor or as a resident, Mrs Adcock did not know. Neither the Chair nor Clerk have heard from any Councillor or resident about this event until the email this week from Mrs Adcock. The Clerk reiterated that the Parish Council have no power to do anything regarding this matter and as reported a few months back, the only course of action for parishioners is to contact the MO at WDC to investigate. No parishioner as yet has done so. The contact details for the MO are: kristina.shaw-hamilton@wealden.gov.uk

It was stated that the Police did attend the event but took no action, residents are unhappy with this. Cllr Beechey confirmed that the Police will have a process to follow and have said they are investigating. The Clerk agreed to take an action to seek an update on the investigation from the Police. **Action 1.**

Ms Embry explained that she has always respected and appreciated the Parish Councillors for all they have done for the community but the action of one Councillor has made her question this.

\*\* *Since the meeting, the Clerk has liaised with Cllr Rabagliati about his attendance at the above event. Cllr Rabagliati confirmed that he did not attend the event. He walked past and saw several cars but no people were visible.*

**36. Apologies for absence**

Apologies have been received from Cllr Cooper, Cllr Savage and Cllr Rabagliati.

**37. Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

Maria Caulfield MP was unable to attend the meeting and sent her apologies. She sent in a report which can be found in Appendix B.

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

Cllr Shing reported that he has not been at a meeting since April as the County Councillor elections were held in May and there were no Parish Council meetings in June. He is pleased to be back making reports again. The A27 road works are continuing to cause traffic chaos. This evening, the congestion took him 35 minutes to reach this meeting.

In other news, the plans for Exceat Bridge have been submitted to South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) for mid-August. The transfer of the Seven Sisters Country Park to SDNPA should have been completed by the end of July. Cllr Shing stated that he is disappointed that East Sussex County Council (ESCC) were not able to open the public toilets at Seven Sisters Country Park centre, because county can’t get the cleaner to clean the public toilets before the transfer. However, he is delighted that SDNPA will be able to open the toilets for the public as soon as they take over the park. Meeting schedules have become busy again as they have reverted back to the normal schedule since the elections, and he has been allocated a seat to three different scrutiny committees at ESCC.

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

Cllr Lunn reported that there are two items of real concern from him. Planning issues, Alfriston are in the National Park but both WDC and Lewes District Council do not have a local plan. Wealden are under a lot of pressure and have approved 7,500 new homes which they are yet to build, however this does not contribute to the 5-year land supply. A lot of pressure to get the local plan done. ESCC are not going to deliver any infrastructure.

Cuckmere – demaining is a legal process and we are waiting to see if the Environment Agency [EA] are going to acknowledge that the water board is suitable authority to look into this. Awaiting a decision from the EA on this could take some time. Cllr Lunn confirmed that there is funding available for de-shingling but a longer term plan to have control is required.

The transfer of the Seven Sisters to the National Park has legal delays but it is looking positive that SDNPA is able to deliver and there will be a dedicated office at the Seven Sisters.

Cllr Lunn reported that the board have allocated £1 million, from the CIL pot to the Seven Sisters for improvements i.e. for toilets and offices.

Cllr Bell asked if SDNPA are involved in de-maining, as on a Zoom call they explained they were interested in it. Cllr Lunn said they will be interested in de-shingling but maybe not de-maining. It is yet to be debated. Cllr Shing corrected that ESCC is putting infrastructure in, last Monday they did public consultation about the A27. Cllr Shing felt that the criticism was not quite right. Cllr Beechey asked if an official thank you to WDC could be made for the refurbishment of the Dene car park toilets, both through Cllr Lunn and direct to them, as they have done an excellent job. Clerk will send a letter to WDC. **Action 2.**

**40. Declaration of interests**

Cllr Watkins declared an interest as she is part of the Alfriston Emergency Group. Cllr Daw declared an interest as she is a Churchwarden for St Andrews and is also part of the Alfriston Emergency Group.

**41. Minutes**

41.1 To agree as a true record the Minutes of the AGM and APC meeting held on 4th May 2021

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Bell seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC meeting held on 4th May 2021 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Watkins duly signed the minutes.

**42. Finance**

42.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: July 2021

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Beechey seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances for July 2021. [Appendix A]. **MOTION CARRIED**

Cllr. Watkins signed the Invoices for Payment.

