

# ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

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Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

## Minutes of a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC) held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### Present:

Cllr Beechey [Vice Chair]

Cllr Bell

Cllr Rabagliati

Cllr Daw

Cllr Monteath-Wilson [*joined meeting at agenda item 108*]

### In attendance:

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 12 members of the public

### 99. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Beechey welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the late start due to the planning meeting over running. Over the weekend Alfriston was listed 30 in The Times 30 most beautiful villages in the UK. This is fantastic for the village. It should inspire everyone to keep the village on any such list and improve its position - which would no doubt be better if drivers ceased using the Square as a car park.

### 100. Public Questions

1. Mrs Adcock sent an email to the Clerk which all Councillors have received sight of, asking for Councillors to reconsider the decision not to live stream APC meetings, listing the legal obligation that Mrs Adcock believed APC has and her email correspondence with Wealden District Council about the issue. The Clerk explained that a decision was made in September 2021 about this matter and the Standing Orders state that it matters voted on not be re-visited within 6 months, unless 3 Councillors put in writing that it should be re-considered. Cllr Beechey stated that Mrs Adcock had got the principles incorrect and explained that APC are not obliged to live stream meetings. It is correct that a member of the public does have a right to record meetings, but that is different to live streaming. There are a number of reasons why live streaming was not agreed, firstly the equipment was kindly volunteered by a resident for free but its use could not guarantee for every meeting; no doubt complaints would be forthcoming when the first meeting was missed. The person controlling the platform on which it is streamed would be subject to data control issues which is an issue for a small Parish Council. The reality is that when we used Zoom due to the pandemic, there were no more people than usually came to the face to face meeting, except for one meeting when there was a contentious agenda item, and many present soon left following that agenda item. Cllr Beechey asked if any Councillors present wished for the matter to be re-visited. All Councillors agreed that nothing has changed.
2. Mr Bill Rendall asked if he could speak in relation to Tye Road (Agenda Item 109) as St Andrews were yet to respond. Cllr Beechey briefly outlined the options that are going to be

discussed in full under agenda item 109 and it was agreed that the meeting would be opened up then if any stakeholders wished to raise a comment. Mr Rendall was content with this.

**101. Apologies for absence**

Apologies have been received and accepted from Cllr Watkins and Cllr Cooper.

**102. 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](#).

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

Cllr Shing reported about the traffic improvement project and that it is looking unlikely to go to consultation this year as gateway positions being looked into due to drain locations. East Sussex County Council's Cabinet agreed one-off additional funding of £8.85million in two areas at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November. A total of £5.8million will be spent on improving road signs, lines and pavements and carrying out road patching across the county, while £3.5million will support the authority's efforts to cut its carbon emissions.

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

Cllr Lunn reported that since the waste contract got changed to Biffa, they have seen a vast improvement and a recent report showed only 100 missed bins across the entire district. Biffa workers have worked very hard and WDC are happy with the service. Regarding planning, there was a debate last month and Cllr Lunn had hoped that an announcement regarding the proposed housing allocation would be released, however it has been delayed again. They are hopeful that it will be announced before Christmas and there will be a public consultation. The community need to look carefully at where housing is being proposed, as if housing can't be put on AONB/Ashdown, it will affect the catchment. WDC are lobbying the Government, trying to get those housing numbers of 17,000 already approved but not built included in the new 5 year land supply plan. As part of the local plan, the new draft needs to take in more accountability for climate change, whether it will come from a national or local level yet is not known, a directive will come through in due course. WDC are looking at a District wide strategy installing electric charge points so all WDC car parks will have them installed, time scales are not yet known.

Mr David Lewis asked why WDC were not enforcing retention ponds in new developments? Cllr Lunn said this is a real concern and they are liaising with the Environment Agency [EA] about this issue, the EA are currently undertaking modelling to see what impact it will have on existing and forecasted housing. There is a plan in place to look into this but there is no agreement on who would be responsible for this in the long term.

Cllr Shing asked whether the 17,000 houses to be built figure is correct, Cllr Lunn said he was unsure as that number have been approved over the last 10 years, although some could have lapsed.

