ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**  33 Swaines Way

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

**held 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

Cllr Monteath-Wilson

**In attendance:**

Mrs Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 18 members of the public

**165.** **Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**166. Public Questions**

No public questions.

**167. Apologies for absence**

No apologies.

**168. Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

Please refer to the Annual Assembly minutes.

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

Please refer to the Annual Assembly minutes.

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

Please refer to the Annual Assembly minutes.

**171. 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.

**172. Minutes**

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Cooper seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC meeting held on 21st March 2022 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Watkins duly signed the minutes.

**173. Finance**

173.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: EOY 2022 and April 2022

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

Cllr. Cooper signed the Invoices for Payment.

173.2 To confirm and approve the Clerk’s pay increment

Cllr Watkins confirmed that a Confidential Personnel meeting was held on Monday 21st March 2022 and it was agreed that the Clerk would be awarded an annual increment. Cllr Daw proposed, this was seconded by Cllr Monteath-Wilson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

173.3 To confirm sight and approval of Q4 2021/22 audit paperwork

Clerk reported that all Councillors have received a copy of the Q4 audit paperwork for 2021/22 via email. Cllr Rabagliati proposed, this was seconded by Cllr Bell. **MOTION CARRIED.**

173.4 To confirm sight and approval of the EOY finance paperwork, including agreeing the general and ringfenced reserves for 2022/23

Clerk reported that all Councillors have received a copy of the EOY finance report and agree the general and ringfenced reserves for 2022/23. Cllr Cooper proposed, this was seconded by Cllr Daw. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

Cllr Rabagliati reported that East Sussex Highways have received the latest batch of comments from the Road Safety Team and are currently working through the design comments. They are looking to finalise the HGV signage on the A27 with the same Road Safety Team. A stakeholder meeting is hopefully going to be arranged for May 2022. Cllr Rabagliati and Cllr Monteath-Wilson are attending an A27 stakeholders meeting on Wednesday 27th April .

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

Cllr Cooper reported that all plot-holders have now paid for their renewals. There are 2 vacant plots but these are being offered down the waiting list, the Clerk expects it will be a full house in the next two weeks. Some plot holders have done well at tidying up, plots will continue to be inspected regularly.

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

Cllr Monteath-Wilson reportedthat a recent stakeholder meeting report showed that Cuckmere Buses operated well over the winter months. From April 2022, the service levels increase for summer operation and this is causing more difficulty with duty coverage. This is not helped by the closure of Station Road in Berwick. A new comprehensive timetable booklet has been produced again for Summer 2022. Timetable displays at around 35 bus stops have been refreshed. All buses are now equipped with dashcams for safety. There was a budget deficit of £15k for 2022, this is down to covid related grants and increased costs including fuel.

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

Cllr Monteath-Wilson reportedabout the Glover report.APC missed the consultation deadline so nothing we can do now but will continue to keep an eye out for updates.

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

178.1 NDP Committee update

Cllr Daw reported that nothing new to update. The Clerk asked if any Cllrs who sit on the Committee had received any emails as there has been no responses to hers. Cllrs confirmed no response so Clerk will email the Chair, Mr Nick Guyatt, for an update. **Action 1.**

The draft Terms of Reference [TOR] has been circulated but no response from anyone as yet. Cllr Beechey asked for sight, Clerk to email Cllrs Beechey and Cooper the draft TOR as they do not sit on the Committee. **Action 2**.

Cllr Beechey raised a concern after reading the first set of the Committee notes, that APC did not decide to proceed with a Neighbourhood Development Plan [NDP] to facilitate development of land in the village, but rather to restrict and control the type of development. Cllr Bell stated that Mr Guyatt said that facilitation is the reason for an NDP but the majority of those present at the Committee agreed that they do not want to facilitate development of land.

178.2 To discuss and agree on how to proceed with the Jubilee event

Cllr Daw gave an overview on what has been arranged thus far. On Sunday 5th June 2022, a street closure application has been applied for. Originally it was from 13:00 – 17:00, this was amended to start at 11:00 following a request from The Star. Bagpipes are booked for 13:00 and the Town Crier at 15:00. A leaflet will be circulated in due course. Cllr Daw explained that concerns have been raised by Cuckmere Buses regarding the street closure and have requested more stewards. As AEG are unable to attend on the 5th June due to a previously arranged engagement, it is proving difficult to get the number of stewards required. At a recent meeting which Cllr Daw attended [as a resident], it was explained that The Star wanted tables to go down the High Street towards Ms Diana Kelly’s premises and serve a 3 course lunch. This update was brought to APC at the meeting on 21st March 2022, when the decision was made to write to The Star to explain that the Jubilee event is a community event and not a commercial event.

