

# ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

## CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Mrs Victoria Rutt

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Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022

## Minutes of a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC) held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### Present:

Cllr Watkins [Chair]

Cllr Daw

Cllr Beechey [Vice Chair]

Cllr Cooper

Cllr Rabagliati

### In attendance:

Mrs Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

Two members of the public.

### 79. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 80. Public Questions

1. Mr John Hurwood explained that he is not receiving any of the APC emails. The Clerk explained that sometimes residents unsubscribe themselves by accident. This will be checked first thing and if the case the re-join form will be sent to Mr Hurwood.

### 81. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Monteath-Wilson and Cllr Bell.

### 82. Report from Maria Caulfield MP

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

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

Cllr Shing reported that the Village High Street plan has been sent out to stakeholders and responses are awaited. Today County approved £1.68 million to support children having school meals in the holidays. County are looking at information for budget on council tax. ESCC have gone out to tender for Highways maintenance contract as current one is ending. Cllr Daw raised that some people have mentioned the white lines at Whiteway again and asked what they should do? Cllr Shing confirmed that they need to put in writing to him about this, however there is no crash record, and the decision was made not to re-install them some time ago. Cllr Beechey explained that the vegetation needs a harder cut back as that often makes drivers go into the middle of the road. Clerk confirmed that this has been reported and acknowledged by ESH and it is on a 28-day turnaround.

#### **84. Report from Cllr Michael Lunn [WDC]**

Cllr Lunn reported that a lot has changed recently. There has been a new Government, new Prime Minister and changes within WDC. Cllr Lunn continues to monitor the WDC local plan process. There is nothing to update regarding the Water Management Board as they are awaiting a new meeting date, a recent model showed expected flash flooding which could be used as a tool to refuse planning permission. Waste management is sorted now but this may impact on the Council Tax bill next year. Cllr Lunn confirmed that inflation is a concern for the Council although they do have an income from their Housing company and Crematorium. Cllr Lunn reported that he still maintains a seat on the SDNPA board, there is progress with the Seven Sisters project but there is a concern that there may be a shortfall in the coming years with the budget. Cllr Beechey explained that Councillors had been invited to make a response on the WDC corporate plan which is due to come into place in 2023. He asked whether WDC are looking for specific things in responses. Cllr Lunn stated that tourism, conservation and landscape is high. Cllr Rabagliati asked if there are any imminent changes in the way WDC are approaching parking enforcement, Cllr Lunn stated no. Cllr Lunn explained that he attended a briefing today at WDC where planning officers said that WDC can't challenge planning technical reports, Cllr Lunn challenged this as he knows mistakes have been made in the past. Cllr Beechey pointed out that surely Wealden are duty bound to challenge on behalf of their electorate. Cllr Lunn said that according to Wealden planning officers and planning inspector that statutory consultees can't challenge. Mr Nathan Pope enquired about whether electric charge points are coming to Alfriston car parks soon? The Clerk could answer this following a recent meeting with the Wealden car park manager, WDC want to install 6 points in the Willows coach park in 2022, they are just going through the process of getting all the information before coming to APC for final approval.

#### **85. Declaration of interests**

Cllr Daw declared an interest as she is a Churchwarden for St Andrews. Cllr Watkins declared that she is a member of the Alfriston Emergency Group [AEG]. Cllr Beechey explained that he may need to declare an interest under item 90 depending on what land is discussed.

#### **86. Minutes**

Cllr. Cooper proposed and Cllr. Beechey seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC meeting held on 18th July 2022 were a true and accurate record. **MOTION CARRIED.** Cllr. Watkins duly signed the minutes.

#### **87. Finance**

##### 87.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: Sept 2022

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

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

Cllr Daw proposed and Cllr Beechey seconded that the Q1 paperwork for 2022/23 had been received and approved. **MOTION CARRIED.**

##### 87.3 To confirm sight and acceptance of 2021/22 External Auditors certificate and Notice of Conclusion of Audit

Clerk reported that the certificate and Notice of Conclusion has been circulated to all Councillors and had been put on the APC website. Cllr Daw proposed and Cllr Rabagliati seconded that the paperwork had been received and approved. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### 87.4 To confirm sight and acceptance of interim audit report 2022/23

Clerk reported that an interim audit took place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September. The internal auditor came to do in depth checks on all the processes that APC have put in place. All checks were passed. Cllr Beechey proposed and Cllr Rabagliati seconded that the interim audit report had been received and approved. **MOTION CARRIED.** Thanks was expressed to Cllr Cooper by the Clerk for all her support on the quarterly audit checks that she undertakes.

