

# ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

## CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

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Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Minutes of a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC) held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### Present:

Cllr Watkins [Chair]

Cllr Cooper

Cllr Beechey [Vice Chair]

Cllr Bell

Cllr Rabagliati

Cllr Daw

Cllr Monteath-Wilson

### In attendance:

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 10 members of the public

### 122. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 123. Public Questions

No public questions.

### 124. Apologies for absence

No apologies.

### 125. 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](#).

### 126. Report from Cllr Stephen Shing [ESCC]

Cllr Shing wished everyone a Happy New Year. ESCC are publishing a report which proposes a Council Tax increase of 4.5%. There is no update with the High Street traffic scheme except ESH looking at the audit safety recommendations.

### 127. Report from Cllr Michael Lunn [WDC]

Cllr Lunn wished everyone a Happy New Year. There was a recent flooding event in Alfriston but the recently installed pump by the EA improved this. Cllr Lunn had a meeting last Friday with the EA, Water Board and Maria Caulfield MP. He is pleased, but remains cautious, that dialogue with the EA seems to have improved. EA have agreed to work with the water board moving forward and recognise the need to improve things. WDC are proposing a £5 rise in Council Tax (Band D), this is going out for consultation. Unfortunately, inflation is going up and so the Council Tax needs to be increased also. The local plan issues are ongoing, the draft proposals should be out soon.

## 128. 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 [AEG]. Cllr Watkins is also part of AEG.

## 129. Minutes

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

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Rabagliati seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC meeting held on 15th November 2021 were a true and accurate record.

**MOTION CARRIED.** Cllr. Watkins duly signed the minutes.

## 130. Finance

130.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: January 2022

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Daw seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances for January 2022. [\[Appendix A\]](#). **MOTION CARRIED**

Cllr. Cooper signed the Invoices for Payment.

130.2 To confirm sight and approve the audit paperwork for Q3 2021/22

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Monteath-Wilson seconded a motion to confirm sight and approval of the Q3 audit paperwork for 2021/22. **MOTION CARRIED**

130.3 To approve the budget for 2022/23

Clerk reported that the Finance Committee met on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to go through the budget proposals, following this meeting the proposed budget and a report was circulated to all Councillors ahead of the meeting and they had a chance to ask questions. The Clerk explained that APC's income, other than precept, is now very limited. Interest has gone down due to account changes with Santander. APC only now receive allotment rent, grass contribution from ESCC and payment for the Pavilion. APC are now very much reliant on the precept. Most expenditure lines remain the same this year. Any notable changes are listed below:

- Staff costs up in line with annual inflation.
- Reduction in admin as a saving was made with a new printer and Clerk is trying to move the meetings to use less paper.
- Grass cutting slight increase to cover annual inflation.
- Allotments, pavilion, Rec, bins, Tye, maintenance, and insurance remain the same.
- Clock increased by £50 to cover the price increase but speaking to owners of Cross House to see if the meter situation could be changed.
- S137 grants increased by £100 to take it back to the historic amount of £600.
- Subscriptions, rent, bank charges, audit, election expenses and Chairman's allowance remains the same.
- New budget line for Speedwatch as the current equipment is on loan so need to purchase our own for £500 at some point this year.
- Ear marked reserves. The total is £11k which is broken down by:  
*Playground £2k, Tye Rd resurfacing £3,500, Neighbourhood Plan £500 and High Street Traffic Plan £5,000.*

The playground and Tye Road get funds ring-fenced annually. The Neighbourhood Plan is new and as the cost is yet unknown a small amount to be put aside to start the pot off. The High Street traffic plan is ongoing and ESCC are moving very slow but when they are ready to go and APC know how much they need to apply for a loan, we need money ready to be able to pay the initial payment which is then every 6 months over whatever term is applied to the loan, 15/30/50 years.

All Councillors were happy with the proposed budget and the reasons for any amendments. Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Rabagliati seconded a motion to approve the proposed budget for 2022/23. **MOTION CARRIED**

#### 130.4 To approve the precept for 2022/23

Clerk reported that as the budget has been approved, due to the expenditure being increased, the precept needs to be increased. Last year the precept was £49,035. An increase is standard across all Parish Councils at present due to inflation and planned projects. APC have an annual expenditure of £56,540 with an income of £1,288 therefore APC needs the precept to be £55,252. This is an increase of £6,217 which is 12 %, however when it is broken down it is 27p a week (Band D). All Councillors were happy with the reasons for the Precept increase.