**105. Declaration of interests**

Cllr Daw declared an interest as she is a Churchwarden for St Andrews and is also part of the Alfriston Emergency Group. Cllr Daw declared an interest in agenda item 109 as she could be affected as a resident and St Andrews rep.

## **106. Minutes**

### 106.1 To agree as a true record the Minutes of the APC meeting held on 18th October 2021

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Rabagliati seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC meeting held on 18th October 2021 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**  
Cllr. Beechey duly signed the minutes.

## **107. Finance**

### 107.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: Nov 2021

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Bell seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances for November 2021. [[Appendix A](#)]. **MOTION CARRIED**

Cllr. Daw signed the Invoices for Payment.

### 107.2 To confirm sight and approve the audit paperwork for Q2 2021/22

Cllr. Bell proposed and Cllr. Daw seconded a motion to confirm sight and approval of the Q2 audit paperwork for 2021/22. **MOTION CARRIED**

## **108. To co-opt a candidate to fill the casual vacancy**

Cllr Beechey explained that there were 3 candidates for the vacancy. Each candidate would be invited to speak and then a vote would take place. The speeches are not verbatim.

Katherine Arnold – Katherine was unable to attend the meeting but sent in the following statement. *‘Since moving into Alfriston 17 months ago I have come to love the village. I would bring a fresh perspective and I am keen to listen to learn what people want from their council. I would be able to put time and effort into the task if I had the honour of being given it.’*

Diana Monteath-Wilson – Diana stated the following. *‘Back in April I explained why I wanted to be a Parish Councillor again so I won’t take up much of your time. I have lived in the village for 26 years and I find it fulfilling and a very supportive village. I would like to be able to give back and to work on issues that would enhance and benefit the villagers. I would like to assist APC in being more inclusive as the villagers should be informed of everything. I will not come to any meeting with a hidden agenda and will do what I feel is best for the village and not my own preferred outcome’.*

Shirley Eveleigh – Shirley stated the following. *‘I have lived in Alfriston for 7 years with my long-term partner Jon and I love the area and want to keep it that way. I feel like I have relevant knowledge and experience to offer as I have worked in the public sector for 38 years for various Councils and currently work for Wealden District Council. I am aware of the Government tiers and the procedures and processes. I am a volunteer warden for SDNPA, in 2018 I assisted on the traffic monitoring scheme for the trial and assisted with the analysis that was used for the ESCC report. I have a track record for contributing and this would be continuation. I will do my best for all residents, businesses and visitors.*

Cllr Beechey explained that the vote is by a show of hands and will go in order of who has spoken. No Councillors voted for Katherine Arnold. Cllr’s Daw, Bell and Rabagliati voted for Diana Monteath-Wilson. Cllr Beechey did not vote in case his casting vote was required. Therefore Cllr Monteath-Wilson was appointed and invited to join the meeting.

Cllr Beechey thanked Shirley Eveleigh and said that there is nothing personal in the vote, it is refreshing to people volunteer, and it may well be that another vacancy arises or at the next election another opportunity arises.

**109. To discuss access to and parking on Tye Road, to include consideration of request to make parking for residents only**

Cllr Beechey explained that following an email from a resident asking APC to consider making Tye Road restricted to residents' parking, this agenda item has arisen, and the following (non-exhaustive) suggestions have been drawn up for discussion:

1. APC do nothing for now but at the start of Tye Road have a sign stating, 'Private Road' and some sorted of disclaimer re damage to vehicles;
2. APC do nothing but consider a harder cut back of the hedgerows to make road wider and ensure it is maintained;
3. Gate off/bollard bottom of Tye Road near the Wingrove and restrict access to allow: hall users, church users, residents who have no access to parking, rear access on Tye to name a few. Would need to think about how to police and manage this and what criteria would need to be put in place to work out who is allowed. Also consider access for emergency services and disabled.
4. Widen the Tye Road as over the years with vehicle use there is now a significant drop between the tarmac and the grass. Two quotes have been obtained, one company quoted £7k to use ecogrid and £9k for tarmac. Another company quoted £10,270.