#### **88. To discuss and agree grant policy**

Clerk reported that following further grant requests and discussions with other Clerks, APC would benefit from a grant policy. The Clerk drafted one and circulated to all Councillors which received approval. Cllr Daw proposed, and Cllr Cooper seconded that Grant Policy had been received and approved. **MOTION CARRIED.** The policy can be found under [Appendix C.](#)

#### **89. To discuss and agree to go out to tender for Grass Cutting 2023-25**

Clerk reported that due to the timescales, APC approved to go out to tender via email. Following recommendations from other Clerks, six companies have been sent the tender pack and the deadline for return is the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Any returns will be opened at the APC meeting being held on the 17<sup>th</sup> October where they will be assigned a number. The Clerk will then undertake a price analysis and write a report to assist Councillors in their discussions at the November meeting before they award the contract. All Councillors confirmed they were content with this. Cllr Rabagliati asked where Cow Path is? Cllr Beechey explained it the path from the old Youth Hostel down to the Litlington bridge. Cllr Rabagliati asked whether the twitten behind the Gun Room should have been maintained, the Clerk explained it is on the schedule and an email was sent recently asking when the maintenance would be undertaken before their contract ends. Clerk will chase this again. **Action 1.**

#### **90. To discuss and agree response to SDNPA call for sites and Local Green Spaces**

Clerk explained that an email was circulated on the 10<sup>th</sup> August from the SDNPA calling for sites, they were broken into two sections and are listed below:

- The **Call for Sites** is an early opportunity to suggest sites within the National Park for development and offsetting for now and up to 2040. The site suggestions received by us will be used to inform the preparation of the Local Plan Review. The Call for Sites exercise will not determine whether a site should be allocated for development. However, it will help identify a potential pool of sites for further consideration through a range of technical work that will help to inform future decisions on allocations in the Local Plan Review.
- The **Call for Local Green Spaces** is an opportunity to put forward sites for Local Green Space designation, which provides special protection against development for green areas that are of particular importance to local communities. The Local Plan and neighbourhood plans already have a number of designated Local Green Spaces. This Call for Local Green Spaces is seeking new sites which have not previously been submitted for consideration.

Councillors discussed and agreed the below sites for each section:

#### Call for Sites

- Kings Ride site / Agricultural land.

Councillors were of the opinion that this was a suitable site for development.

The site behind North was considered but Cllrs deemed it not a suitable site due to lack of access and flooding. *When discussions turned to the North Street site, Cllr Beechey withdrew from the conversation and did not have an input as he declared an interest.*

#### Call for Local Green Spaces –

It was agreed the below locations would be submitted as there is a need to protect them. It was agreed that the Tye would not be submitted as this comes under different legislation and is protected already.

- Recreation ground [This is an open space for the community and is only open space in the village for ball games and houses the children's playground]
- Allotments [This is an important amenity]
- Land behind the Broadway [This land enhances the rural setting of the village and is used for walking/recreation]
- Land behind North Road. [This land enhances the rural setting of the village]

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

Cllr Rabagliati reported that the High Street plan is going slower than he wanted but the pre-consultation document has gone out to stakeholders and the deadline was last week so awaiting updates from ESH with any comments received and hopeful for a date for the full consultation. Cllr Rabagliati said the large pothole that appeared in North Street was repaired quickly albeit not the best job so Clerk will be liaising with South East Water about this. Cllr Rabagliati attended an online briefing on '20 is plenty' which was interesting and a new noise camera was discussed which may be something APC looks at in the future. Both Cllrs Rabagliati and Beechey are attending an online presentation in October delivered by ESH on where ESH will share their approach to the service they deliver. Cllrs Rabagliati and Monteath-Wilson are attending the SDNPA East Sussex Parish workshop in October so will report back at the next meeting. Cllr Rabagliati explained that cones on the High Street have not been put out at weekends for the past 2 weekends as parking seems to have eased off, this will continue to be monitored. Cllr Watkins asked if there was an update on the repairs to the flint wall along the twitten behind the Village Shop. Cllr Rabagliati confirmed that he had liaised with The Star Inn and they had said that works will be commencing soon. They did feel aggrieved that the previous owners were not liaised with about the wall. Cllr Beechey said that the disrepair does accelerate over time and there may have been less damage 3-4 years ago.

