

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

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Monday 24th October 2022

Minutes of a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC) held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 17th October 2022

Present:

Cllr Watkins [Chair]

Cllr Monteath-Wilson

Cllr Beechey [Vice Chair]

Cllr Cooper

Cllr Rabagliati

In attendance:

Mrs Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

6 members of the public.

102. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

103. Public Questions

No public questions.

104. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Daw and Cllr Bell.

105. Report from Maria Caulfield MP

Maria Caulfield was unable to attend but sent her apologies. Her report can be found under [Appendix B](#).

106. Report from Cllr Stephen Shing [ESCC]

No attendance or report.

107. Report from Cllr Michael Lunn [WDC]

No attendance or report.

108. Declaration of interests

Cllr Watkins declared that she is a member of the Alfriston Emergency Group [AEG].

109. Minutes

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Rabagliati seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC meeting held on 26th September 2022 were a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED. Cllr. Watkins duly signed the minutes.

110. Finance

110.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: Oct 2022

Cllr. Beechey proposed and Cllr. Monteath-Wilson seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances for October 2022. [[Appendix A](#)]. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr. Cooper signed the Invoices for Payment.

110.2 To confirm sight of the mid-year report and figures

Cllr Cooper proposed and Cllr Rabagliati seconded that the mid-year report and figures had been received by all Councillors. **MOTION CARRIED.**

110.3 To confirm sight and approve Q2 audit paperwork for 2022/23

Cllr Rabagliati proposed and Cllr Beechey seconded that the Q2 paperwork for 2022/23 had been received and approved. **MOTION CARRIED.**

111. Report on Highways and Twittens – Cllr Rabagliati

Cllr Rabagliati reported that APC have heard from ESH that quite a few design comments regarding the High St proposal were received from SDNPA and the emergency services. APC have asked to see these but have not seen them yet. ESH say that once the comments have been collated and the plans updated, they expect to be able to undertake the public consultation. Cllr Rabagliati hopes to have some prospective dates before the next APC meeting. Parking levels on the High Street have increased, the parking cones are going back out from this weekend.

Cllr Rabagliati, along with Cllr Monteath-Wilson, attending the Parish Workshop event, this was organised by SDNPA. They received an update on the local plan review. It was suggested that there is a lack of consistency and clarity from Central Government at present, however, they were told about a new and simplified document that can be produced to provide a statement of local policies called a "Parish Priority Statement". More details will be provided by SDNPA very soon. Although this document does not have quite the same 'teeth' as an NDP, there was a clear recommendation that this document would be a great deal simpler and quicker to produce than an NDP, particularly if parishes do not already have a NDP. There was a presentation on the Planning Adopted Design Guide – Supplementary Planning Document. This is an extensive online document, and a printed copy was obtained, which will be shared with APC Councillors and members of the Planning Committee.

A forum discussion on initiatives that Parishes within the park are taking (or planning to take) in connection with Climate Change and Nature Recovery. Cllr Rabagliati found this part particularly interesting as he would like to see APC supporting and potentially becoming involved with this kind of thing.

Cllr Rabagliati also reported on the East Sussex Highways briefing he recently attended. This was an online event which was aimed at "sharing their approach to the service and why they deliver their work in the way they do". Cllr Rabagliati asked why reported faults in the highways when reported by us can be marked up for repair, but those faults identified when surveyed were often ignored by the repairing contractors. No response has been received as yet. Cllr Rabagliati reported that some of the Star Lane potholes have been repaired.

Following the meeting further work has been completed on Star Lane but at a shocking standard so a complaint has been made to ESH

112. Report on Allotments – Cllr Cooper

Cllr Cooper reported that the allotment meeting is now being held on Saturday 12th November at 10:30. The Pre School no longer require their plot so Cllr Cooper and the Clerk are working together to divide the large plot into two as we have so many people on the waiting list. As

reported at the previous meeting, the allotment gate post has been repaired but the gate has not yet been re-hung. The Clerk has chased this.