Cllr Bell asked about the materials used for the edging. Cllr Beechey stated there would be a need for a proper edge due to its constant use. Cllr Rabagliati asked about the bollards and whether they would get moved? Cllr Beechey confirmed options did not include provision for moving bollards, which are slowly being replaced with wooden ones as and when required.

All Councillors had received copies of the emails from the AWMH, OCC and Clergy House. Cllr Beechey summarised them as below:

**From AWMH-** The Hall has always had vehicular access along Tye Road and couldn't function without it. It is useful having access to parking spaces along Tye Road. We have worked extremely hard with the APC in recent years to try and control vehicular access/parking on the Tye and our parking space has certainly helped. Removing the possibility of parking elsewhere on Tye Road by introducing residents only parking would not be helpful. I believe Pre School use some parking spaces during the day when availability of spaces is more plentiful, and again, residents only parking would make life more difficult for them. If the APC did go down this route then we would ask that the AWMH has additional allocated spaces. We need all the help we can get to make the Hall successful. It would seem that a great deal of effort would be needed to introduce and police residents only parking, and for many it would be an inconvenience. Rather than introducing more restrictions we feel that a more positive way forward would be to launch a fund raising effort to repair and reinforce the edge of the road with the Tye so that the full width of the parking spaces is regained, and cars can then be parked properly leaving sufficient width along the road itself. The APC also need to ensure that hedges are not allowed to encroach over the road.

**From Clergy House** - This would be very concerning for us, in particular to our Operation Risk and Emergency Procedures. Whether an ambulance, fire engine or security alarm call out they need immediate access to the site and having to unlock a type of control entry to get down the road will waste costly time that either somebody or the house might not have. We also have contractors that need to work on site.

**From OCC** - Users of the Old Chapel Centre occasionally need access via the Tye Road, especially when large items of equipment or building materials need to be delivered and/ or service engineers need access. Although we do have a small car park, access along the

twitten is narrow and the road adjacent to the river is sometimes impeded by flood water and therefore an alternative vehicular access for emergencies and larger vehicles is a necessity. River Lane is also a private road with no passing places and if we were obliged to use this as our only access the flow of vehicles in both directions could result in obstruction, chaos and upset to residents along this route. A number of residents along the Tye Road also have alternative parking spaces or garages which means we are on an equal footing in this regard. Owners of the building, Southern Synod, may well have an established right of way.

Cllr Beechey opened up the meeting so any stakeholders could comment.

Mr Bill Rendall, on behalf of St Andrews, apologised that they had not sent in a written response. His immediate reaction would be to echo the Hall's comments as they are the same views. Mr Andrew Saville asked when the Tye Road was resurfaced, it didn't go all the way up? Cllr Beechey explained that this was resurfaced at the cost of BT due to them digging a trench in the wrong place so they reinstated that entire section at no cost to APC. We currently have £11.5k ringfenced to resurface the entire road but we are probably a little way from halfway to the full amount required. Mr Saville wanted to raise a collapsed sewer outside the back of his property which could be a problem. Cllr Beechey is going to take a look at this.

**Action 1.** Mr Saville asked why there are so many disabled bays on Tye Road. Cllr Beechey explained we have 4 disabled bays in Tye Road which is not a lot. Quite often those who are disabled can't park in the disabled bays as people who are not disabled, Mr Saville being one of them, park their vehicles regularly in the disabled bays. This is incredibly selfish. Mr Saville said he understood that but feels he needs to move his large vehicle around the village so as to not upset everyone. Mr Lewis on behalf of AEG said they would not recommend gating or excluding use of the road, it would just be another issue.

Cllr Beechey closed the meeting.

Cllr Daw could not comment due to her declared interest. Cllr Rabagliati said it was an interesting issue, he feels that the practicality of the management/policing of a gate would be difficult, therefore doesn't see any viability to restricting access. He would support cutting back hedgerows and would look at widening. Cllr Monteath-Wilson said only allowing residents would be exclusive. Agreed that something needs to be done about the edge as could damage vehicles and then what would the repercussions be for APC in future.

Cllr Bell said should have a small sign stating a disclaimer 'park at own risk'. The hedgerow should be cut back ASAP. Need to do the channel ASAP if can and should not gate it off.