Cllr. Cooper proposed and Cllr. Monteath-Wilson seconded a motion to approve the precept of **£55,252** for 2022/23. **MOTION CARRIED**

Clerk to submit precept paperwork to Wealden District Council. **Action 1.**

#### **131. Consider a request to install a new dog waste bin near Star Lane**

Clerk reported that a request had come in from The Star for a dog waste bin to be installed in Star Lane as a number of guests are asking the hotel to dispose of their dog waste. There are two dog waste bins on the Recreation Ground and one on the Tye, there are also 4 litter bins on the Tye, two on the Rec and two in the Square that can have dog waste bags put in. A new bin would entail a cost of £600+VAT to install plus a further additional £260+VAT to be added onto the annual emptying invoice. Councillors discussed and all were in agreement that there is no need for an additional bin and there is no justification for the further expense. Clerk will contact The Star to inform them of the decision. **Action 2.**

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

Cllr Rabagliati reported that a brief update from ESCC had been received regarding the ESCC high street proposals. The safety audit had raised a concern about the location of the gateways near the car park due to the flooding. APC went back to them with the idea of a 5 bar gate that would be higher than any flood; we are awaiting a response. The next stakeholder meeting is expected at end of February. The broken 'School' sign has been removed and re-sited closer to North Road. Cllr Rabagliati will be doing an updated pothole report to send to the Clerk. Cllr Beechey asked if something could go out asking residents to cease parking on grass verges, it not only causes an obstruction but it makes an awful mess and makes the village look untidy. An email will go out and a target letter drop and notes left on cars if it continues.

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

Cllr Cooper reported that the annual renewals have gone out. It is looking untidy at the moment, but it is that time of year, however there are some plots that have not been looked after and need assistance. An inspection is happening at the end of the month. Cllr Cooper reminded all plot holders that there is a lengthy waiting list so please only renew if you are going to be proactive.

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

Cllr Monteath-Wilson reported that she attended a Cuckmere Buses meeting in November 2021. Due to Covid, passenger numbers are down but they are hoping things will start to improve. They need to purchase a new bus in 2023 but this will be done by grants and donations. Two grants, one of £25k will remain in account but the grant for £49k will be recalled

as not been spent. They have a shortage of drivers so if anyone interested, please let Cllr Monteath-Wilson know. They hope to resume their private hire service in due course and the next meeting will be in April 2022.

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

Cllr Monteath-Wilson asked that if there are any issues spotted around the village, please make her aware so she can liaise with the Clerk to get them reported.

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

#### 136.1 To discuss membership of Neighbourhood Plan Committee

Clerk reported that an advert had been published widely in November 2021 and again in January 2022 asking for interested members to join the Neighbourhood Plan Committee. 4 residents have requested to sit on the Committee. Cllr's Watkins, Bell, Rabagliati, Daw and Monteath-Wilson will also be on the Committee. The Clerk will submit the necessary paperwork to SDNPA to start the process. **Action 3.** Once SDNPA have given the green light, a meeting will be arranged so the terms of reference can be agreed and a plan to move forward. **Action 4.**

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

#### 137.1 To discuss and agree Friends of Alfriston playground proposal

Cllr Beechey expressed his thanks to everyone who has worked on the Alfriston playground proposals. A lot of work has been done and it is very detailed. The proposals have been published widely and Councillors have all received access to the documents. The first stage is for APC to approve the proposals and then the group can move to the fundraising stage. Cllr Beechey recommended the proposal to Councillors. All Councillors were in agreement that the proposal was excellent and had their full support. Clerk will email the Friends of Alfriston Playground to inform them of the decision **Action 5.**

Cllr Beechey reported that the dropped kerbs at the Rec, recently approved by ESH, are anticipated to be installed in the next month or so. Cllr Daw reported that on Friday afternoon, several sheep that were in lamb had arrived on the Recreation Ground. The school with their quick thinking managed to get them all safely into the fenced playground area until the farmer could be identified, and they could be collected and safely returned to their field. Clerk will email the school to thank them for their assistance in this matter. **Action 6.**

### **138. Report from Planning Committee – Cllr Bell**

#### 138.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

**SDNP/21/05946/HOUS** Timbers, Sloe Lane, Alfriston BN26 5UU **Supported**

**SDNP/21/06233/ADV** Rathfinny Farm, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TU **Supported**

**SDNP/21/06380/HOUS and SDNP/21/06381/LIS** Burnt House, Whiteway, Alfriston **Objected**

#### 138.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

**SDNP/21/04438/HOUS** Timbers, Sloe Lane, Alfriston, BN26 5UU **Not approved**

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

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

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

#### 138.3 Enforcement updates

Cllr Bell updated that he had emailed SDNPA and Mr Trevelyan [Enforcement Officer] as nothing had moved forward with recent enforcement issues. He did get a response, but it does not seem to be going anywhere.

