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 18th July 2022**

**Present:**

Cllr Watkins [Chair] Cllr Bell

Cllr Beechey [Vice Chair] Cllr Cooper

Cllr Rabagliati Cllr Daw

Cllr Monteath-Wilson

**In attendance:**

Mrs Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Approximately 3 members of the public.

**56.** **Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**57. Public Questions**

Mr Hurwood explained that the Fish and Chip van that has been attending the village fortnightly over the past year has had issues recently with parking outside the Doctor’s surgery. The Clerk confirmed she was made aware of this just before tonight’s meeting and will be liaising with the gentleman tomorrow. It is believed that he is not parking in the correct place, he only has permission to park on APC land which is the small area directly outside the allotment gate. Clerk will speak with him, and Cllr Watkins agreed to meet him there in a fortnight to ensure he is parking in the correct space. **Action 1.**

**58. Apologies for absence**

No apologies.

**59. Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

Maria Caulfield was unable to attend but sent her apologies. Her report can be found under **Appendix B**.

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

Cllr Shing reported that he received an email about the Post Office that sadly no one has volunteered to take on the Post Office since the closure at the OCC. The Alfriston Traffic Management group have sent a technical note to APC which is awaiting a response from APC. ESCC have been successful in securing a bid which will benefit young people in the County.

*Cllr Shing left the meeting.*

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

No attendance from Cllr Lunn. Cllr Monteath-Wilson asked in Cllr Lunn’s absence whether the Clerk could enquire with Biffa when the bin collections will resume normal service. As they are being left out all the time at the moment, awaiting collection, they are very unsightly and in this hot weather they are starting to smell. **Action 2.**

**62. 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.

**63. Minutes**

Cllr. Daw proposed and Cllr. Rabagliati seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC meeting held on 20th June 2022 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Watkins duly signed the minutes.

**64. Finance**

64.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: July 2022

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

64.2 To confirm sight and approve Q1 audit paperwork for 2022/23

Clerk reported that this has been delayed and will be on the September 2022 agenda.

64.3 To discuss the current situation with the Clock and how to proceed

Clerk explained that there has been some concern about the increase in standing charge with the clock for some time. It was agreed in April 2022 that the direct debit would be stopped until EDF could answer the Clerks concerns. After months of writing to different departments and many phone calls, EDF have stated that the clock is not metered. The current standing charge is £1.70 a day with minimal electricity consumption. It has been advised that APC should get the power disconnected and then see if it can be re-wired into the property of Cross House. The Clerk could not get a quote from UK Power Networks on how much it would be to disconnect but to give Cllrs an idea, it cost £865 to disconnect the Willows car park machine.

Clerk has concerns about continuing to not pay the bill which is now at £406 as the account is at Clerk’s home address. Cllr Beechey did not feel that this would have an effect on the address. The Clerk disagrees and would like this rectified ASAP. Cllrs need to agree whether we continue to pay the bill (the money has been allocated in the budget) or whether we look into this further. Cllr Beechey feels it needs further investigation as the previous property owner said it was going to be wired to a separate meter in his property, yet there appears to be no meter. Cllr Bell suggested asking Norvetts to take a look to see exactly what is going on and give their opinion. Once more is known, Cllr Bell suggested that we get a solicitor to write a letter to EDF as it would carry more weight. All Councillors are concerned on how we are being charged for electricity when there is no meter. **Action 3.**

**65. To discuss and agree who should be a Tye trustee**

Clerk reported that when she submitted the Charity Commission return for the Tye, she could see that Mr Ray Savage is still on the system as a Tye trustee. It was raised whether APC as a whole should just be named as a Trustee and why there are individuals named on there also. Clerk will look into this but if the requirement is to have 4 Trustees, then Cllr Monteath-Wilson agreed to be a Tye trustee. **Action 4.**

**66. To discuss and agree on the parking rules for Tye Road**

Cllr Beechey reported that complaint had been made to APC re a vehicle that has been left on Tye Road for several months and had not been moved. The vehicle has not been taxed for some years. Tye Road is not for vehicles to be stored. Cllr Beechey stated that without any Tye Road parking rules it is hard to enforce removal or storage charges, but something needs to be done as it is unfair for other residents who require space for parking. Any parking rules would need to be posted clearly on Tye Road in order to be enforceable, and it was suggested rules could include:

1. The vehicle must have tax and MOT
2. No long stay parking of vehicles
3. Breaches of the above rules, £50 per day charge.