42.2 To approve audit paperwork for Q3 and Q4 for 2020/21

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Beechey seconded a motion to confirm that they had sight and had approved the audit paperwork for Q3 and Q4 for 2020/21. **MOTION CARRIED**

42.3 To approve audit paperwork for Q1 2021/22

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Daw seconded a motion to confirm that they had sight and had approved the audit paperwork for Q1 2021/22. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

Cllr Rabagliati was unable to attend the meeting but submitted the following report:

1)  High Street Traffic Plan.  There was a site meeting held on 14 May in the presence of ESCC Highways representatives, Maria Caulfield MP and 2 APC Councillors. This meeting was used to explain and discuss each of the recommendations of the APC Traffic Calming subcommittee, so that they could be included by ESCC in a plan for consultation.   We are now trying to arrange a further meeting to be held shortly where we will press for this consultation content to be finalised, so the plan may be progressed.

2) Whiteway. The repairs to the broken railing have finally been made by Highways, however, a further section of this rail is damaged and awaiting repair. Fortunately, this has not caused another closure of the path by ESCC while we await repairs. *Clerk confirmed that the additional works have been scheduled for w/c 2nd August 2021.*

3)  Overweight vehicles passing through the village. Following a near miss in the lower High Street recently, we are in touch with a particular courier whose vehicles come through the village frequently, asking them to tell their drivers not to use the village as a through route when there are no deliveries here.

4)  Rope Walk Twitten. The owner of the flint wall along this twitten has agreed to arrange to make repairs to the crumbling sections.

5) Traffic Cones.  With the lifting of restrictions, we have resumed placing cones along the High Street in an attempt to limit congestion at busy times, mainly weekends. This seems to have been quite successful in recent weeks.  Residents may have noticed the new cones, generously donated by The Star, which we are now using.

6) Finally, Speedwatch.  We have a good number of volunteers now and Sussex Police will be training everyone on 20th August. We hope to be out and about shortly after that following a risk assessment.

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

Clerk reported that a recent letter was sent to all plot holders about the state of the allotments and that a tidy up of some plots were required. They have been given a time period to do the work and then the Clerk and Cllr Cooper will undertake an inspection and any plotholders spoken too if needs be. The abandoned black wheelie bin next to the allotment bins has been reported to WDC and the Waste Manager has confirmed that Biffa will empty and remove the bin but they are short staffed at the moment, they are aware though that it needs to be done.

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

Cllr Beechey asked about an update on the Dene car park speed bumps. The Clerk explained she was going to raise under Clerks Correspondence. A recent email from WDC explained that they have received a number of complaints, both on site and via the phone, about people not adhering to the two way system in the Dene car park. They wish to install speed humps and additional signage. Councillors do not want to see additional signage and humps but understand the need to ensure it is safe and would prefer it to stay two way. Following a response to WDC, WDC sent a picture of the speed humps proposed which APC are against as they are unsightly. This was reported back to WDC and they have confirmed these are now the standard ones and they require black and yellow markings on them for visibility. WDC will compromise in that they will trial the new signage and road markings for one month to see if matters improve, if they do not then the humps will be installed. If this does not work then it will have to revert back to one way. Cllrs indicated that this would be a real shame.

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

Cllr Beechey asked about East Sussex Highways [ESH] cutting back the path/hedge out of the village to A27 on the left-hand side. ESH have received numerous pictures from the Clerk showing the state of the path/hedge following a recent cut. ESH have been out to inspect and confirm that it does require a further cut and that this has been scheduled. Clerk will chase once it has gone past the deadline if the cut has not been completed.

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

Cllr Daw reported that work is underway re Parish Plans. Clerk reported that she has drafted a report for Councillors to explain the three different options but what is hard to find out is the process for each one, which needs to be included in the report. The Clerk has sent numerous emails and is awaiting a response. Cllrs should have the report in advance of the next meeting when it can be placed on the agenda. **Action 3.**

Cllr Daw also reported that Diana Kelly has started fundraising and will be arranging the Christmas tree this year with assistance from Norvetts for the lights.

Two benches have been installed on the Recreation ground in memory of Lee.

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend, there is a going to be a blessing of the animals, a dog show on the Tye and Players doing a review. On the Monday AEG will be doing a boot fair on the Rec and the Cricket Club will be doing drinks and books.