Cllr Beechey said his view is to do nothing re widening at moment, install a private road sign with a disclaimer and arrange for the hedge to be cut back hard, as soon as possible.

Discussion re widening the channel now and then having to resurface again when the whole road is resurfaced is a waste of public money. Better that any widening occurs when the time comes to resurface the entire road. It was agreed that APC need to continue to ringfence and see if more can be put aside each year to move the timescales forwards. Clerk will add this to the budget discussion for 2022/23.

Cllr Bell proposed that a new 'private road' signage is installed with a disclaimer and a hard cut back of the hedgerows is to be arranged to be done ASAP. This was seconded by Cllr Rabagliati. **MOTION CARRIED. Action 2.**

#### **110. To discuss response re licence applications for Sapori d'Italia and Shot Coffee House**

Clerk explained that Councillors were unable to comment on the Sapori d'Italia application as due to a 'lost' email and the licensing department not extending the timescales, the deadline for this application was the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Discussions took place about the Shot Coffee House application. Cllr Daw raised concerns that there are ongoing litter issues and if this would

now include glass bottles, this would be a safety concern for children and dogs. Cllr Rabagliati said if only selling it out the hatch then that would be on the Tye and would not want that. Cllr Monteath-Wilson agreed with Cllr Rabagliati. Cllr Bell explained he didn't want to stop someone making a living, what is the plan to sell in the premises? The application online is not clear but the Licensing dept have informed the Clerk that the plan is to sell inside the premises with table service. Cllr Rabagliati asked if there was anything in the Tye bylaws about alcohol, Cllr Beechey checked the bylaws and alcohol is not included.

Councillors were asked if they had any objections that come under the headings of; Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Safety, Prevention of Public Nuisance and Protection of Children from harm. No Councillors felt like they could object under the headings, therefore even though there are concerns, no objection will be submitted.

#### **111. Report on Highways and Twittens – Cllr Rabagliati**

Cllr Rabagliati reported that we are still awaiting for details regarding the traffic improvement plan and a date for the joint consultation with ESCC, however we have received an update from Andy Mileham at ESCC. This states that there are some concerns from the ESCC Road Safety Team about the gateway locations regarding the lack of drainage at the proposed locations, and that alternative locations adjacent to existing drains are being sought. In the next couple of weeks ESCC are hoping to commission speed counters to allow for a 30mph zone either side of the planned 20mph zone. We do not expect the consultation to take place until the New Year. The fixing of loose pavements in the High Street and at other locations around the village has still not taken place, despite being reported in September. The bollard on the corner of West Street and the square was hit last week and is now very loose. This has been reported. The planned road closure to allow for the installation of gas to Clifton House has now been completed, however the High Street is now dirty and would benefit from a periodic clean by Wealden DC. Clerk will request this. **Action 3.**

Cllr Beechey raised Star Lane and asked if a response had come back about resurfacing, Clerk thinks there has but will double check. Also Clerk to report the trench again as the potholes have been filled but not the large trench outside The Star car park. **Action 4.**

#### **112. Report on Allotments – Cllr Cooper**

Clerk reported that a broken gate post has been reported on the large allotment gate leading to the AEG shed. Clerk needs to get someone to look at whether a new post is required or whether the one that has been knocked over can be re-sited. Clerk will get this looked into. **Action 5.**

Cllr Daw said there is a large vehicle that keeps parking badly up near the Doctors surgery and it was suggested perhaps a note could be left on the vehicle. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Daw about this. **Action 6.** Cllr Beechey reported that the allotment water has now been turned off for the winter.

#### **113. Report on Public Transport – Cllr Monteath-Wilson**

Clerk welcomed Cllr Monteath-Wilson as the new Councillor for public transport and informed her that there is a Cuckmere Buses stakeholder meeting being held next Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7pm. Clerk will send Cllr Monteath-Wilson the details.

Cllr Beechey reported that the new bus shelter is now in place in the Willows car park.