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

Cllr Cooper reported that the broken gate leading to the allotments alongside the Doctors' surgery has been repaired and replaced. A plot holder meeting has been arranged for Cllr Cooper and the Clerk to meet with everyone who is able to attend on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 10:30. Cllr Beechey suggested inviting those on the waiting list to attend. Clerk will extend the invite. **Action 2.**

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

No update

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

No update.

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

##### 95.1 NDP Committee update

Cllr Daw reported that the NDP committee was held prior to this meeting and that Mr Nick

Guyatt has decided he can no longer Chair or be a part of the Committee. It was agreed that this will be an agenda item for the October APC meeting to discuss and agree on how to proceed.

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

### 96.1 Goal post update

Cllr Beechey reported that the new goal post has been ordered and we are waiting for delivery, expected delivery is mid-October. The Harmers have generously offered their time to assist Cllr Beechey in installing the new goal post saving APC money.

### 96.2 Playground update

Cllr Beechey reported the excellent news that a grant has been awarded from Veolia Environmental Trust so the funds are now secure for the project to commence. Expected timing is for the project to commence mid-January and take 4 weeks. Cllr Beechey expressed his gratitude to Ms Anna Franklin and everyone involved in Friends of Alfriston Playground for all their hard work and dedication with this project. Also thanks to everyone who has donated and fundraised towards this project, your support has got us to this exciting point.

Cllr Cooper reported that there is a large pothole on Tye Road outside the Wingrove. The Clerk explained that this was recently reported to her by a resident and it was going to be raised under Clerk's Correspondence. Cllr Beechey explained that it may be time to look at resurfacing half of Tye Road and possibly widen it at the same time and look at replacing the concrete bollards. This will be considered but in the meantime the Clerk will obtain a quote from Hailsham Roadways on filling in the large pothole. **Action 3.**

It was also discussed that the hedgerow along the Tye Road which is owned by APC could be given a harder cut back, this has been expressed to Mr Larkin previously and will be reiterated. **Action 4.**

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

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

#### ***Response to NALC re short term lets consultation***

**SDNP/22/03808/HOUS** 11 North Street, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5UG **APC support**

**SDNP/22/04149/HOUS** Flint Cottage, 12 North Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UG **APC support**

### 97.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

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

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

**SDNP/22/01882/HOUS** Dukes Green Barn, Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TS **Granted**

### 97.3 Enforcement updates

Cllr Beechey reported that a new sign has appeared on the end of Manor House stating 'No Bicycles', has listed building consent been applied for? Clerk will liaise with SDNPA. **Action 5.**

Cllr Beechey also reported that outside Burnt House there is a new tarmac path with heavy kerb stones, has this project received permission from ESH and listed building consent from SDNPA. Clerk will liaise with both ESH and SDNPA. **Action 6.**

## **98. Reports from Outside Bodies**

98.1 Volunteer Task Force: no report.

98.2 Heartstart: no report.

98.3 Alfriston Emergency Group: no report.

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

98.5 Neighbourhood Watch – no report.

98.6 Twinning Committee – Mr Michael Anderson sent in a report. *"The Twinning Association has just hosted members from Veules-les-Roses for a packed weekend of activities. It was wonderful to reconfirm the warmth of the friendship between the two Associations. Further activities will be organised on-shore here but Fleur de Paris (Lo Polidoro) is already booked for a concert on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec here in Alfriston WMH."*

98.7 St Andrew's Church – Cllr Daw reported that the outside scaffolding is coming down and a cleanup process will ensue. Inside the church the painting is being completed before the bell hangers return to put up the ropes. October 19<sup>th</sup> is a possible date that the new bells will be rung for the first time. Cllr Beechey asked if the bell hangers could please be reminded to take care with driving on the Tye and keep to the Tye path as much as possible.

98.8 Clergy House – no report.

98.9 Cuckmere Buses – no report.

98.10 AWMH – Mr Adrian Butcher was unable to attend the meeting so sent his apologies. He sent in a report to inform APC that with a view of fostering greater communication within the Village, a new group - Alfriston Hub has been set up. They are not a new Events Committee, but a group of willing residents & businesses who are up for organising something at some point. It still needs people to step forward to offer to organise something, but he is hoping that this will encourage them to do so without the fear that they will be lumbered with organising every event.

