# **ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL**

# www.alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk

**CLERK TO THE COUNCIL** 

Mrs Victoria Rutt

33 Swaines Way Heathfield East Sussex TN21 OAN

Tel: 07936 904743

E-mail: clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk

Tuesday 24th January 2023

Minutes of a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC) held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023

#### Present:

Cllr Watkins [Chair] Cllr Monteath-Wilson

Cllr Beechey [Vice Chair] Cllr Cooper
Cllr Bell Cllr Daw

Cllr Rabagliati

#### In attendance:

Mrs Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk 8 members of the public were present.

#### 143. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished all a Happy New Year.

#### 144. Public Questions

- 1. Mr Geoff Watkins asked about the footpath leaving the village towards Winton Street and Drusillas. It is very overgrown and not passable. Clerk confirmed she will report to East Sussex Highways [ESH] again. Action 1.
- 2. Mr Geoff Watkins reported that the newly laid footpath in Deans Road has been marked up by BT for future works. The Clerk will look into this but does not feel she will be able to stop this from happening. Action 2. Cllr Beechey said a dropped kerb was marked out on the corner of North Road and Furlongs but a full kerb was installed instead. Clerk will chase this again as did speak to them back in November 2022. Action 3.
- 3. Mr Geoff Watkins asked that when the road into the village is not passable due to flooding, could Winton Street have a one way system put in place to ensure traffic flows safely. The Clerk explained that she did liaise with ESH back at the end of 2022 when the flooding happened and ESH stated they could not put any measures in place in Winton Street.
- 4. Mr Adrian Butcher reported that some trees have come down in West Street leading to Winton Street that need clearing. Cllr Rabagliati confirmed he had reported these to the Clerk that morning and they had been reported to ESH for clearing.

#### 145. Apologies for absence

No apologies.

#### 146. Report from Maria Caulfield MP

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

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

No attendance or report.

# 148. Report from Cllr Michael Lunn [WDC]

Cllr Lunn reported that just before Christmas, some shingle clearance took place, the EA have learnt that if there is a backlog of flooding in the valley it assists pushing out the shingle. He has been made aware by Mr David Lewis that there are 5 sluices that are not working, Mr Lewis is going to give Cllr Lunn the exact locations so he can report to the Water Level Management Board, which is meeting tomorrow. The increase in housing is causing flash flooding events. WDC have been concerned about the Government housing targets and as a group the targets were rejected as the way they chose the formula was incorrect. Due to the changes in Government, there have been delays but WDC continue to lobby Michael Gove regarding the housing numbers. WDC continue to press for existing planning permissions to be included in the 5-year land supply. Cllr Lunn confirmed that the Local Plan will be published after the elections in May 2023.

#### 149. Declaration of interests

Cllr Watkins declared that she is a member of the Alfriston Emergency Group [AEG]. Cllr Daw declared that she is a Church Warden for St Andrews.

#### 150. Minutes

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

MOTION CARRIED. Cllr Watkins duly signed the minutes.

#### 151. Finance

#### 151.1 To approve the Statement of Finances: Jan 2023

Cllr Daw proposed and Cllr Beechey seconded a motion to approve the Statement of Finances for January 2023. [Appendix A]. MOTION CARRIED. Cllr. Cooper signed the invoices.

# 151.2 To confirm sight and approval of Q3 audit paperwork 2022/23

Cllr Daw proposed and Cllr Beechey seconded a motion to approve that the Q3 audit paper 2022/23 had been received by all Councillors and approved. **MOTION CARRIED.** 

#### 151.3 To approve the budget for 2023/24

Clerk reported that she had worked hard on the budget to ensure that APC could still run 'business as usual' without increasing the precept. The proposed budget was put to the Finance Committee on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and they approved it. All Councillors then received the proposed budget along with a report to explain any amendments. Clerk explained that the only income APC receive is from the allotment rent so APC are very much reliant on the precept. The budget for 2023/24 has remained the same for most areas with some minor amendments. The earmarked reserved are £10,500 which is broken down for £500 for the playground, £5k for Tye Road resurfacing and £5k for High Street Traffic Plan. The playground ringfencing has been reduced as the equipment will be new so nothing should need repairing, but it's good to build a small pot for any fence repairs etc. The High Street Plan pot now sits at £10k which is a good start to build for the loan repayments that will need to be made once APC apply for a Public Works Loan Board. Cllr Rabagliati proposed and Cllr Daw seconded a motion to approve the budget for 2023/24. **MOTION CARRIED.** 

#### 151.4 To approve the precept for 2023/24

Cllr Daw proposed and Cllr Beechey seconded a motion to approve the precept for 2023/24 at £55,252. **MOTION CARRIED.** 

#### 152. To discuss and agree the planting of a tree for the Queens Green Canopy

Clerk explained that she had liaised with Mr Dan Larkin about the planting of a tree and he confirmed a London Plane tree would be best on the Tye and he would plant free of charge. Cllr Beechey explained that Mr Charles Anson had suggested in the Cuckmere News that we plant 7 trees throughout the village to celebrate the Queen's 70 years. Ms Caroline Adcock had also written in and suggested a tree at the bottom of Deans Road/Kings Ride. Cllr Watkins opened the meeting so Mr Anson who was in attendance could speak. Mr Anson explained that Alfriston has lost a lot of trees and that a green canopy of trees is what the Queen desired to mark her Jubilee. It is a very attractive project environmentally and for the tourists who come to the village. It is a way to mark both the Jubilee and the loss of the Queen. The trees need to be planted and mapped by the end of March 2023 so need to move quickly. Mrs Anne Shaw suggested planting a disease resistant Elm tree. Councillors were asked if they support the principle of planting 7 trees, all Cllrs confirmed they did. It was suggested that similar to fundraising when APC purchased the Remembrance Silhouettes, a fundraising document will be circulated widely explaining what APC need to raise and why to see if residents could assist. Nearly all Clirs and those present in the audience confirmed they would contribute. Clirs agreed to assign £150 from APC funds to start the project off. Clerk will draft a document to circulate ASAP. Action 4.