#### **114. Report on Rights of Way and Countryside – Cllr Monteath-Wilson**

Cllr Rabagliati reported that the refuse left over from the bridge works at Plonk Barn has still not been cleared up. Clerk will chase SDNPA again and ask for that to be cleared up ASAP. Cllr

Rabagliati also reported that the new railing over the East side of the White Bridge is very rough and need to be sanded. Clerk will raise both issues. **Action 7.**

### **115. Report on Strategic Planning – Cllr Daw**

#### 115.1 To consider whether sufficient Councillor commitment to a Neighbourhood Plan working party and to decide whether to progress a Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Beechey explained that before we make a decision to commit to drafting a Neighbourhood Plan, we need to identify if there is enough Councillor interest to work on this as it is a lot of work. All Councillors present raised their hands to demonstrate their commitment. Cllr Beechey thanked all. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft an advert to go out seeking residents who are interested to join the working group and what skills they could bring to the group. **Action 8.** Councillors will need to decide what number of residents should sit on the working group. A Chair of the group will be appointed at the first meeting in the new year.

Cllr Daw reported that the Remembrance Service went well and the large poppies around the village were kindly donated by someone from Seaford. Cllr Daw also brought to the attention a possible scam phone call that may be going around businesses, a local business owner got called asking for a donation towards the school safety booklet. This is not on behalf of the school so please do not donate.

### **116. Report on Tye and Recreation Ground – Cllr Beechey**

#### 116.1 To consider revocation of permission for the Shot Coffee House to trade from their side door on the Tye

Cllr Beechey explained some history around The Gun Room. The building's owners do not own any part of the land outside the building's wall on the south side - not the footpath, flower beds or grass. That whole area is part of the Tye and owned by APC and comes under the bylaws. The side door was put in as disabled access and was used historically only for that purpose. The Gun Room has a planning condition attached to it from 2013 stating '*No advertisement, signage or external lighting shall be installed or fixed on the southern elevation of the building unless first agreed in writing by the SDNPA*'. The previous owner did not affix any signage but did run up against the Council for trading from the side door.

In 2020, due to restrictions placed on businesses, Shot Coffee House started trading from the side hatch, despite not asking APC for permission. APC discussed this and, despite the lack of request, agreed to grant permission whilst restrictions were in place and a letter was sent to the owner stating this. No response was received. We are now at the point where restrictions have been lifted yet the side door is still being used. Section 11 on the Tye byelaws states '*No person shall in the ground, without the consent of the Council, sell, or offer or expose for sale, or let to hire, or offer or expose for letting to hire, any commodity or article, or provide or offer to provide any service for which a charge is made.*

APC have the power to ask the owner to desist from serving out the hatch and revoke permission. Cllr Beechey explained that Councillors need to discuss whether this is the route they wish to go down as if the owner ignores the letter and continues then would need to take legal advice and seek an injunction/private prosecution under the byelaws. Cllr Beechey asked Councillors for comments.

Cllr Bell said that there were previous issues with Rathfinny and not fair on anyone else with business abutting the Tye to allow trading to continue, so should ask them to desist. If we do not what is stopping Tavern on the Tye, The George, Wingrove from operating out on the Tye. Cllr Daw said we need to be fair so letter should be sent, he could serve inside and from courtyard garden. Cllr Rabagliati stated he doesn't want to see commercial use on the Tye.

All Councillors agreed that a letter to be sent to the owner and a timescale of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to desist to give him time to put plans in place. **Action 9.**  
Councillors agree they are willing to take enforcement action if required.

116.2 To agree and adopt the amended Tye vehicle access policy

Cllr Beechey reported that the Tye vehicle access policy had an item added to include one catering van parking on the Tye, tucked around the back of the Old School House, by the terraced areas as and when required for weddings. AWMH have received sight of the amended policy and agreed it. Cllr Daw proposed the amended Tye vehicle access policy, this was seconded by Cllr Rabagliati. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr Beechey updated that Friends of Alfriston Playground have sent an outline document with a proposal and costings for playground improvements to both him and the Clerk. Some suggestions have gone back to them and they are planning to send out a 2 sided leaflet to the village in due course. The proposal will be coming to the APC meeting in January 2022 to seek approval.