### **139. Reports from Outside Bodies**

139.1 Volunteer Task Force: no update.

139.2 Heartstart: no update.

139.3 Alfriston Emergency Group: Mr Steve Woodgate reported that they are spending their time gritting and getting rid of water. They did some clearance work at Deans Place recently and behind the coach park toilets. Mr Woodgate is liaising with WDC as some issues have been identified on why that area keeps flooding. WDC were not aware but they are now and will be coming out to look at this. Cllr Watkins expressed her thanks for all that AEG do.

139.4 Flood Forum – Mr Hurwood reported that it has been interesting times. There was some confusion with the pump but with the Flood Forum secretary and Clerk contacting the EA, the pump promptly appeared and improved the situation.

139.5 Neighbourhood Watch – no report.

139.6 Twinning Committee – Mr Michael Anderson confirmed the committee are hoping for their first outing together: a seashore walk from the Buckle car park in early February. Their AGM is planned for Sunday March 13th.

139.7 Alfriston and Cuckmere Connect – ACC is temporarily suspended at the moment. Clerk reported that she had emailed the organisers and the group has been disbanded. Cllrs agreed for it to be removed from the agenda. Clerk to remove. **Action 7.**

139.8 St Andrew's Church – Cllr Daw explained that they had a lovely Christingle service on the Tye. The bells will be removed on the 24<sup>th</sup> January and they are hoping they will be back in for the Queens Jubilee. Regarding the Queens Jubilee, there will be a church service in the morning but there are talks about arranging some events on the Tye and a tea party in the High Street. All Councillors agreed this will be a great idea and the Clerk will look into the road closure process. **Action 8.**

139.9 Clergy House – The House remains closed.

139.10 Cuckmere Buses – No further update.

139.11 AWMH – Mr Adrian Butcher reported that much is carrying on as usual, but some groups are not yet back due to Covid. The flat roof is being replaced, possibly in February 2022, hopefully in half term but is weather dependent. They have received a £4k grant to improve the insulation. Mr Butcher is aware that Dan Larkin knows about the trees next to the School House but no work has been done as yet. Clerk to email Dan Larkin. **Action 9.**

139.12 Speedwatch – Clerk expressed her ongoing thanks to the Speedwatch members. We do need more, there are 4 awaiting training so if anyone would like to join the training session which will hopefully be held at the end of January, please let her know ASAP. Since Speedwatch has started, 22 vehicles have been reported and have received a letter regarding their speeding in Alfriston so drivers are being educated.

### **140. Correspondence to the Clerk**

Clerk confirmed there has been no correspondence. However, one issue that has arisen which should be minuted is that the gentleman who lives on the corner of Weavers Lane is concerned about the trees opposite on the bank as one recently came down. ESH have been out to look at the bank as it is their responsibility, and they are content that the trees are ok. The resident was not happy with this so Clerk went back to ESH and managed to obtain a compromise of no tree removal but they would grant permission for the resident to pay for the ivy to be removed to protect the trees. This is not something he feels needs doing. The next step is the Clerk will contact Dan Larkin for his professional opinion. **Action 10.**

#### 141. Public Questions

1. Mrs Caroline Adcock asked about the goal posts on the Recreation Ground. Cllr Beechey explained it is a work in progress as it is a repair job. Once repaired the goal post will be reinstated where it was but the net behind will be repaired prior to this. Mr Steve Woodgate said he is trying to obtain the correct sleeve in order to do the repair.
2. Cllr Lunn asked if APC were getting CIL money. The Clerk confirmed we do but we do not receive a lot due to not many developments in the village. Cllr Lunn explained that SDNPA are sitting on a lot of money so anything that could improve infrastructure on paths/roads should be applied for. Clerk will look into this. **Action 11.**
3. Mr Adrian Butcher reported that Panto tickets are now on sale.