Cllr Daw confirmed that the litter on the Tye has stopped if the bins are covered in the evenings which she has been doing for a while now. The Clerk and Cllrs expressed her thanks to Cllr Daw for doing this.

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

48.1 To discuss dropping two kerbs on the Rec to make is accessible

Cllr Beechey explained that he was approached by a resident about there being no dropped kerbs around the Recreation ground, making it difficult to access for disabled etc. Prior to it coming to this meeting for discussion, the Clerk contacted ESH for permission to look at dropping the kerb in two places, at the corner of Furlongs and Doctors surgery road, and at the corner of Furlongs/North Road. ESH explained that funding has been set aside to make the community accessible and the dropped kerbs could be funded by ESH. The Clerk has submitted an application and is awaiting the deadline to receive an outcome. The Clerk has confirmed that APC would like to be liaised with about how it is done. All Councillors agreed it was a good idea.

Cllr Beechey said that the weed spraying on the Recreation ground was a great success and has made it look a lot nicer. Cllr Beechey reported that following a safety inspection, the goal post had to be removed immediately due to a fault in the post. Many thanks to AEG for dismantling the goal post immediately. AEG are looking to see if they can repair the post as money has just been spent on a new net and the volunteer task force recently repainted it. A new goal post is around £900. Following the inspection it was necessary to remove the seesaw immediately. Again, thanks to AEG for removing this and also for removing the large swings.

Cllr Beechey and the Clerk had a very productive meeting with the Friends of Alfriston Playground about their plans to raise funds to improve the playground. They are now focusing on fundraising. Cllr Daw confirmed that on the Sunday over the August Bank Holiday weekend, Friends of Alfriston Playground will be in attendance. The Friends had been advised to draw up at least two proposals for the playground and were reminded that the final say on any design lies with APC.

Cllr Beechey confirmed that discussions are taking place with the grass contractor as it seems they have recently changed the way they cut the grass; they used to use a cylinder, now it appears to be a gang mower. Discussions will continue. **Action 4.**

The Tye path widening looks very good as the new grass has taken nicely.

Cllr Daw raised the issue of parking in Tye Road and whether it could become parking for residents only. Clerk confirmed she was going to raise this under Clerks Correspondence as another resident wrote in asking the same. Cllr Beechey said it should go on the agenda for the next meeting to be discussed. **Action 5**. As it is a private road, enforcement would need to be looked into. Cllr Beechey explained that he has an additional concern about the side of Tye Road. Over 10 years ago it was quoted around £15k to build an additional strip down the side of the road. APC does not have those funds. APC have been ringfencing for a few years now for the inevitable re-surfacing in the future and have £11,500 set aside for this. There is a concern that someone, when parking, might damage their tyres, wheels or axels. Would APC be liable? Would we have to shut Tye Road for car use to avoid the liability. One option may be to restrict access and get those who wish to use it to sign a waiver. It was confirmed the issue will be placed on the agenda for September meeting for full discussion.

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

49.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

 **SDNP/21/01882/HOUS** Old Farm Cottage, Winton Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UH Approved

 **SDNP/21/02214/HOUS** Timbers, Sloe Lane, Alfriston, BN26 5UU Application withdrawn

 **SDNP/21/02609/HOUS** The Barn, West Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UX Approved

49.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

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

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

**SDNP/21/00912/HOUS** Glebe Edge, North Rd, Alfriston, BN26 5XBApproved

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

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

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

49.3 Enforcement updates

Cllr Bell reported that despite numerous emails seeking updates on recent enforcement issues, no responses have been received. The meeting was opened up as Cllr Lunn wanted to ask does the Parish Council receive CIL payments, the Clerk confirmed that APC have received.

**50. Reports from Outside Bodies**

*50.1 Volunteer Task Force*: Mrs Adcock said there was nothing new to update. Cllr Beechey commented on the wildflowers in Willows car park looking very nice, Mrs Adcock confirmed that she suggested those to WDC and they planted them.

*50.2 Heartstart*: Mr Watkins confirmed that a new defibrillator will be installed at the Cricket Club once the new paperwork has been completed.

*50.3 Alfriston Emergency Group*: Mr Steve Woodgate thanked Cllr Beechey for his earlier words of thanks for all the recent playground jobs recently. AEG continue to update their equipment ready to help as and when is needed.

