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](mailto:clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk) Friday 25th March 2022

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

**held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 21st March 2022**

**Present:**

Cllr Watkins [Chair] Cllr Daw

Cllr Beechey [Vice Chair] Cllr Cooper

Cllr Rabagliati Cllr Bell

**In attendance:**

Mrs Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 6 members of the public

**143.** **Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**144. Public Questions**

No public questions.

**145. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Monteath-Wilson.

**146. 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.

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

Cllr Shing reported that back in August 2021, a public consultation went out for the A22 junction improvements. 760 replies were received and at a meeting on Monday the proposals were approved. The Lead Member approved the local transport budget for 2022/23, in which £200k has been assigned to the Alfriston traffic scheme. ESCC have been in the village recently to undertake some traffic surveys before arranging a further stakeholder meeting.

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

Cllr Lunn apologised for being late. He explained a lot has changed in the past two months. Wealden District Council [WDC] were waiting for the white paper to be published in order to see the housing formula. It was hoped it was going to be published this week on budget day but it looks like there are further delays. It throws a curve ball for when the local plan can be completed as it is needs to be delivered by the end of 2023 but the housing formula is required. It may not affect Alfriston due to being within the SDNPA but the knock-on effect of extra housing in the local area could affect traffic volume through the village.

Cllr Lunn confirmed that communication between WDC and EA has continued to be very positive. Dialogue is happening and EA are due to clear the silt from at least part of the river.

WDC are looking at installing electric vehicle charging points in their car parks. Alfriston is unlikely to be in the first phase due to UKPN needing to assess the power supply. Cllr Lunn will get the information and circulate to the Clerk. **Action 1.**

Cllr Daw asked about the new cycling and walking path on A27, and how cyclists are going to get over the river safely? Cllr Lunn confirmed that he did not know the answer. He does know that Longman Parish Council have raised concerns about the new Wilmington junction and a meeting has been arranged with Highways England to discuss safety issues. He will find out the details of the meeting and let the Clerk know. **Action 2.**

Cllr Beechey asked about the meeting with Highways England, as despite APC pressing for better weight restriction signage at Drusilla’s roundabout, the old, ineffective ones were reinstated after the works there. Cllr Lunn said this is something Cllr Shing should deal with. Clerk to speak to Cllr Shing. **Action 3.**

**149. 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 a member of AEG.

**150. Minutes**

150.1 To agree as a true record the Minutes of the APC meeting held on 17th January 2022

Cllr. Rabagliati proposed and Cllr. Beechey seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC meeting held on 17th January 2022 were a true and accurate record.

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

**151. Finance**

151.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: March 2022

Cllr. Cooper proposed and Cllr. Daw seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances for February 2022. [Appendix A]. **MOTION CARRIED**

Cllr. Cooper signed the Invoices for Payment.

151.2 To confirm and approve the accounts system for Clerk to use from April 2022

Clerk reported that from 1st April 2022 all businesses need to be ready for ‘Making Tax Digital’. The Clerk had circulated a report detailing the different software that is available to Clerks to ensure we adhere to the new rules. The Clerk uses excel for the finances and this works well, so bridging software would be recommended rather than a whole new system. In the report, the Clerk recommended that APC use 123 sheets for £25 a year. Cllr Bell proposed that the Clerk purchases and installs 123 sheets, this was seconded by Cllr Daw. **MOTION CARRIED.**

151.3 To confirm sight of recent NJC pay award from April 2021 and backdated

Clerk reported that APC’s external payroll provider sent a letter on the 4th March explaining that NJC had indicated that all Clerks should have had their national pay spines reviewed in April 2021 but this was not done. This has now been reviewed and Councils have been asked from March 2022 to amend the pay spines for the Clerks and backdate for one year. This is shown in the March 2022 salary payment to the Clerk. All Cllrs confirmed they had received sight of this letter and supporting paperwork. Cllr Cooper proposed approval, and this was seconded by Cllr Bell. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**152. To discuss and agree whether APC should join other Councils on the ‘Over development in Wealden’ initiative**

Clerk explained that a few months ago, APC were approached by Cllr Mikelis from Chiddingly Parish Council, who wrote on behalf of a working group against ‘Over-Development in Wealden’, requesting APC’s council’s support for the initiative. APC confirmed at the time that they supported the initiative. Since then, 33 parish councils, out of a total of 42 in Wealden, have formally agreed to support the campaign. Neighbouring districts (Lewes and Rother) are holding similar discussions, while there have been very supportive articles in the local press suggesting that many people in our district and probably in the South East have had enough of the increasing destruction of our beautiful countryside. A meeting has been arranged for interested parish representatives on Friday 8th April, starting at 7pm in Horam Village Hall. Two representatives from each Parish Council will be invited. All Councillors confirmed their support for this and Cllrs Bell and Daw volunteered to attend the meeting. Clerk will liaise with Cllr Mikelis to confirm support and attendance at the meeting. **Action 4.**