113. Report on Public Transport – Cllr Monteath-Wilson

Cllr Monteath-Wilson reported that there are now reduced fees available on Cuckmere Buses.

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

Cllr Monteath-Wilson asked whether the Clerk was aware of the tarmac area at the top Kings Ride. Clerk confirmed she is aware as Cllr Rabagliati brought it to her attention. Communication has started with SDNPA about this, they approved for the tarmac to go down and it was a group of residents who funded the work. It is now known who they are. Clerk reported to SDNPA that within a week of the work happening the rain lifted all the tarmac and it made the road at the top of Kings Ride dangerous. Cllrs were surprised that APC were not consulted on these works. Clerk to find out why APC were not. **Action 1.**

Cllr Monteath-Wilson reported that there was a second part to the SDNPA Parish Council workshop that she attended recently with Cllr Rabagliati. This is a new nature recovery programme where they hope by 2030 they would like to secure an additional 13,000ha, or 33% of land managed for nature. They would use this land to maintain, enhance and/or restore existing key sites, habitats and species. Further information on this can be found at www.southdowns.gov.uk/renature/

Cllr Monteath-Wilson also reported that the SDNPA want to reduce its carbon footprint by 150 tons per annum in line with the 2030 net zero target. Further information on this can be found on their website at www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-work/climate-change-adaptation-plan-strategy/

115. Report on Strategic Planning – Cllr Daw

115.1 NDP Committee update

Clerk reported that following the resignation from the NDP Chairman last month, it was agreed to discuss at this meeting whether the NDP should be continued. Cllr Monteath-Wilson explained that as previously mentioned, the Parish Priority Statement might be the best route for APC. SDNPA have said that the process is considerably less onerous and it is a reduced time frame. Cllr Monteath-Wilson proposed to wait for more information about this process before deciding, this was seconded by Cllr Beechey. Clerk to update the NDP committee.

Action 2.

116. Report on Tye and Recreation Ground – Cllr Beechey

116.1 Goal post update

Cllr Beechey reported that we are still waiting for a delivery date. The Clerk has been chasing continuously as we were told it was a 5 week delivery time, yet it has now been 9 weeks.

116.2 To discuss and agree wording for commercial use on Tye

Cllr Beechey reported that this was discussed at the meeting last month following some Cllrs not knowing that some organisations had been charging for their event on the Tye. A form of wording was agreed at the previous meeting. Cllr Beechey proposed the wording with one amendment. All Councillors agreed and this was seconded by Cllr Cooper. The wording agreed was: *'Alfriston Parish Council have absolute discretion to grant permission to use the Tye to any organisation which APC deem to have a significant community benefit.'*

116.3 Consider Tye Road resurfacing

Cllr Beechey reported that this is going to be a standing item as it is a project that needs to start. He explained that APC should start looking at resurfacing and widening the whole of the Tye and at the same time look at replacing the concrete bollards with wooden ones, which has been happening as bollards have perished. There is currently £15k ringfenced for this project but a larger amount will be required. A quote 7 years ago was around £10k just to widen but it is likely to be more now as they recently quoted £1,500 to repair one pothole. Clerk recently purchased some product from Screwfix to repair the large pothole on Tye Road which Cllr Beechey is kindly going to do but this will only be a fix for a year or so. Cllr Beechey asked if anyone (Cllrs or non-Cllrs) would be interested in assisting with grant application process. Cllr's Rabagliati and Monteath-Wilson said they would assist.

116.4 To discuss and agree bench policy for the Tye and Recreation Ground

Cllr Beechey reported that the Clerk had circulated a proposed bench policy to be considered at the meeting but he had asked the Clerk to obtain assurance from APC's insurers as to one of the provisions. No response had been received in time for the meeting so it has been deferred to the November meeting.