*50.4 Flood Forum* – Mr Hurwood confirmed nothing new to report.

*50.5 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report.

*50.6 Twinning Committee* – Twinning Committee have agreed in consultation with Veules-les-Roses committee that there will be no cross-channel visits in 2021 due to Covid. Everyone hopes contact will return to normal in 2022. One informal event - afternoon tea outdoors accompanied by a bilingual "troubadour" - was much enjoyed by a small group of regulation-respecting, socially distanced members. We hope to organise other event(s) this year according to prevailing conditions of Covid situation & regulations and interest of members.

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

*50.8 St Andrew’s Church* – Ms Diana Monteath-Wilson has now retired as Churchwarden so this will be her last report. This Sunday the ropes were removed from the pews and singing was done with masks, so they are slowly returning to normal. The taking of communion is still restricted. Please think carefully how you congregate with others. Tomorrow evening, the Arch Deacon is coming to St Andrews as it is their turn to host the swearing in of new Church Wardens in the diocese.

*50.9 Clergy House* – Ms Holly Jones was unable to attend the meeting but sent in the following report.

*A small update from the NT clergy house.  We will soon be changing our opening days to Wednesday and Thursday.  We have been open to pre-booked tickets since May on Friday’s and Saturday’s but from week beginning the 9th of August the days will change.  We will remain open on Wednesday’s and Thursday's from 11am to 4pm (pre-booked visits only) until we close for the year at the end of October.*

*Due to the pandemic and subsequent streamlining of the National Trust we have much less staff and volunteers than before hence our reduction in open days.  We are currently recruiting for volunteers to help us in Welcome roles, House guide roles and in the garden.  If anyone is interested please email* alfriston@nationaltrust.org.uk

*50.10 Cuckmere Buses* – no report.

*50.11 AWMH* – Mr Adrian Butcher reported that the hall is now back open to all groups. Thankfully the Pre School have remained open throughout. Finances are ok as they managed to get some government grants. There are 3 or 4 wedding in the hall this year. At a meeting last week it was raised that a cherry tree on the Tye is knocking into the guttering on the School House. The Clerk will get Dan Larkin to look at this. **Action 6.**

Mr Butcher asked if APC would consider writing a policy about food vans to cater for hall functions parking on the Tye, as they have requests for this when booking the hall for events. It was agreed it would go on the agenda for September meeting. **Action 7.**