Councillors discussed how to proceed with the existing ‘abandoned’ vehicle. The owner has been written to previously and letters have been ignored. It was suggested that she could be named and shamed. Wealden did place a 14-day abandoned vehicle notice on the vehicle but the owner contacted them on day 14 to say it is not abandoned. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the owner one more time and if the vehicle is not moved, then further action may be taken. **Action 5.**

**67. To discuss and agree on the membership of the Planning Committee**

Clerk advised Councillors that additional members are needed to sit on the Planning Committee to ensure meetings can go ahead and applications discussed as 4 members are not enough. Both Cllr Cooper and Cllr Daw volunteered to join the Planning Committee.

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

Cllr Rabagliati reported that following a High Street meeting in May 2022, a technical note was received from East Sussex Highways and a response has gone back to them today. APC are hoping that the consultation will take place in September 2022.

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

Cllr Cooper reported that there have been a few incidents in the past few weeks. One plot holder had their elder cut down and another had a load of blackberries picked from their plot. All plot holders were written to about this and two people have come forward and apologies have been made. A swarm of bees was also found on the allotments but by the time someone attended to investigate they had left. Clerk reported that some plot holders would like the 4 gates to the allotments to have padlocks on, APC would be reluctant to do so as padlocks go missing all the time or just hang on the gate and are not actually locked. It was agreed that first of all Cllr Cooper and the Clerk will do another inspection. It was suggested that a bi-monthly inspection/meeting with plot holders would be a good idea to keep on top of issues **Action 6.** Cllr Beechey had been told there was a dog waste issue on the allotments, both Cllr Cooper and Clerk had not been informed of this issue.

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

Cllr Monteath-Wilson reported that nothing to update.

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

Cllr Monteath-Wilson reported that on the 23rd June, the owner at The Bakehouse contacted APC for advice as someone had strimmed a path on her property and put up signs on her gate. Cllr Monteath-Wilson did some research and met with the owners. Cllr Monteath-Wilson said that the ‘path' from the river to The Bakehouse is not identified on any maps as a footpath or bridleway. The owner did some research and the land known as Dukes Green (in front of The Bakhouse/Burnt House) is a village green, but it is not common land. It is a privately owned village green. Cllr Bell expressed an issue as the owners have put a boundary in place which he believes is not allowed on a village green. Cllr Beechey said that Councillors need to be careful with wording as although not a ‘designated’ footpath or bridleway, certain classes of people may still have a right of way over the land. Clerk will forward the original email to Councillors so they can see what research the owner has undertaken. **Action** **7.**

Cllr Monteath-Wilson raised this for information, no further action required.

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

72.1 NDP Committee update

Cllr Daw reported that the NDP committee meeting was held this evening and that it was

agreed that the NDP would continue, and that the Committee will meet each month prior to

the APC meeting. The draft terms of reference will be circulated to all Councillors for

comments in order for the Clerk to go back to the committee.

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

73.1 Update on the goal post on the Recreation Ground

Cllr Beechey reported that AEG have informed the Clerk that the goal post legs are in bad condition so it would be wise to purchase a new goalpost.

73.2 To discuss and agree how to proceed with the CIL money

Cllr Beechey reported that the CIL money that APC received from SDNPA was put aside for the hard standing recreation area but the interest in appears to have ebbed, despite the Clerk’s efforts to communicate with the original proposer. It was proposed that the funds could be used to purchase a new goal post and ensure the net behind the goal is repaired to ensure balls do not go across the road. The Clerk confirmed that there is £1749 in the CIL pot and there are only limited items that the CIL money can be spent on. The goal and net would come under recreational infrastructure. The money has to be spent in 5 years, there is a 3-year term remaining on this. Councillors agreed to reallocate the CIL to the goal post and Clerk will liaise with Cllr Beechey on this project. **Action 8.**