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

117.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

**SDNP/21/04801/HOUS** White Walls, North Road, Alfriston, BN26 5XD **APC supported**

**SDNP/21/04871/HOUS** Heartsease, Sloe Lane, Alfriston, BN26 5UR **APC supported**

**SDNP/21/05139/HOUS** Little Dene, North Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UG **APC supported**

**SDNP/21/05361/TCA** 8 Chestnut Cottages, High Street, Alfriston, BN26 5TB **APC supported**

**SDNP/21/05544/HOUS** 2 The Broadway, Alfriston, BN26 5XL **APC objected**

117.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

**SDNP/21/04438/HOUS** Timbers, Sloe Lane, Alfriston, BN26 5UU **Application pending**

**SDNP/21/04630/HOUS** 6 The Broadway, Alfriston, BN26 5XL **SDNPA granted permission**

117.3 Enforcement updates

Cllr Bell updated that the SDNPA Enforcement Officer has still not responded to an enforcement enquiry re Burnt House, some 7 months later. He continues to be chased. It is relevant as it seems a listed wall has been knocked down with no permission, yet nothing seems to have been done by SDNPA. The Clerk also confirmed that SDNPA have confirmed since the last meeting that the owners of Saporì d'Italia have been asked to remove all 3 signs from their building.

Cllr Beechey asked whether, if the owners of Burnt House have developed the garage for habitable purpose, it would be not only a breach of the planning condition but an evasion of CIL?

Cllr Beechey noted that to date only one sign had been removed from Saporì d'Italia.

**118. Reports from Outside Bodies**

118.1 Volunteer Task Force: no update.

118.2 Heartstart: no update.

118.3 Alfriston Emergency Group: Mr Steve Woodgate was unable to attend the meeting but he sent a report to the Clerk to confirm that the goalpost was being collected this week to seek a quote for the works required to repair the legs. AEG assisted with the Remembrance parade on Sunday and as we are approaching the flooding season, AEG will be carrying out river level checks and liaising with Parish Council when needed.



118.4 Flood Forum – Mr Hurwood confirmed that there has been a recent meeting, minutes will follow soon. He was surprised to hear about flash flooding in the Heathfield area. There is shingle clearance arranged for next month. The Environment Agency have kindly agreed again to install a pump in the Willows car park, it should arrive next week. Mr Hurwood will let the Clerk know when the pump is in place so a letter of thanks can be sent. **Action 10.**

Mr Hurwood explained that the Flood Forum are struggling on the finance sides and their standard fee is being increased from £100 to £110, however APC have always paid £70 and paid for the hall for their meetings. It was agreed that when the Flood Forum write to APC for a grant, they should ask the Council to consider either paying the full rate and not covering the cost of the hall, or increasing the grant to £80 and continue to pay for the hall hire. Clerk is aware so will write it into the budget to be prepared for the request in the next financial year.

118.5 Neighbourhood Watch – no report.

118.6 Twinning Committee – Mr Michael Anderson confirmed that they have started to meet again as a Committee and are looking to arrange a suitably safe but entertaining function for members provided infection rates do not deteriorate further. They are hoping to hold a Fete des Rois again 9th Jan, again provided full prevailing precautions can be taken.

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

118.8 St Andrew's Church – Cllr Daw explained that all the money has been raised for the Church bells but unlikely they will be done before Christmas now. They are hoping to do a Christingle service, more information to follow. St Andrews are happy to see that services continue to be well attended, everyone is wearing a mask and the church is well ventilated.

118.9 Clergy House – No report but Cllr Daw did confirm they will not be opening in March, it will be April 2022.

118.10 Cuckmere Buses – No official report but Cllr Monteath-Wilson stated that as Mr Rod Young has retired as a bus driver, she will now be looking to find someone else to take on the role of Cuckmere Buses rep.

118.11 AWMH – Mr Adrian Butcher was unable to attend meeting this evening so sent his apologies and confirmed nothing new to report.

118.12 Speedwatch – Clerk reported that 3 new volunteers have put themselves forward to be Speedwatch members so they are currently undertaking the online training and then group face to face training will be arranged so they can be out on the streets ASAP. 4 cars were captured speeding recently, all at Whiteway, one doing over 50mph. Thank you to all Speedwatch members.