98.11 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.

## **99. Correspondence to the Clerk**

1. Clerk reported that she met recently with SDNPA and WDC about the leaflet board in the Willows car park and the map. Both SDNPA and WDC are of the opinion that the map needs updating and made bigger. SDNPA are proposing to remove the small structure with the map currently on and then design a new map to go on the larger board which currently houses the broken leaflet holders. The proposal is to have no leaflet holders and update the map so it is large enough and covers the whole board. The map will feature QR codes for local walks. All Councillors agreed that this is a great idea for the village. The Clerk has not received the cost from SDNPA as yet but feels that APC should make a contribution albeit small due to budget restraints. Clerk is due to undertake the mid year finance report in the next few weeks so a decision on a contribution will be made after this is available.
2. Permission was granted to Alfriston WI to use the A board to promote their tabletop sale on the Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October between 10:00 – 14:00.
3. Clerk reported that last month the Rude Mechanicals asked for permission to use the Tye on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, they have now changed the date and asked if it could be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Cllr Beechey said that he has always been under the impression that the Rude Mechanicals was a free event and there was no charge. Following the recent ballet show on the Tye which is transpires was also a ticketed event, Cllr Beechey asked whether Cllrs are happy for the Tye to be rented for commercial activity and whether APC should have a policy in place. It was agreed that permission would not be granted at this time and an agenda item for full discussion to be placed on the October APC agenda.
4. Clerk reported that Mr Nathan Pope has emailed APC to inform them that he now has a new email service which is fully operational and APC can now migrate over. This would be at no extra cost but APC would benefit from improved webmail, new anti-spam system, auto-purge and greater capacity to name a few. Mr Pope was present at the meeting and Cllr Watkins opened the meeting so he could speak. He explained this would be a transfer process which he would work closely with the Clerk to ensure it transfers smoothly. All

Councillors agreed to migrate to the new system, Clerk will work with Mr Pope to aid the transition for all involved. **Action 7.**

5. Clerk explained that an email had come in from the Alfriston Hub asking if APC would be willing to lead on the Christmas tree this year. However, since that email had been received, a further email was sent from Mr Harper making a request. Mr Harper has asked for permission to set up a stall in the Square on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from November 25<sup>th</sup> to Christmas Eve to sell Christmas trees and flowers, in exchange he will supply the Christmas tree for the Square. He asked if APC could start the process to apply for the licence to obtain a cable licence for the use of lights over a highway.

Councillors discussed this in two parts. Regarding the request for a stall in the Square, APC do not have the power to give permission to Mr Harper, permission and a license will be on application to Wealden District Council. If Mr Harper would still like to generously provide a Christmas tree it was suggested that battery operated lights are used again as in previous years as this avoids the cost and process of applying for both a road closure and cable licence. Clerk will liaise with Mr Harper. **Action 8.**

#### **100. Public Questions**

1. Mr John Hurwood was disappointed to hear that it was possible that the Rude Mechanicals would not be granted permission for the date they have requested as it would be a shame to not have this community event. Cllr Beechey said he had only raised the question whether there should be a policy for the Tye on which people use it for commercial use. Mr Nathan Pope asked APC to reconsider the decision as the Rude Mechanicals were a big part of the community. Mr Hurwood was concerned that they need to know now as to not miss Alfriston on the programme. Cllr Beechey confirmed that an agenda item could be added to the October meeting to consider an exact worded policy moving forward **[Action 9]** for the Tye but he suggested opening the meeting back up to discuss the Rude Mechanicals request.

All Councillors confirmed they would be saddened to not see the Rude Mechanicals come to the Tye. Cllr Beechey suggested wording for a Tye event policy as follows: *Alfriston Parish Council have absolute discretion to grant permission to use the Tye to any organisation which APC deem to have a community benefit.* All Councillors agreed and therefore permission granted to the Rude Mechanicals for the 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

2. Cllr Rabagliati explained that he saw recently a wedding photographer using a drone on the Tye for wedding photographs and asked whether APC had a policy on this. It was confirmed that APC do not have a policy nor do they own the air space.

3. Mr Nathan Pope expressed his thanks to the Parish Council as a whole for everything they do for the village as volunteers and for always having the best interests of the residents.

#### **101. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next APC meeting is Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall at 19:15.