The Clerk explained that Wealden District Council [WDC] have concluded the consultation but due to the issues raised by Cuckmere Buses, further information is required from APC as well as ensuring the number of stewards required can be covered. Councillors need to agree whether to proceed with the street closure application or move the event to the Tye.

Cllr Watkins asked each Councillor in turn on their thoughts, she asked Cllr Rabagliati first and he stated that he would prefer to see the street party on the High Street but does understand that if we do not have the stewards it needs to be moved to the Tye but this would be with regret. All Councillors agreed one by one with Cllr Rabagliati, they all would prefer it to be on the High Street. Cllr Watkins opened up the meeting to take comments from attendees.

Ms Alex Polizzi from The Star Inn said she feels like she is part of the village and it is astonishing to her that it has taken a mere month before Jubilee for something to still be arranged. She stated that they never wanted the tables going that far down the High Street and disagreed with Cllr Daw’s recollection of the events. Ms Polizzi said communication goes both ways and it is hurtful that somehow The Star are being blamed. Ms Diana Kelly asked why was planning not started ages ago, previously 10 months has been needed for other events. Why did the Council not approach people? Cllr Daw asked why traders didn’t approach the Parish Council? Cllr Watkins asked Ms Kelly why she had not contacted the APC, no one has contacted APC about the Jubilee. Ms Kelly responded that you are the Parish Council. Cllr Bell replied that you are the local businesses, if you had an idea you should have come to APC about it. The first something was mentioned was when Cllr Daw suggested a road closure two months ago and has been doing everything since, it was only agreed at the March 2022 meeting that it should be a Parish Council led event due to APC’s insurance covering the event. If businesses want to do something, then they need to liaise with the Parish Council. Mr Nick White said that a meeting was arranged, and APC were invited to attend. The Clerk and all Councillors explained this was incorrect, no invitation to Cllrs had been received. Ms Diana Kelly said that Cllr Daw attended the meeting, but it was explained that she attended as a resident and not as a Parish Councillor. Ms Kelly said that she is always there as a Councillor, it was explained to Ms Kelly that Cllr Daw wears many different hats, such as resident, Parish Council and Churchwarden. Cllr Daw confirmed that she made it very clear at that meeting she was there as a resident and not as a Parish Councillor. Ms Polizzi said that Cllr Daw said she was going to take the information back to the Parish Council, which she did. The Parish Council were applying for the road closure, Ms Polizzi said that they were not told that businesses would be excluded from it. Cllrs Watkins and Daw explained this is not the case, they are not excluded. Cllr Cooper explained that there is no point going back and forth, pointing fingers. It is not getting anyone anywhere, there needs to be a solution.

Ms Kelly explained that at that meeting, Ms Polizzi offered free Pimms and was purchasing a large Jubilee cake, yet this was not in the APC minutes last month. Councillors confirmed this had not been included in the update last month. This is when communication is key and everything should be put into writing. Cllr Bell asked was there never an intention to sell a 3-course lunch for £55? Ms Polizzi stated that she definitely could charge that as she does already, but they could take their lunch and enjoy it outside in the street party. Cllr Bell stated that in the letter sent to The Star it was raised that APC had concerns that it would become a commercial event and it is the selling of the seats that was not agreed with. Mr Nick White asked what if other hospitality businesses put tables out to sell food as he believes people are intending to do so. Cllr Beechey explained they would be told the same as The Star, that is not the vision of the street party. The Star’s online flyer gave the impression of a commercial event and that is what APC had been informed of. Residents eating at tables is fine, but it is the commercialization and serving food at a table that is not in keeping.

Cllr Beechey said it is simple, Councillors need to agree whether:

1. We have enough stewards, if so proceed with the road closure.
2. If we do not have enough manpower, move the event to the Tye.

Mrs Lucie Harmer explained that she lives in the Square and has no idea what is happening at Jubilee, she is sure that if ‘Stewards Required’ was published, volunteers would come forward. The Clerk explained that nothing has gone out in the Cuckmere News yet as the location can’t be published until the road closure is granted. The Clerk explained that a full update on what has been planned so far was in full on the APC minutes in March 2022. Mrs Harmer explained she works full time and is a mother so does not have time to read the minutes. The Clerk appreciates that, however the minutes are published widely; circulated via email, placed on the APC website and on the noticeboard. What more could the Parish Council do?

Cllr Beechey asked how many stewards Cllr Daw has so far? She reported that she has 24. A number of people in attendance at the meeting volunteered to be a steward so it was agreed that the street closure application would proceed and it was agreed to revert to the original time of 13:00 – 17:00. Clerk explained that the additional information required i.e. traffic management plan will require assistance, Cllr’s Monteath-Wilson and Rabagliati volunteered to assist the Clerk.