117. Report from Planning Committee – Cllr Bell

117.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

No applications

117.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

SDNP/22/03808/HOUS 11 North Street, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5UG Ongoing

SDNP/22/04149/HOUS Flint Cottage, 12 North Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UG Ongoing

117.3 Enforcement updates

Clerk confirmed that the two matters reported last month, sign on side of manor House and tarmac works at Burnt House. Both reported and both deemed no further action for enforcement.

118. Reports from Outside Bodies

118.1 Volunteer Task Force: no report.

118.2 Heartstart: no report.

118.3 Alfriston Emergency Group: no report.

118.4 Flood Forum – Mr John Hurwood that there is a meeting on the 14th November 2022. He expressed his gratitude that the EA will be supplying a water pump again this year.

118.5 Neighbourhood Watch – no report.

118.6 Twinning Committee – Mr Michael Anderson sent in a report. *"We are now preparing for a Xmas concert on 3rd Dec with Lo Polidoro, our favourite French chanteuse!"*

118.7 St Andrew's Church – Mr Bill Rendall explained that the 'old' churchyard technically is a closed church yard (not open for new burials) which means it is administered by WDC. WDC will therefore likely be responsible for replacing the broken fence rails opposite the Clergy House. He confirmed the bells are now in place and back ringing.

118.8 Clergy House – no report.

118.9 Cuckmere Buses – no report.

118.10 AWMH – Mr Adrian Butcher confirmed the sad news that Alfriston Pre-School are closing for good. This will be a huge loss for the village and the hall. The hall will now be available for meetings during the daytime so please bear this in mind, there will be a need to promote the use of the hall. This will be a hole in the finances especially as next year there is only one wedding booked so far. Cllr Monteath-Wilson asked the reason why the per-school

were closing, Mr Butcher confirmed that it was due to government funding and staffing. The AWMH had significantly reduced their rent but this did not assist as they could not find the staff.

118.11 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.

119. Correspondence to the Clerk

1. Clerk reported that an invitation had been received from PCC Katy Bourne's office for the South Wealden discussion on policing and community safety issues meeting, being held online on Monday 14th November at 10:30. It was agreed that Cllr Watkins would attend.
2. AEG have been asked to assist with the Beachy Head marathon on the 22nd October. They are proposing to put a line of road pins and tape along the verge running along the Willows car park to prevent any vehicles parking . They are aware APC can't give permission for this, only ESH can, but they just wanted to ensure APC were content with this proposal. APC were happy as long as permission is obtained from ESH.
3. Clerk updated that Mr Mark Norman from Norvetts has been to review the Jubilee Clock and can confirm that he is able to install a point with a check meter and disconnect from the current supplier for the cost of £250+VAT. APC could then pay Mr Nick White the cost of the electric used for the clock. This will save the Parish Council a lot of money as electric usage is minimal, it is the daily standing charge that is expensive. All Councillors agreed this was a great idea and Clerk to inform Mr Norman to proceed with the works.
Action 3.
4. An invitation has been received from the OCC to join them on Saturday 5th November at 3pm for an official recognition of the newly installed hearing loop which was made possible following a substantial donation from June Goodfield. It was agreed that Cllr Watkins would attend on behalf of APC.

120. Public Questions

1. Mr John Hurwood asked about the post box in the Square. The Clerk explained that it has been incredibly hard getting any official information from the Post Office, what she has been told is that it has been sealed due to internal damage and possible asbestos, however they are intending to repair but they can't say when. Cllr Monteath-Wilson asked whether there is any legislation stating where a postbox should be and distance to the next one. Clerk will look into this and will also make a formal complaint now as no updates are being provided and this is having a detrimental effect on residents. **Action 4.** There is a post box at the top of Deans Road that can be used meanwhile.