73.3 To discuss the removal of the white picket fence after Pre School sessions

Cllr Beechey reported that prior to the last APC meeting it was noticed that the white picket fence that the Pre School uses on the AWMH terrace had not been put away, so the Clerk wrote to the Hall committee. Since then, an email was received from the Pre School explaining why they can’t put it away everyday such as there is no time, not enough staff and if have to ask staff to do this they may leave, and the Pre School will close. The meeting was opened for Mr Adrian Butcher to comment. He explained originally, the Pre-School were asked to bring the fence in each day but having looked at earlier committee minutes, in February 2020 the Pre School asked whether it could be trialed for the fence to remain up and just removed at weekends due to the time and the safety issues removing it. Cllr Watkins asked whether APC could actually ask the Pre School to remove it as the terrace is part of the AWMH and not the Glebeland. Mr Butcher confirmed that the AWMH committee do have the final say. Mr Butcher stated that the Pre School are about to close so it will not be up in the summer months, and it will be removed at weekend and other holidays i.e., Christmas and Easter. He will address this again in September 2022 with the Pre School and update APC.

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

741.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

**SDNP/22/01882/HOUS** Dukes Green Barn, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TS APC support.

**SDNP/22/03027/FUL** Riverbank, River Lane, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5SX APC objected.

74.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

**SDNP/22/01423/HOUS** The Bakehouse, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TS Ongoing

**SDNP/22/02413/HOUS** Timbers, Sloe Lane, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5UU Ongoing

74.3 Enforcement updates

No update.

**75. Reports from Outside Bodies**

*75.1 Volunteer Task Force*: no report.

*75.2 Heartstart*: no report.

*75.3 Alfriston Emergency Group*: no report.

*75.4 Flood Forum* – Mr John Hurwood stated that nothing to update.

*75.5 Neighbourhood Watch* – no report.

*75.6 Twinning Committee* – Mr Michael Anderson sent in a report. *‘We've just had a wonderful visit to Veules with all their customary warm hospitality & busy activities including participation in a linen festival & fashion show. We will be planning the "return match" soon & will be welcoming them to the Cuckmere Valley in September so we hope to get all hands on deck."*

*75.7 St Andrew’s Church* – Cllr Daw reported that there have been several weddings. This coming week is the music festival. Mr Bill Rendall is talking to a blacksmith in Lewes to look to install a handrail on the slope down to the rear graveyard to help with safety. No update on the bells sadly. Blessing of the animals is being held on the Tye. Cllr Beechey asked how the repointing is coming along? Cllr Daw reported that it was done in the wrong colour. Cllr Daw will ask if Mr Rendall could provide an update at the next meeting.

*75.8 Clergy House* – no report.

*75.9 Cuckmere Buses* – no report.

*75.10 AWMH* – Mr Adrian Butcher explained that he will be sending an email to the Clerk with all the information in due course, but AWMH have secured a grant from Biffa that covers 90% of the costs associated with the replacement of the flat roof. Work is commencing on Monday 25th July. There is a requirement for a skip to be outside for a short time, Mr Butcher will email the Clerk about this. Mr Butcher reported that on Thursday 28th July, AWMH are organising a village meeting, inviting all interested residents and business owners to form a group to plan, organise and run social events. The structure will be informal, but it means there will be a large pool of people to give support.

*75.11 Speedwatch* – Clerk confirmed nothing new to report. Just the usual mention that there is always a need for new members so please let Clerk know if interested.

**76. Correspondence to the Clerk**

1. Clerk reported that permission had been given via email for the pre-school to use the Tye for their sports day on Tuesday 12th July between 12:30 – 15:00.

2. Mr and Mrs Mottram has written to the Clerk to inform APC of two occasions where the bollard outside the shop ‘Fern’ has been hit firstly by a bus and most recently a lorry, this also caused damage to the building. Clerk to report this to ESCC for immediate attention. **Action 9.**

3. A letter has been received from the Post Office stating they have not had anyone come forward with a suitable solution following the closure of the Post Office in the OCC.

4. Cuckmere Community Buses (CCB) have sent in a S137 grant for this financial year. The Clerk reminded Councillors that the S137 budget has been spent but funds can be taken from reserves. All Councillors agreed that CCB should be given this grant. It was agreed that a payment of £200 would be paid to CCB. **Action 10.**

5. A request from a couple who are marrying in the Church with their reception in the Village Hall asked if they could have a couple of lawn games on the Glebeland. Councillors discussed and agreed that they could not give permission for this as it is a public space and should be kept open to the village and tourists without impediment.