It was agreed that a small working group would be formed to meet ASAP to discuss next steps and to start communicating widely. The group will consist of Cllrs Watkins, Daw and Rabagliati. Businesses to attend will be The Star, Much Ado, Emmett and White and Diana Kelly Interiors. Clerk will circulate an email to arrange a meeting ASAP. **Action 3.**

Mrs Lucie Harmer asked are business not allowed to sell food at the event, for example The Smugglers. Cllrs replied that businesess may sell food on their premises that people can take onto the street, it is the selling of a seat/table to go with it and table service that not permitted. This was understood by Mrs Harmer.

Mrs Katie Salmon expressed her thanks to Cllr Daw. All Councillors agreed and thanked Cllr Daw for everything she has done thus far.

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

179.1 To discuss and agree next steps for the Tye village sign

Cllr Beechey reported that Mr Frank Fox-Wilson brought to the attention of APC last year that the village sign was in need of some TLC. This was being looked into when Storm Eunice brought the sign down. The village sign has now gone to Mr Fox-Wilson for urgent wooden repairs and to Mrs Penny Ellis for re-painting. A new post has been made and purchased already at a cost of £438. Additional costs still to be paid will be £300 to Mrs Ellis for the painting, £250 to Mr Fox-Wilson for the wood work and around £200 to AEG for the removal of the rotting post and the re-erecting of the new post and sign. The Clerk confirmed there is no budget for the sign but the money could be found if needed, just a concern that it is the start of the financial year and it is not known what could happen this year.

Cllr Cooper proposed to proceed with the sign and this was seconded by Cllr Bell. **MOTION CARRIED.** Cllr Watkins opened up the meeting so Mr Fox-Wilson could speak. He apologised that the work had commenced prior to the money being agreed, work started as they are hoping to get it completed in time for the Jubilee event. The wood repairs have been completed and the sign is now with Mrs Ellis for repainting.

179.2 To discuss and agree how to proceed with the water fountain on the Tye

Cllr Beechey asked if Councillors would like to decommission the water fountain or look to replace? It was asked who paid for the water, Clerk confirmed no bill had ever been received. One option is to keep what is in place but it is unhygienic and breaks often, or could replace with a water bottle filler but there will be a cost. Cllr Daw feels that should be one as walkers come through the village. It was agreed that Clerk will look into costings and bring back at the next meeting. **Action 4.**

179.3 To discuss and agree how to proceed with Tye Road widening and replacement of all concrete bollards to wooden bollards

Cllr Beechey asked whether APC would like applications for grant funding to be submitted to try to obtain funds to widen/resurface Tye Road and replace all the concrete bollards with wooden bollards. All Councillors agreed and this was proposed by Cllr Cooper and seconded by Cllr Bell. **MOTION CARRIED.**

179.4 To discuss and agree whether to install bike racks on Tye Road in the 2 parking bays at the start of Tye Road

Cllr Beechey asked Councillors whether they had considered anymore about using the two parking bays opposite the Wingrove car park to install bike racks? Cllr Bell asked would they be used this end of the village as most bikes go to the car parks or the Square. Cllr Daw asked if we would want to lose 2 parking bays on the Tye. It was agreed that this would not be proceeded with.

Cllr Beechey reported that yet again the chain at the bottom of Tye Road has been damaged, this time the chain and connector has been ripped out of the new wooden bollard. If anyone sees anything please do report to APC.

Cllr Beechey expressed his thanks to Anna and all at Friends of Alfriston Committee for everything they have done thus far on the playground refurbishment. He explained that if any businesses would like to sponsor the proposed 3 picnic benches, please either let Anna or the Clerk know. Cllr Beechey also expressed his thanks to Nash and Cate for facilitating the author event and to all the other businesses for supplying raffle prizes. Finally, the dropped kerbs on the recreation ground have been installed; they were paid for by East Sussex County Council.

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

180.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

**SDNP/22/01476/HOUS** Little Dene, North Street, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5UG Approved

**SDNP/22/01423/HOUS** The Bakehouse, Whiteway, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5TS Approved

**SDNP/22/01658/DCOND** Mistila, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TP Approved

**SDNP/22/01721/CND** White Walls, North Road, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5XD Approved

180.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

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

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

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

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

180.3 Enforcement updates

Cllr Bell updated that after one year, an email received from SDNPA has confirmed that the listed wall at Burnt House holds no value and they are not moving ahead, the case has been dismissed. The breach of planning regarding the 4 windows and aerial is ongoing. Cllr Beechey confirmed that the breezeblock wall near the Dene car park is expected to be replaced in May.

**181. Reports from Outside Bodies**

*181.1 Volunteer Task Force*: no report.

*181.2 Heartstart*: Mr David Watkins, reported that would still like new responders, there are none in the village. If anyone would like a defibrillator installed please contact Mr Watkins and familiarisation courses are available.