**153. To discuss and agree a response to the Government’s ‘Glover Landscape Review’**

Clerk reported that Cllr Monteath-Wilson was going to draft something for discussion but has been unwell so not been able. Cllr Beechey stated that the report is detailed, with about 18 recommendations, and requires a detailed response, drafted in advance of consideration by APC. The response to the report sits within the strategic planning portfolio. Cllr Daw will liaise with Cllr Monteath-Wilson to draft a suggested response for circulation. Clerk reminded Cllr Daw the deadline is the 9th April. **Action 5.**

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

Cllr Rabagliati was pleased to report that some West Street potholes have been repaired, some still require attention and they will be completed within 28 days from the 18th March. Cllr Rabagliati is currently preparing a pothole list for the Clerk to submit to ESH. Thanks due to AEG for all their hard work following Storm Eunice. Regarding the High Street plan, ESCC are undertaking survey works at both ends of the village to ascertain the best location for the proposed gateways. They have also been in the village doing topography. Clerk will chase ESCC when she returns from leave for an update on the next stakeholder meeting. **Action 6.**

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

Cllr Cooper reported that the Clerk attended the allotments recently to undertake an inspection. A few were identified as very untidy and the plot holders were written to. The responses have been positive and work has commenced to tidy. The grass contractors will be back in the village shortly and Clerk has asked them to strim the allotment paths urgently. Cllr Beechey has attempted to turn the allotment water back on but a vehicle was parked on the grass verge along the Furlongs preventing access. A note will be left on the vehicle and another attempt will be made in due course.

**156. Report on Public Transport – Cllr Monteath-Wilson**

Cllr Beechey said he had been informed that the bike rack in the Willows car park is well used and there is need for another one. Clerk will liaise with WDC to see if a further bike rack could be installed. **Action 7.**

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

No report.

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

158.1 NDP Committee update

Cllr Daw reported that the first committee meeting was held this evening. Mr Nick Guyatt was appointed as Chairman of the committee. There is a need to publish information widely and ensure everyone is widely represented.

158.2 Queen’s Jubilee event update

Cllr Daw said that the event is coming along and it will run Thursday – Sunday. [2nd – 5th June 2022]. The timetable is as follows:

**Thursday 2nd June** – Litlington beating the bounds; hoping to do so in Alfriston also.

**Friday 3rd June** – At the OCC, in the afternoon they are having a hog roast and in the evening the Twinning Committee are holding a ‘Wine and Wisdom’ event.

**Saturday 4th June** – There is a pudding event within the OCC.

**Sunday 5th June** – There is a road closure from 11:00 – 17:00 so there can be a village street party. It is for all the village to enjoy, there will be pipers, an accordion and the Seaford Town Crier is coming at 15:00 to toast the Queen. Also in the morning is the Jubilee church service.

If money can be raised, a flyer will be produced with all the information on. If not, information will go out in the Cuckmere News. The High Street is going to be dressed and some previously used 8ft boards from the previous Jubilee with the Queen, Soldier and Flag will be put around the Square. People are required to man the barriers for the road closures, possibly in one-hour shifts. Please liaise with Cllr Daw if you are willing to help.

Cllr Daw explained that The Star have published a flyer as they are proposing to put tables outside The Star and along the High Street towards the village store and sell tickets for a 3 course lunch. Cllr Daw has liaised with them and said that anybody could come and erect a table and chairs for their part in the celebration along the street. Cllr Beechey asked whether the Star had requested permission to do this or simply informed that they would be doing this. Cllr Beechey asked on what basis the Star could do this and whose insurance the event fell under. Clerk confirmed that the road closure is in the name of APC and the insurance will be provided by APC, and APC are legally responsible for the everything that happens under the road closure. All Councillors agreed this is therefore a Parish Council event, and that the event has been arranged for the community, so such commercialisation went against the spirit of the event. Cllrs were unanimous in not granting the Star permission to put tables on the High Street. A letter will be written to The Star explaining that permission has not been granted for tables along the High Street. **Action 8.**

Mr Adrian Butcher offered the use of the tables from the AWMH for villagers to put out to enjoy their own lunch. Cllr Daw explained that usually they would use the AWMH for the other Jubilee events, but it is being used by the Art Club that weekend so that is why the OCC is being used.