Signed:

Mrs Victoria Rutt [Clerk and RFO]



## APPENDIX A

### Alfriston Parish Council Finance Report 26th September 2022

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

100	BACS	Biffa - allotment bins	£142.22
101	BACS	SLCC - annual subscription renewal	£215.00
102	BACS	Victoria Rutt - mileage reimbursement June - Sept 2022	£70.20
103	BACS	ESALC Ltd - Chairmain training for Cllr Watkins	£48.00
104	BACS	John O'Connor	£372.35
105	BACS	Mulberry & CO - interim audit	£213.12
106	BACS	Smith of Derby - clock service	£273.60

**Total** **£1,334.49**

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

65	BACS	Cuckmere Buses - S137 grant	£200.00
66	CARD	MDC Exports Ltd - dog waste bags	£95.40
67	CARD	Microsoft 365 - annual software renewal	£59.99
68	BACS	Daniel Larkin - tree works on Tye	£260.00
69	DD	O2	£21.54
70	DD	Santander	£20.00
71	BACS	Inland Revenue - Tax and NI July 2022	£338.57
72	BACS	Streder Pearce - Glebeland rent	£50.00
73	BACS	Victoria Rutt - August Salary	£1,647.07
74	BACS	AWMH	£41.40
75	BACS	Biffa	£142.22
76	BACS	ROSPA Play Safety - playground annual inspection	£92.40
77	CARD	Stadia Sports - purchasing new goal post	£1,184.40
78	DD	HP Instant Ink	£9.99
79	DD	NEST pension	£144.78
80	CARD	EDF Energy - clock	£406.14
81	DD	Santander	£20.00
82	DD	O2	£21.54
83	CARD	Memorial Benches - Mark order	£589.90
84	BACS	AEG - donation towards Jubilee event	£50.00
85	BACS	AEG - Tye village sign works	£200.00
86	BACS	Daniel Larkin - tree works on Tye	£220.00
87	BACS	Inland Revenue - Tax and NI Aug 2022	£338.37
88	BACS	John O'Connor - grass cutting	£372.35
89	BACS	iNTERBIZ - July payroll	£20.40
90	BACS	iNTERBIZ - Aug payroll	£20.40
91	BACS	PKF Littlejohn - external audit for 2021-22	£360.00
92	DD	123 reg - webite domain renewal	£14.39
93	DD	HP Instant Ink	£9.99
94	CARD	Post Office - 1st class stamps for grass tender	£15.20
95	DD	BT - broadband	£123.16
96	BACS	AWMH - hall hire	£6.90
97	BACS	Wealden District Council - Q2 bins	£624.00
98	BACS	Victoria Rutt September salary	£1,646.87
99	DD	NEST pension	£144.78

**Total** **£9,512.15**

#### Summary of Bank Balances 26th September 2022

Business Current Account	£8,669.14
Business Savings Account	£69,298.78
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£77,967.92</b>

#### 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		£8,000.00
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		£9,970.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£34,969.07</b>	<b>add £11,000</b>		<b>£56,372.07</b>



## APPENDIX B

### **Report from Maria Caulfield MP**

#### **Sewage**

The government has released its Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan. This plan sets stringent new targets to protect people and the environment and eradicate the use of storm overflows. This will require water companies to deliver the largest infrastructure programme in water company history and is backed by £56 billion of investment.

Water companies will have to achieve targets set out in the plan:

- by 2035, water companies will have to tackle all storm overflows discharging into or near designated bathing waters; and improve 75% of overflows discharging to high priority nature sites
- by 2050, this will apply to all remaining storm overflows covered by our targets, regardless of location

You can find out more details about this in a letter that was sent to all MP's by the Secretary of State: <https://www.mariacaulfield.co.uk/sites/www.mariacaulfield.co.uk/files/2022-08/Dear%20Colleagues%20Storm%20Overflows.pdf>

#### **269 extra police officers recruited in Sussex**

I have welcomed the announcement that 269 police officers have been recruited in Sussex since September 2019, bringing the total number of officers up to 3018. The latest figures are part of the Conservative Government's drive to get 20,000 more police officers on the street by March 2023 and puts the Government on track to fulfil its manifesto commitment with 69 per cent of the target now met.

Across the 43 police forces, an additional 13,790 officers have been recruited, bringing the total number of police officers in England and Wales to 142,759 – where they are already having an impact in tackling crime and keeping communities safe.

#### **Autumn COVID Booster**

The NHS will become the first healthcare system in the world to use the next generation, bivalent COVID vaccine when it kickstarts the autumn booster rollout in early September.