*181.3 Alfriston Emergency Group*: no report.

*181.4 Flood Forum* – Mr Hurwood reported that a meeting was held on 4th May, Cllrs have received a copy of the minutes. Thanks has been submitted to the Environment Agency for use of the pump in the Willows car park.

*181.5 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report.

*181.6 Twinning Committee* – Mr Michael Anderson sent in a report, *‘The Twinning Committee is pleased to report we have resumed an active programme of monthly activities and have firm plans for reciprocal visits this summer. Please find updates and contact details in Cuckmere News or Seaford Scene’.*

*181.7 St Andrew’s Church* – Cllr Daw reported that the bells are still away and everyone is hoping that they will be back in time for the Jubilee.

*181.8 Clergy House* – no report

*181.9 Cuckmere Buses* – no update.

*181.10 AWMH* – Mr Adrian Butcher sent his apologies and nothing new to report.

*181.11 Speedwatch* – Clerk reported that it is going well. 48 letters have been set out thus far by Sussex Police. There is still a need for members so if anyone can spare 2 hours a month, please contact the Clerk.

**182. Correspondence to the Clerk**

1. A request has come in from a lady whose parents live in the village and she would like to hold her daughter’s 7th birthday party on the Tye for 20 children, she is asking in case of rain, could she erect a gazebo. Councillors did not grant permission as it is public space and not for private use.
2. A resident who lives in Sloe Lane has volunteered to clean up and maintain the noticeboard in the Dene car park. It would be used to promote events such art exhibitions, fairs, panto etc. It would not be used for commercial notices or adverts. Cllrs agreed this was a generous offer and support it. Clerk will liaise to see how to proceed. **Action 5.**
3. Mr Nick White wrote in the about the Silver Jubilee Clock as it needs repainting. He is having some external work done shortly on Cross House so could ask for a quote from his builders on how much it would be to give this a re-paint. Councillors agreed to consider this once a quote has been obtained.
4. Clerk reported that a resident had written in with disappointment that the goal post has still not been repaired. Clerk explained that we are awaiting for AEG to source someone who can make iron sleeves for the post. Cllr Bell suggested trying Gary at GW Ironworks in Newhaven. Clerk will make contact. **Action 6.**
5. The Clerk explained that a letter had been received about the Jubilee event from a Sabra Shaan Smith. There was no address on the letter and Councillors do not know who the writer is. If you know the resident, please could you let the Clerk know so a response could be sent. The letter was read out in full at the meeting and is as follows:

*‘To the Parish Council. This letter is in reference to the closure of the High Street in order to celebrate the Queens Jubilee. Firstly I accept and respect that there are some people that feel that the villagers should celebrate the jubilee in some way, however I would like to state that whilst it is obvious that closing the High Street on a busy weekend would be detrimental to local businesses and will cause traffic issues and delays for emergency services vehicles, services that are already experiencing severe delays, it really should have been considered that having strangers sitting outside your home all day would also be intrusive and for myself as a woman of mixed race and heritage, I would personally find it deeply offensive and intimidating, so much so that I've asked my family not to journey down to visit. When you know that generations of your family have been repressed by colonialism and slavery you cannot be expected to celebrate the head of a family who still profit from it. I cannot see a reason why this jubilee cannot be celebrated elsewhere in the village such as the Tye so that people who wish to take part can do so with picnics and marquees. This is not the 1950s, people’s views have changed and currently most people are struggling just to make end meet, pay their bills and keep food on the table. Something the monarchy has never experienced thanks to the taxpayers. Racism is an issue within the Royal family as the Duchess of Sussex discovered for herself, the monarchy is an institution with its foundations firmly rooted in maintaining a Caucasian bloodline. Obviously, people of mixed race and heritage are a minority in this village, but we are all still part of the village the same as everyone else, I don't know if this letter will be read or my views considered, and those who support me have said they doubt it considering who is on the Parish Council. Personally, I have a little bit of faith left and I hope you will. I do not expect you to know my position but to take it on board and consider how you would feel in my position.*

**183. Public Questions**

1. Mr Hurwood raised a question on behalf of the Art Club about removing the tables from the AWMH for the Jubilee event whilst the art exhibition is on. Cllr Daw confirmed that she has spoken with the organiser just today and the tables will be taken out at the rear of the hall so as not to affect the exhibition.

2. Ms Bonamy McDonald expressed her concern about the one way system in the Dene car park, it is not always adhered to and some near misses have happened. The Clerk confirmed that this has been raised recently and she is having a meeting with the car park manager mid-May so will liaise with her then about next steps and an update will be provided at the May 2022 meeting.

**184. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next APC meeting is Monday 16th May 2022 in the Alfriston War

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

Signed:  Mrs Victoria Rutt – Clerk and RFO

**APPENDIX A**

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