## **119. Correspondence to the Clerk**

1. Clerk reported that complaint emails had been received from C Lutring, Mr & Mrs Freeman, Mr & Mrs Bonus and Caroline Giles about the fireworks in the village on the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> November. All their complaints are similar; the fireworks went on for over 90 minutes, were incredibly loud and caused great distress to local animals with some injuries to horses and cattle reported due to the noise. Clerk explained that we had a similar report last year but APC do not have any power to stop fireworks. There are no laws stopping residents letting off fireworks in their back garden. A number of residents feel they sounded like professional fireworks. It was suggested that the Clerk could try and ascertain which resident it was or the local area and send a polite letter just to make them aware of the complaints received. This was agreed by all Councillors. Parishioners were also reminded that WDC did have the power to take action and any noise/nuisance complaints in future should be directed to the noise abatement officer asap.

### **Action 11.**

2. An email was received from Jane Green who has heard rumours that there could be an Alfriston Bonfire Society being set up and would like to protest as feels it is not the right

- setting. No Councillors have heard about this so will wait to see if anything comes of it, and it would be intriguing to know where a proposed bonfire site would be in Alfriston?!
3. Clerk reported that a few months back WDC asked about installing speed bumps in the Dene car park to reduce the speed of drivers ignoring the one way system. APC were against the ugly speed bumps so asked if additional signage could be trialled to see if this helped. WDC have reported that this has not made a difference and would like to proceed with speedbumps. They have expressed they are open to any other suggestions. Cllr Rabagliati stated that the road markings for the one way system need to be repainted as they have faded so barely visible. Also the existing signage is very high and is not reflective so hard to see in the dark. Cllr Beechey suggested altering the West Street entrance so it cars are not directed straight through the car park. Cllr Daw said she has seen the bus and food companies such as Waitrose and Asda drive the wrong way. Clerk will inform WDC of this so they can be written too. Cllr Beechey also suggested that one of WDC wardens could spend some time standing in the Dene car park, educating drivers. Sadly it is not just visitors ignoring the one way system, residents have been witnessed doing it also so there needs to be awareness that if continues the two way system could be taken away, therefore increasing the number of vehicles using the Square. All Councillors do not want to see the ugly yellow speed bumps in the car park, they would be happy with the cobbled bump, like the one that is already in place, but WDC have said these no longer meet health and safety. Clerk will report back to WDC. **Action 12.**
  4. Clerk reported that it is the time of year again when East Sussex Highways [ESH] are asking about next year grass cutting for urban verges. Would APC like to do:  
Option 1 – ESH do 2 cuts a year for free.  
Option 2 – ESH do their free 2 cuts and then APC pay £623 for an additional 4 cuts, taking the total to 6 cuts.  
Option 3 – APC to undertake self-delivery so their own contractor will do the cuts and ESH will contribute £311.  
Clerk explained that APC have been opting for option 3 for the past 3 years. All Councillors agreed to do Option 3 again, as long as the contractor is spoken to about the quality and frequency of the verge cuts. **Action 13.**

## **120. Public Questions**

1. Ms Susan Owen asked what the Neighbourhood Plan was for. Cllr Beechey explained that the Neighbourhood Plan was chosen as it has the most bite in the planning system. It has become apparent that the increased development of larger properties in the village is leading to a future in which there will be no variety of housing stock, and no suitable properties for those starting out/getting on the property ladder or those looking to downsize in order to free up larger properties. Cllr Daw also said it will look at how the village can become more green and change the way we do things.
2. Mrs Jan Bonus asked if there was a noise limit to fireworks as she was sure they broke the limit. Cllr Beechey reiterated that complaints should go to WDC's noise abatement officer as soon as they arise to give them a chance to investigate. Mr David Lewis asked if we could stop fireworks on health and safety grounds? Cllr Beechey repeated that APC have no powers when it comes to fireworks. As agreed earlier, a letter will be sent to the residents in the vicinity once identified.

## **121. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next APC meeting is Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall at 19:15.