The NHS has now set out plans for the next phase of the COVID-19 vaccination programme – the largest and fastest vaccine drive in health service history.

Set to start during the week of 5 September, NHS staff will begin vaccinating care home residents and people who are housebound.

The National Booking Service will also open that week ahead of the wider rollout, due to start on the 12 September, with the NHS inviting those who are most susceptible to serious illness from COVID-19 and those aged 75 and over to book an appointment from that week.

#### **A27 Update**

I wanted to update you regarding a meeting I had with National Highways on the 9th August. I was given information on the current state of play which is that as you know the A27 between Lewes and Polegate (Southerham Roundabout to Copthorn Roundabout) is one of the schemes being considered for RIS3 which covers 2025-2030. National Highways are looking at a number of options for this stretch of road including online, offline and hybrid options. The Department for Transport require all options to be considered and it is the DfT that will make the final decision on whether the scheme will be included in RIS3 and we expect this to be announced in 2024.

In our meeting in July, a number of points were raised regarding a lack of transparency, lack of engagement with key stakeholders and access to accident data. I raised each of these points with National Highways.

On transparency and engagement, National Highways stated that they did not intentionally leave out certain parishes from the stakeholder engagement and had thought that they had contacted all the relevant parishes. I have given them a list of parishes and contact details and they have promised to contact each one to make sure you are fully involved in the process. Please do let me know if you are not contacted and I will chase this up.

On accident data, they informed me that accidents have increased by 4.5% from 2015-2019, including serious and fatal accidents.

They also outlined to me some of the challenges with the scheme for any option being considered including the proximity to the South Downs National Park. The National Highways team are looking at possible options at the moment and so it is crucial that you are able to input at this stage and so if they do not contact you shortly please do come back to me and I will chase.

I will continue to engage with residents, parishes and National Highways to ensure that there is significant consultation before any decisions are made and I will continue to keep you updated as this develops.

### **Energy Bill Support**

Further support for energy bills was announced by the Prime Minister on the 8<sup>th</sup> September. The Government will bring forward emergency legislation to establish a new Energy Price Guarantee which will ensure that the average British household pays no more than £2,500 per year for their energy bills for the next two years from October.

This will save the average household at least £1,000 per year – giving certainty on energy prices so people can get through the winter, slowing inflation and making incomes go further. We will fully compensate energy suppliers for the cost of this emergency action – with the Chancellor setting out further details in the fiscal statement later this month. The new guarantee will apply to households in Great Britain, with the same level of support made available to households in Northern Ireland.

As part of the Energy Price Guarantee, we are temporarily suspending green levies – contributing £150 to the £1,000 yearly average saving. At this difficult time, it is right that households do not bear the cost of low-carbon electricity generation, but instead benefit from it.

And we will maintain the £400 Energy Bill Support Scheme for everyone, and the £1,200 of support for the most vulnerable households already announced earlier this year.

But I know that not everyone will be eligible for the schemes I have outlined above – especially those living in park homes, or who use heating oil in rural areas in constituencies such as mine. We will set up a discretionary fund to make sure that no one is left behind this winter.

Businesses will be offered an equivalent guarantee for six months for those hit by rising prices, and after those six months we will provide further support for vulnerable sectors, such as hospitality, including our local pubs. We will work with businesses to review where this should be targeted.

## APPENDIX C

### GRANT AWARDING POLICY

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Alfriston Parish Council welcomes and values the work of local voluntary groups and organisations. The council has a policy for making grants to groups and organisations which contribute to the welfare of the community by improving or supporting facilities and/or activities. Applicants must be able to demonstrate a clear need for financial support.
- 1.2 All applications will be considered at the APC meeting held in September.
- 1.3 Urgent applications will be considered outside of this time scale on a case-by-case basis.

#### **2. Guidelines**

- 2.1 An overall limit for the annual provision of grant aid will be determined as part of the budget setting process.
- 2.2 Applicants must complete a grant application and return it, together with the required financial information, to the council.
- 2.3 Grants will not routinely exceed 50% of the cost of the project or activity.
- 2.4 Applicants will provide details of the project/activity and the number of Alfriston residents expected to benefit.
- 2.5 As a condition of receiving a grant, organisations will be required to acknowledge the council's support in publicity material.
- 2.6 The council reserves the right to refuse any grant application or offer an alternate amount to that originally requested.