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

Cllr Beechey asked if a decision can be made about the water fountain on the Tye. Shall it be decommissioned or replaced? Clerk will look into the options and have something for the next meeting. **Action 9.**

Cllr Beechey confirmed that Storm Eunice brought down the village sign on the Tye but it is with Mrs Penny Ellis and Mr Frank Fox-Wilson for some TLC. Once finished it will be re-erected on a new post. No update as yet on the goal post but Clerk will chase for an update. **Action 10.**

Cllr Beechey asked Councillors to think about Tye Road and whether we move to widen/resurface it. If looking at a grant to double up the funds we currently have ringfenced, is it worth being ambitious and look at also replacing all the concrete bollards around the Tye with more attractive wooden ones - something that was proposed in the 1997 Conservation Area Report, and so perhaps due for consideration after 25 years? Something for Councillors to think about. ESCC have confirmed that the dropped kerbs on the Rec/Furlongs will be installed by the end of March.

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

160.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

**SDNP/21/06310/LIS** 11 North Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UG Approved

**SDNP/22/00360/CND** White Walls, North Road, Alfriston, BN26 5XD Approved

**SDNP/22/00983/HOUS** Robin Hill, 4 Deans Road, Alfriston, BN26 5XR Objected

**SDNP/22/01167/HOUS** 7 Deans Road, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5XR Objected

160.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

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

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

**SDNP/21/06380/HOUS** Burnt House, Whiteway, Alfriston Withdrawn

160.3 Enforcement updates

Cllr Bell updated that he reported enforcement concerns to SDNPA 12 months ago and still no further action. He will continue to seek an update from the enforcement officer once a month.

**161. Reports from Outside Bodies**

*161.1 Volunteer Task Force*: no update.

*161.2 Heartstart*: no update.

*161.3 Alfriston Emergency Group*: no update.

*161.4 Flood Forum* – Mr Hurwood reported that the next Flood Form meeting is being held on the 4th April in the AWMH.

*161.5 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report.

*161.6 Twinning Committee* – no report.

*161.7 St Andrew’s Church* – Cllr Daw reported that the annual PCC meeting is being held on Saturday at 10:30 in the church. She also confirmed the bells restoration is coming along nicely and hopes they will be reinstated for the Jubilee.

*161.8 Clergy House* – The following report was received from Ms Holly Jones.

*“The Clergy House is open for the season again on Friday 1st April (and that’s no joke J) and we will be open 10.30am to 4pm on Fridays & Saturdays until July when we change to being open on Wednesdays & Thursdays.  We will be pre-booked visits only as last year.  We cannot promise to accommodate any walk up visitors so please encourage everyone to book to avoid disappointment.  We have some work on the Thatch during April so scaffolding will be up from the end of March to May.  We are making thatch repairs to the ridge, the netting and we are going to remove some moss as well.  The scaffolding will go around the entire house in a way that it avoids bat flight paths and still has space for our visitors to walk underneath.   So even though the house will be hidden for a while it will be interesting to watch the Master Thatcher and apprentice at work.  Please expect some vehicle activity outside the house during this time”*

*161.9 Cuckmere Buses* – no update.

*161.10 AWMH* – Mr Adrian Butcher reported that there was going to be work undertaken to the flat roof over Easter but Biffa have a grant process that could award the AWMH up to 90% of the cost, so they are submitting an application and awaiting result before arranging the works.

*161.11 Speedwatch* – Clerk reported that 4 new members have now been trained and it is going well. Several vehicles have been captured at Whiteway and one vehicle got caught coming into the village at speed and then 20 minutes later got caught speeding back out of the village. That will result in an automatic Police visit to the registered driver. Thanks as always to all the members and if anyone else is interested please contact the Clerk.

**162. Correspondence to the Clerk**

1. Clerk explained that since the last meeting a few items were agreed via email and will be ratified at this meeting, they were the following:

* Permission granted to the Pre School to use the Tye for a Mothers Day picnic on the 21st March and an egg hunt on the 28th March.
* Permission granted for a small amount of biodegradable confetti to be used for a wedding on the Tye in the summer.
* A board permission granted for The Apiary to raise funds for the Ukraine appeal.
* Donation of £20 agreed towards contribution of Simon Goacher retirement present who has been APC’s external payroll provider for many years.