Signed:



Mrs Victoria Rutt – Clerk and RFO

APPENDIX A

**Alfriston Parish Council Finance Report 15th November 2021**

*Authority is sought to make the following payments:-*

106	BACS	Victoria Rutt - November salary	£1,576.24
107	DD	NEST pension	£138.04
108	BACS	Victoria Rutt reimbursement - mileage	£23.40
109	BACS	John O'Connor	£361.50
110	BACS	Biffa	£216.53
111	BACS	AWMH	£40.20

**Total** £2,355.91

*Authority is sought to make the following payments made since last meeting:-*

97	DD	Business Stream - water to Pavilion	£32.13
98	DD	EDF Energy - Clock	£112.64
99	DD	O2	£19.99
100	CARD	Amazon - 2 x Speedwatch stools <i>[refunded on 02/11]</i>	£30.38
101	DD	Santander	£20.00
102	BACS	Nick Beechey - reimbursement for Tye padlock	£21.99
103	CARD	Ebay UK - 1 x Speedwatch stool	£22.95
104	DD	Castle Water - allotment water	£42.32
105	DD	Castle Water - pavilion water	£91.56


**Total** £393.96

**GRAND TOTAL** £2,749.87

**Summary of Bank Balances 15th November 2021**

Business Current Account	£3,861.65
Business Savings Account	£48,099.14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£51,960.79</b>

<b>RESERVE INFORMATION</b>				
<i>Project</i>	<i>Opening balance</i>	<i>Budget 21/22</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Closing Balance</i>
General Reserves	£10,000.00	add £5,520		£15,520.00
Tye Rd surface	£8,000.00	add £3,500		£11,500.00
Tye path	£10,440.00		<i>£10,440.00</i>	£0.00
Playground	£4,500.00	add £1,500		£6,000.00
CIL money	£1,749.07			£1,749.07
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£34,689.07</b>			<b>£34,769.07</b>



Signed by:  
Victoria Rutt - Clerk & RFO

## APPENDIX B

### Update from Maria Caulfield MP

#### **Local housing and planning**

While we continue to fight against proposals to build on greenfield sites locally, I am pleased the Government has recently outlined it will be bringing in changes to the planning system to prioritise brownfield sites for the building of new homes. I have sent parish councils an updated letter from the housing minister confirming that district councils can set their own housing numbers and I hope Wealden District Council will use this as evidence in their new local plan as again this will help us protect our green spaces.

#### **Rural Crime**

We have had an increase in rural crime locally, particularly with fires being started on local farms. Police are investigating so please do contact them if you have any information as we have had 6 episodes this week alone. It is great that Sussex will be recruiting 182 extra police officers recruited in Sussex to keep us safe.

#### **Improving support for women experiencing the menopause**

With my new role as health minister, I was pleased to announce in Parliament recently that women will benefit from cheaper and easier access to HRT to relieve symptoms of the menopause. Cutting the cost of HRT – which can be a lifeline to women severely impacted by menopause – is a great stride forward, but there is more to do.

#### **Winter Support Fund**

For those households struggling this winter the new Household Support Fund has been allocated to Wealden District Council. The grant can help those who need it most, including for example, through small grants to meet daily needs such as food, clothing, and utilities. Vulnerable households across the country will be able to access a new £500m support fund to help them with essentials over the coming months.

#### **GP access package**

The government recently announced the package of support to enable GPs to offer more face-to-face appointments and better telephone reception facilities.

It would be great to have any feedback as these changes come in relatively quickly and so residents should be noticing the difference quickly. Do feedback back to me with any concerns and let me know if things have improved with the Alfriston surgery.

#### **New Bus Strategy**

East Sussex County council are developing a new bus strategy to help improve our public transport in rural areas. The overall bus strategy comes in response to the government's Bus Back Better strategy, which requires councils to create such documents to secure funding.

If approved and adopted, the strategy would begin in 2022/23. For its first year, the council's strategy would focus on bringing bus usage back up to pre-pandemic levels and assessing how demand may have changed as a result.

In the long term, the aim would be to increase passenger numbers and to significantly increase the bus network's performance against a range of criteria. I will keep you updated on progress.