6. Two requests from the Clergy House have been received. Firstly, asking if their Omega directional sign could be moved to the right-hand side of the entrance to the church instead of its current placement to the left. Councillors approved this. Secondly, they requested if they could place their feather flag outside the Clergy House on the two days that they are open to aid people finding the Clergy House. Councillors could not approve this as if they give permission for one, permission to advertise will have to be given to every business adjoining the Tye.

7. Residents had raised about A boards on the pavement outside The Star and Wingrove. Councillors discussed and noted that A board enforcement on pavements was for ESCC, but if they were causing an obstruction the owners should be written to/ESCC informed.

8. An email has been received from a gentleman complaining that the water fountain has been removed from the Tye. Councillors discussed and said they agreed to do a soft decommission to see if any complaints received. This is the only one since it was decommissioned a month ago. Cllr Monteath-Wilson pointed out that it has been constantly broken for 20 years. The situation will be kept under review.

**77. Public Questions**

1. Mr Adrian Butcher reported that the high path surface to the north of the village has become dangerous. This has been raised many times with ESH/ESCC at SLR meetings. Clerk will report this again. **Action 11.**

2. Cllr Daw asked if A board permission in the Square can be granted for the music festival. All Councillors approved this request.

3. Cllr Daw asked if A board permission can be granted for the Alfriston Horticultural Society. All Councillors approved this request.

**78. Date of next meeting**

Please note there is no meeting held in August.The date of the next APC meeting is Monday 19th September 2022 in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall at 19:15.

Signed: Mrs Victoria Rutt [Clerk and RFO]

**APPENDIX A**

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**APPENDIX B**

**Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

**Sussex wine has received a Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) designation**

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has now finally recognised Sussex wine as a Protected Designation of Origin (PDO). It will enter the register on 5 July 2022, giving Sussex wine the same legal status as Jersey Royal potatoes, Cornish clotted cream and Stilton cheese.

Still and sparkling wines can only be called ‘Sussex’ if they are grown in the region – which encompasses the counties of West Sussex and East Sussex – and meet a strict set of conditions, including: being made in the traditional method, predominantly from classic sparkling wine grape varieties grown within the region. It must also have a minimum abv of 11%, a minimum of 6 grams per litre expressed as tartaric acid, a maximum of 0.5 grams per litre expressed as acetic acid and a maximum of 150mg per litre of sulphur dioxide.

**Developing a tourist accommodation registration scheme in England**

The government is issuing a call for evidence on the benefits and challenges presented by the rise in short-term and holiday letting seen in England over the last 10 to 15 years. This will inform the development of appropriate policy options, which the government intends to consult on later in 2022. The consultation can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/developing-a-tourist-accommodation-registration-scheme-in-england>

**Changes to Health and Care Provision in Sussex from 1st July 2022**

From the 1st July 2022 42 Integrated Care Systems go live across the country. This replaces the previous model of Clinical Commissioning Groups and locally we are now under Sussex Health and Care. This model of health and social care delivery is intended to bring together health and social care providers and commissioners of NHS services with local authorities and other partners to collectively plan health and care services across specific geographical areas across the country and tackle health and wellbeing inequalities.

More information about Sussex Health and Care can be found here: <https://www.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/>

**Planning Reform**

I recently met with the Minister regarding the forthcoming changes in Planning that will be part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. I heard some very positive things and the Minister signalled quite a few of the changes that we have all been pushing for. I will write to you separately when I have more information on this that I can share. I’m hopeful that the changes will make a positive difference and increase our chances of seeing off developments such as the Eton College site.

**Cost of Living Support**

8 million of the lowest-income households will now begin to receive the first instalment of the cost of living support payment, £326 will be paid by the end of July with a further £324 being transferred in the autumn. This is on top of the £400 energy grant that households will be receiving later in the year. The National Insurance Threshold has now been raised level with the Personal Allowance which will save the average taxpayer £330 per year.

**Alfriston Post Office**

I have been informed by the Post Office that as there has been no expression of interest or formal application to take this on the branch will unfortunately remain closed. They have said that they would consider appropriate options in the future if someone were to come forward.