1. A running event is being held on the and the organisers are requesting a check point near the White Bridge between 10:00 – 14:00. They will leave the site clean and tidy. All Councillors were in agreement.
2. Kent Air Ambulance has requested a grant for £500. Cllr Beechey pointed out that would wipe out the S137 grant as it is set for £600. It was agreed that a sum of £250 would be granted. Clerk will contact Kent Air Ambulance but not award the grant until 1st April when the new budget year commences. **Action 11.**
3. APC have been invited to a Sussex Police run ‘focus group’ to discuss policing and community safety issues. It is being held on Monday 16th May, 10:30-12:00 at Heathfield Parish Council. No Councillors were able to attend so Clerk will attend and report back at the APC meeting that evening.
4. WDC have contacted all Parish Councils asking if they have an emergency plan in place. It was discussed and Clerk will liaise with AEG as it is believed that they may have a working document. **Action 12.**
5. South Coast Challenge event is being held on the 3rd September 2022 and will be in the fields next to the Willows car park. Organisers are not asking for permission, they are just informing the Parish Council. When this event has been held previously there were parking issues resulting in the Police attending. Organisers have been informed of this so marshalls will be arranged and WDC have been informed so they will have car park attendants around on that day.
6. Cllr Rabagliati asked if Councillors would consider a donation to the Ukraine appeal. All Councillors were in agreement and £200 will be paid to the appeal. **Action 13.**
7. Last year APC opted into a grass cutting trial that saw the reduction of the number of cuts to the rural verges. A further trial is taking place to see what adjustments can be made and to increase the evidence base. Councillors discussed and agreed not to join the trial.
8. Clerk has been asked by the owner of Chestnuts Tea Room if he could lease the two parking spaces on Tye Road, opposite the entrance to the Wingrove car park, as his property has no garage or allocated parking. The resident feels frustrated as Wingrove staff always seem to park there and his vehicles are being damaged. All Councillors were unanimous that parking spaces on Tye Road can’t be leased out to residents as there are many residents in the same situation in the village. It did raise the question why Wingrove staff are parking there so Clerk will liaise with the Wingrove about this. **Action 14**. Cllr Beechey suggested that this location may be a good one for a bicycle rack. Clerk will look into the options available. **Action 15.**

**163. Public Questions**

1. Mr Adrian Butcher said the AWMH offering the tables for use on the 5th June for the Jubilee event is for the community and it is not a money making celebration.

2. Mrs Wood suggested that if you do replace the bollards around the Tye, they could be replaced with something in celebration of the Jubilee. Cllr Beechey explained there are a lot of bollards to replace. Cllr Daw explained she was thinking something like a tree or bush might be appropriate. Councillors to think about this.

**164. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next APC meeting is Monday 25th April 2022 in the Alfriston War

Memorial Hall at 19:15.**This will also be the Annual Assembly.**

**Please note this meeting is being held one week later than usual, this is due to the Easter bank holiday.**

Signed:  Mrs Victoria Rutt – Clerk and RFO

**APPENDIX A**

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**APPENDIX B**

**Update from Maria Caulfield MP**

**Storm Eunice**

Some residents across the constituency were left without power for a number of days following Storm Eunice on Friday the 18th of February. I was in close contact with UK Power Network throughout this period helping vulnerable constituents and pushing for updates and support. Payments are expected for anyone who was cut off for an extended period of time so do contact me if you have any trouble accessing this. UK Power Network should contact you directly if you are eligible however you can also fill out a claim form online at: <https://forms.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut-payment-form>

**A27 Long Term Plan**

I understand that National Highways are starting consultations on the A27 long term plan. I will make sure that if I receive any update on this, I will include it in my parish report for the next meeting.

**£1.1m funding boost for local authorities for Domestic Abuse Victims**

The breakdown will see East Sussex County Council receive £1,072,232, Lewes District Council £32,867 and Wealden District £32,381, giving a total of £1,137,480. Domestic abuse is a horrific crime, and we must do everything we can to help victims recover and rebuild their lives. I am pleased the Government is giving additional funding to both District Councils and the County Council in my Lewes constituency to help local victims of abuse and their children start again – with better services such as healthcare, social workers and benefits.

**Support for Household energy costs in Lewes Constituency**

I welcome plans from the Government which will mean 34,145 households across Lewes District are set to be supported with a £150 non-repayable cash rebate for homes in Council Tax bands A-D helping both lower and middle-income families. This is as well as A £200 ‘smoothing’ rebate on energy bills for all households, to be paid back over the next five years at £40 per year – starting from April 2023. Global pressures have led to many households across the Lewes constituency feeling a squeeze on their household costs, so it is right that the Government has come forward with this support.

**Doctors’ surgery**

I visited the Old School Surgery in Seaford last week and they have confirmed that clinics are being run at the Surgery in Alfriston. The reception facilities are still currently being run out of the Old School Surgery, Seaford. However, they hope to open the reception in Alfriston very soon. A date has not yet been confirmed but I will keep the parish informed when I receive an update.