#### 142. Date of next meeting

The date of the next APC meeting is Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall at 19:15.



Signed:

Mrs Victoria Rutt – Clerk and RFO

## APPENDIX A

### Alfriston Parish Council Finance Report 17th January 2022

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

129	BACS	Victoria Rutt - January salary	£1,576.24
130	DD	NEST pension	£138.04
131	BACS	Biffa	£120.53
132	BACS	Victoria Rutt - mileage reimbursement	£46.80
133	BACS	Viking - stationary	£95.92
134	BACS	Latitude	£93.60

**Total** **£2,071.13**

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

112	22361	Christopher Goodchild for RBL Wreath	£17.00
113	DD	Santander	£20.00
114	DD	O2	£19.99
115	BACS	John O'Connor - grass cutting	£361.50
116	CARD	Salt & Grit Solutions Ltd	£182.60
117	BACS	Biffa - allotment bins	£180.79
118	BACS	Daniel Larkin - Tye Road cut back	£220.00
119	BACS	Smith of Derby - clock annual service	£265.20
120	BACS	Wealden District Council - Q3 bins	£624.00
121	BACS	AWMH	£33.50
122	DD	BT	£17.16
123	BACS	Victoria Rutt - December salary	£1,576.44
124	BACS	John O'Connor - grass cutting	£361.50
125	DD	NEST pension	£138.04
126	DD	Santander	£20.00
127	DD	O2	£19.99
128	BACS	Inland Revenue - Tax and NI Q3	£1,450.76

**Total** **£5,508.47**

**GRAND TOTAL** **£7,579.60**

#### Summary of Bank Balances 17th January 2022

Business Current Account	£7,706.43
Business Savings Account	£37,741.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£45,447.48</b>

<b>RESERVE INFORMATION</b>				
<b>Project</b>	<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>Budget 21/22</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>
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		£10,440.00	£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**

#### **Booster Jabs**

I am urging everyone who is eligible for their Covid-19 Booster, or initial vaccinations, to come forward to receive them. The latest preliminary data has shown vaccine efficacy against symptomatic infection is substantially reduced against Omicron with just 2 doses, but a booster pushes protection back up to over 70%, showing how vital the top-up jab is to bolster immunity. People can book by calling 119 or can get vaccinated at hundreds of walk-in sites across the country. Those eligible can use the NHS online walk-in finder to locate the most convenient site. More information can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-booster-vaccine/>

#### **Dredging of the Cuckmere**

I had a meeting with the Environment Agency over Christmas as they have not yet dredged the river mouth this year. They are prepared to do so when needed so feedback from the parish would be very welcome. They did install a pump in Alfriston over the Christmas holiday and this seemed to clear the floodwaters there.

#### **A27 East of Lewes**

I have had a number of constituents contact me regarding the A27. National Highways are currently surveying the whole stretch of the A27 to assess its long-term future. This does not mean they are looking at an offline dual carriageway, but dualling the current road. They aim to share their findings this spring and I will keep residents updated. If it is helpful for me to come and speak to the parish on this I am very happy to do so as I know residents are concerned.

For the latest details about planned closures, diversion routes and more information about the scheme, please visit: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/south-east/a27-east-of-lewes/>

#### **Increased Funding for Schools in East Sussex**

Schools in East Sussex will receive £415 million in funding next year, a boost of £29 million as part of the Conservative Government's £4 billion increase in spending for schools across the country. This will help schools to hire more teachers, get materials to support pupils learning, and support pupils with special needs and disabilities, helping to ensure all young people can thrive and succeed.

#### **Sussex Police funding increase**

Sussex Police will see a funding increase of £18.5 million as part of a funding boost of up to £1.1 billion next year to drive down crime and deliver safer streets for all. The additional funding will allow police forces to continue the work already being done to target criminals. We have seen an additional 182 police officers in Sussex thanks to this Government and this large increase in funding will allow Sussex Police to go even further and help contribute to the national target of an additional 20,000 police officers.

#### **£20 million of Extra Funding for Local NHS this Winter**

This is part of £700 million across the country to expand wards, install modular operating theatres, upgrade outpatient spaces and MRI and screening technology, to help reduce waiting lists. The funding locally includes: East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust - £5,392,000

- Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust - £1,941,000
- Sussex Health & Care Partnership - £3,241,000
- University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust - £9,083,000