**51. Correspondence to the Clerk**

1. Clerk reported that the following had been given permission via email prior to the meeting; a mobile bar was given permission to park on the Tye for the Southdown Summer Music Festival. A location was agreed for a Fish and Chip Van to attend the village, they will be parking outside the allotment gates next to the Doctors surgery. The Alfriston Events Team were granted permission to use the Tye on the August Bank Holiday 2021 and for Sussex Day on 18th June 2022. Finally, the Pre School had permission granted to use the Tye for their sports day on the 23rd July 2021.
2. The Clerk reported that two S137 grant requests have been received. One from Cuckmere Buses and one from St Wilfrid’s. Clerk explained that APC usually grant Cuckmere Buses £200. St WIlfrids’s are asking for the cost of 2 diagnostic kits as they are increasing their hours in Alfriston. Each kit is £110. Clerk confirmed that the annual budget for S137 grants is £500 of which £70 has been spent so far. If both granted today it leaves £10 in pot, however the usual people who approach us have done so already. Councillors agreed to grant Cuckmere Buses £200 and St Wilfrid’s £220.
3. It has been reported to the Clerk that Mr John Hughes has kindly, for many years, been maintaining the flower beds in the turning circle on the Tye but he is now unable to continue. Is there anyone who would like to take this over? Cllr Daw said that she believes a new resident to the village in Sloe Lane is interested. She will find out his name so Clerk can write to him. Clerk will also write to Mr John Hughes to thank him for all his work over the years. **Action 8.**
4. The South Coast Challenge event is taking place on the 4th Sept 2021 and they will be in the field next to the Willows car park. They are not asking for permission, just letting the village know about this event. The Clerk responded to remind them of some traffic/parking issues that have happened previously which resulted in the Police being called. The organisers have confirmed they will have marshalls this time. The Clerk also let WDC know so they can ensure their attendants are in the Willows car park.
5. Ms Armstrong who lives along The Furlongs has written in about the problem with parking along the Furlongs. She believes that it is staff from The Star who are not allowed to park in the Star car park so they are parking at all times along The Furlongs and have at times blocked driveways. The resident asked if it could be resident only parking or if staff could have parking permits for the car park. Clerk to write to the Star in case it is their staff to explain they can apply for permit and to please park responsibility. **Action 9.**
6. SDNPA have written to APC about the work required to the handrails over the White Bridge and fencing which is yet to be undertaken. They have explained that the project is complex and there has been a number of delays but they are hoping to start mid August. The bridge will need to be closed for a number of days but a diversion will be put in place and this will be published when dates have been agreed. They explained that repainting of the White Bridge handrails could be done at this time if there were volunteers to do so, as long as Health and Safety obligations were overseen by APC. SDNPA also reported that the new signs warning of the road junction and loose gravel at Kings Ride are in production and will be installed ASAP. The Clerk confirmed that agreement on the signs locations still need to be agreed. Councillors discussed the repainting of the White Bridge and Clerk to contact SDNPA to ask about the Health and Safety obligations before proceeding further. **Action 10.**
7. Mr Guyatt who lives on The Broadway wrote in about the goal posts. As the goal post has recently been removed he is asking if the Parish Council will arrange a discussion on the placement of the posts when it is reinstalled. Councillors discussed the goal post and it was identified that the posts have been in place for about 25 years and this is the first complaint received about it since then. The goal is well used and not vandalised which shows it is appreciated. The siting of the goal was carefully looked at previously as it can’t go near vehicle access points, playground or cricket pitch. AEG are hoping to create new inner sleeves for the posts, to enable them to slot the goal back in where it was, using the existing fixtures. Mr Woodgate suggested a solution to stop the balls from going over by using tension rods and rope wire. This will be looked into once the cost of the hopeful repair to the existing goal is known.
8. Clerk reported that an official letter had been received from the Post Office confirming the withdrawal of the Post Office in the Old Chapel Centre from the 10th July 2021.
9. Clerk reminded all that a few months ago Mr Woodgate kindly offered his services to live stream meetings. Mr Woodgate needs to check his kit in the hall to see whether he can get signal, if he can it is a matter of where would it stream to. A platform that is easy and free would be Facebook so Clerk asked Councillors if they were happy for an APC Facebook page to be set up to be used for this and it is also an additional tool for publishing information. It was agreed in principle but questions were raised; can people download the footage, is there a prohibition of recording PC meetings by members of the public for example. Clerk will look into this fully and report back to Councillors for final decision. **Action 11.**

Mr Woodgate confirmed that he would not be able to commit to every meeting as sometimes he may not be available, on those occasions Clerk will see if it possible to upload the sound recording from the meeting. Cllr Bell said that some Councillors will not want to appear on the recording, Clerk confirmed she knows which Councillors do not want to be on there and will ensure the cameras are not on them.

**52. Public Questions**

1. Mrs Katie Salmon reported that going up North Road the trees on the end of the road on Rec, trees 5 and 6 have low broken branches. Clerk will contact Dan Larkin. **Action 12**.

2. Ms Pat Straker wished to raise the new Montessori School in the Old Chapel Centre [OCC]. *Cllr Daw declared an interest as she is affected by this and left the meeting.*

Ms Straker explained that there has been no consultation between OCC Management Committee and the residents of Chapel Cottages who will be affected by this as their gardens back onto the OCC gardens. It is believed that there is going to be added traffic down River Lane at school run times and assuming the staff will drive to Alfriston. It has been reported to the Chapel Cottage residents that the building is soundproofed so noise will not be a problem but after a wedding at the weekend, the residents can confirm that it is not soundproofed.

Cllr Watkins explained that it is not a matter for APC and not something they can do anything about. Cllr Beechey explained that residents would need to wait and see if these issues do come up when the Montessori starts, and if they do then best first to liaise with the OCC management committee and/or the organisers of the Montessori, as one would think it would not be in any of their interests to continue to cause an actionable nuisance. Mrs Adcock explained that residents were asked to attend a meeting but they were unavailable, the content of their letter has been listened too and much of the content has been included in the contract. Mrs Adcock said that the OCC need this regular income in order to remain open. Ms Monteath-Wilson asked if it meant that other community groups were unable to hire the OCC, Mrs Adcock confirmed that it was still being booked by community groups as the Montessori is not all the time.