121. Date of next meeting

The date of the next APC meeting is Monday 21st November 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 October 2022

Authority is sought to make the following payments:-

114	BACS	Victoria Rutt - October salary	£1,646.87
115	BACS	AWMH - hall hire	£41.40
116	BACS	iINTERBIZ	£20.40
117	BACS	Dan Lark in - Tye tree works	£130.00
118	BACS	Biffa	£142.22
119	BACS	WDALC - 2022/23 subscription	£18.00
120	BACS	Sign Genie - sign for Tye Road	£55.92
121	BACS	John O'Connor	£372.35
122	BACS	Latitude	£93.60

Total **£2,520.76**

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

107	DD	O2 <i>[querying this increase]</i>	£37.04
108	BACS	Veolia Environmental Trust [CTP payment for grant]	£5,720.00
109	DD	Santander	£20.00
110	CARD	Screwfix - pothole repair on Tye Road	£80.97
111	DD	NEST pension	£144.78
112	DD	HP Instant Ink	£9.99
113	BACS	Inland Revenue - Tax and NI September 2022	£338.57

Total **£6,351.35**

Summary of Bank Balances 17th October 2022

Business Current Account	£4,983.50
Business Savings Account	£103,286.55
TOTAL	£108,270.05

RESERVE INFORMATION				
Project	Opening balance	Budget 22/23	Expenditure	Closing Balance
General Reserves	£15,520.00	add £1,620		£17,140.00
Tye Rd surface	£11,500.00	add £3,500		£15,000.00
Playground	£6,000.00	add £2,000	-£5,720.00	£2,280.00
NDP	£0.00	add £500		£500.00
High St Traffic Plan	£0.00	add £5,000		£5,000.00
CIL money	£1,749.07		-£987.00	£762.07
Play Project	£200.00	donations £9770 plus grant £37,180		£47,150.00
TOTAL	£34,969.07	add £11,000		£87,832.07



Signed by:
Victoria Rutt - Clerk & RFO

APPENDIX B

Report from Maria Caulfield MP

Cost of Living Support

The Chancellor has announced The Growth Plan – setting out support for families with their energy bills and unleashing a new era of growth through tax reductions and investment incentives.

Families will have their energy bills cut by up to £1,400 through the Energy Price Guarantee, whilst businesses eligible for The Energy Bill Relief Scheme will have their energy bills slashed by cutting the price of wholesale gas.

The Chancellor also confirmed personal tax cuts – cutting National Insurance contributions by 1.25 per cent, putting an extra £330 a year in people's pockets and helping them with cost-of-living pressures. This means 4 million people across South East will save £400 a year thanks to the cut to National Insurance contributions, and 5 million across South East will save £190 a year thanks to the slash to Income tax in 2023.

Alongside these measures the Conservative Government announced further tax cuts – including cutting stamp duty permanently by doubling the nil-rate band to £250,000 (from £125,000), increasing the nil-rate band for first time buyers to £425,000 (from £300,000) and increasing the value of the property which first-time buyers can claim relief to £625,000 from (£500,000).

These measures combined mean a typical family moving into a semi-detached property will save £2,500 on stamp duty and £1,150 on energy bills – and if they have a combined income of £50,000 around an additional £560 on tax. This is around £4,200 in total.

These measures will unleash growth through tax cuts and reform, tackle the immediate energy crisis, removing barriers for business, and building the infrastructure needed to grow the British economy.

Planning Inspectors overturning councils decisions on greenfield sites

I recently spoke in the House of Commons asking for a debate on the issue of planning inspectors overturning democratic decisions made by local planning authorities. It is disappointing that across the constituency there have been greenfield developments refused by the local planning authority which is then having its decision overturned by the planning inspectorate. This can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kxssx96D3so>

Fines for water companies being raised to £250 million

As a representative of coastal communities, I see too often the effects of water companies polluting our seas. Storm overflows should be used only as a last resort during very heavy rainfall when the only alternative would be flooding homes and businesses. Recently their use has become all too frequent. The Government and I will not stand by and allow our waters to be polluted without consequence. As such I am backing the Government's plans to increase the civil penalties for polluting water companies 1,000 fold to £250 million.

Alfriston Pre-School

Concerned residents have contacted me regarding the difficulty that Alfriston Pre-School is having. I am meeting with parents to see what help can be given to ensure its future.