 *Cllr Daw returned to the meeting.*

**53. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next APC meeting is Monday 20th September 2021 in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall at 19:15.

Signed:  Mrs Victoria Rutt – Clerk and RFO

**APPENDIX A**

****

**APPENDIX B**

**Update from Maria Caulfield MP**

Sorry I am unable to join you this evening. I just wanted to update you on a couple of issues.

1. **Doctors surgery**

This week I met with the CCG as restrictions lift on Monday and asked for an update on what is happening with the local GP practice in terms of not offering face to face provision. They will be meeting with the practice to discuss and I will update as soon as I hear more.

1. **Annual Cuckmere Dredging**

As you will know last year funding was secured £95,000 for The Environment Agency to dredge the Cuckmere annually. I am setting up the next meeting with members of the parish council, friends of Cuckmere, the water board and the EA to see what progress has been made in terms of demaining the river. I will keep you updated as the flood work has a significant impact on Alfriston.

1. **South Downs National Park and the Seven Sisters**

We are just waiting confirmation that the SDNPA have now have taken over the lease from ESCC as they were due to sign this week. They are keen to work with local parishes particularly on the issue of parking and the impact this may be having from their visitors. They are going to have staff on duty at the car parks at the Seven Sisters who will direct visitors on busy days to Friston Forest car park and any feedback on this would be helpful. They will be re opening the toilets and will set out the timetable as soon as they have taken over ownership.

1. **Local Housing and Planning**

The PM confirmed in Prime Minister’s Questions last week that residents will still have a say on planning in their local community following reforms to the planning system. I am delighted that the Prime Minister has made clear what I have been saying locally for many months. Residents will still be involved in local planning decisions in their communities. The PM also made clear that new planning laws will be focused on a Brownfield first strategy so that green spaces are more protected and that the housing focus will be away from the SE.

This is something that many local residents were particularly concerned about. We are under a lot of pressure from developers wanting to build on our greenspaces locally. Residents still being able to have a say in planning applications will enable us to show developers our clear objections to their inappropriate plans and I am glad that the Prime Minister has confirmed this will still be the case.

I also met with the SDNPA in late June who are working with local District Councils to mitigate the effects of any developments close to the National Park as they are concerned about a cliff edge effect if lots of housing is allowed. This should be helpful in seeing off large scale applications.

1. **Rural Crime Team update**

Thanks to feedback from residents there are new laws being planned to help protect livestock from dogs running loose. We expect new laws to come into force before the end of the year and dogs will need to be kept on leads around animals such as sheep. This has been an issue locally for farmers during lockdown and hopefully this will make a difference.

1. **A27 Clearup**

After multiple meetings with the local councils and Highways England, I am really pleased that a staggering two tonnes of litter has now been removed from the westbound side of the A27. The Environment First team have been back in action clearing the eastbound carriageway between Falmer and Beddingham and working on the A26 as well. On the first night roughly 1.5 tonnes of detritus and 25 bags of litter were removed. Residents have been contacting me all year about the state of our roads and how bad it looks for visitors. It is really welcome news that this is finally being tackled and we all look forward to our roadsides being cleaner.

1. **A27 roadworks**

I have had the following update from Highways England

*We’re adding an additional lane to the Berwick roundabout to improve traffic flow on the A27. Station Road to the north is currently closed until January 2022 for safety. Having completed the new carriageway on the northern side, we’ve moved our working area to the southern section. We received complaints that local traffic was having to wait to access the A27. To improve the situation, we’ve amended the traffic management to include three-way temporary lights. Unfortunately, these are causing additional delays to local journeys as drivers become used to the change. Our traffic management team are adjusting the phasing of the lights to accommodate the changing flows throughout the day. We are in regular contact with the parish council and other local stakeholders including Drusillas Zoo.*

*On our wider work on the A27 East of Lewes project, we are pleased to report that the delivery of our junction improvements is currently three months ahead of schedule. This should see our work on the junctions completed by December 2021 and the overall project completed by September 2022.*

1. **Winton Street**

I met with residents recently to discuss the poles issue but they have a request if the 30/20mph could be extended to them when work starts with ESCC on the plans for the village as they worry they will become a cut through if they are not included.