# 153. To note the May 2023 election timeline

Clerk reported that a document was circulated to all Clerks recently with information on the upcoming Parish Council elections in May 2023. Notices will be published nearer the time but to update, the Notice of Elections will be published on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023. All forms need to be returned to the WDC offices by 4pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Clerks are not allowed to assist in the completing or submission of forms. A Statement of Persons Nominated will be published at 4pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Elections will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023. If 7 or fewer persons are nominated, there will be no elections. If there are 8 or more, an election will be held.

All persons must take photo ID along with them now when they vote.

As the period of purdah starts on the  $27^{th}$  March and concludes on the day of the election,  $4^{th}$  May 2023, the APC April 2023 meeting will not be able to take place and is therefore cancelled. All new Cllrs will take post on the  $9^{th}$  May 2023 and all paperwork will be completed at the AGM on the  $22^{nd}$  May 2023.

# 154. To discuss and agree how to proceed with the grass cutting from 2023 – 2025 inclusive

Clerk reported that following the recent tender process, the grass schedule was amended and APC have gone out to tender again to 9 companies. All returns will be received by the February 2023 meeting and opened. The Clerk will then do her comparison document and the contract will hopefully be awarded to a company at the March 2023 meeting.

### 155. Report on Highways and Twittens – Cllr Rabagliati

Cllr Rabagliati reported that the Village Traffic Management Plan is in the final stages of being agreed with ESCC with the format of the documents to be published for public consultation this month. These documents will be delivered to all households in the village within the next couple of weeks, and there will be an opportunity for members of the parish to comment, via the ESCC web site. The consultation will include details of the ESCC proposals for gateways and a 20mph limit together with options for the APC proposals for resurfacing the High Street. The consultation will last for 3 weeks. At present the precise dates are not certain, but

if it is still active at the date of the next meeting, we will endeavour to have a copy of the plans at that meeting. Nonetheless, we are planning to have the plans available at Hicks and the Village Shop. It has taken a long time to get to this point, and we are very hopeful that we will soon be able to see the plans implemented.

Cllr Rabagliati recently attended a meeting, hosted by Wealden, about electric charging points in their car parks. Alfriston is part of Phase 1 of this plan, with planned implementation in February or March. The intention is to provide a facility for those households that do not have the ability to install their own charge points, and the bays would be in the Willows car park. Recent flooding has led to a review of the planned implementation there, but APC have not heard more on that. It is understood that car park charges will also apply to users of the charge points.

APC received today a letter from ESCC Cllr Dowling regarding pot holes in the County, in the context of this winter's weather. If you wish to report a pot hole, this can be done at "Report a Problem" on the eastsussexhighways.com web site. Clerk explained that although it is good residents are able to report a problem direct, please can you continue to inform the Clerk as she keeps a log and is then able to chase when the repairs are not done.

#### 156. Report on Allotments – Cllr Cooper

Cllr Cooper reported that all allotment renewal notices will be going out by the end of this week. There are now 2 people on the waiting list. Clerk explained that there is a situation with Castle Water at the moment which needs to be resolved before any payment for allotment water is made. On the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022, 9 invoices were received, all with various amounts of credits and debits. It was incredibly confusing and continues to be. They are now saying we have an outstanding amount of £2668 which may be correct as there was a leak with a water trough last year and it is not known how long it was there until noticed. However, as they attempted to take £15k out recently the Clerk wants confirmation regarding the account before any payment is made. The Clerk is working with Cllr Cooper on this to get it resolved ASAP.

# 157. Report on Public Transport - Cllr Monteath-Wilson

Cllr Monteath-Wilson reported that between now and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 you travel on Cuckmere Buses for £2. This scheme also applies to most bus routes across England.

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

Cllr Monteath-Wilson asked whether SDNPA had come back about Kings Ride, Clerk confirmed they had not yet so she will chase them. **Action 5.** 

Cllr Monteath-Wilson asked whether WDC had come back about the firework letter. Clerk confirmed she had received a voicemail whilst on leave and returned the call but no answer. Clerk has not chased again but will do so. Action 6.

It is not known if the fallen tree on Newhaven Coach Road has been removed, Clerk will enquire. Since the meeting it has been confirmed it has not and it has been reported again for urgent removal.

#### 159. Report on Strategic Planning – Cllr Daw

Cllr Daw raised the King's Coronation on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and whether APC would like to arrange for a street party/road closure. AWMH could be approached to see if the hall could be hired in case of wet weather. It was agreed it would be run the same as the Jubilee party with businesses putting out tables but with the proviso that anyone, including non-customers, is welcome to sit at these tables if they wish to. All agreed it was a good idea in principle.

Discussion was had, but no final agreement reached, so a proposal will be drawn up and brought to the February meeting so it can be agreed, and next steps taken. Action 7.

# 160. Report on Tye and Recreation Ground – Cllr Beechey

#### 160.1 Goal post update

Cllr Beechey reported that the goal post has been installed and is much used. Many thanks due to the 3 generations of Harmers - John, Simon and Andrew - for their assistance in installing the goal, it is hugely appreciated. APC received two goal posts, so the Clerk managed to sell the additional one to another Parish Council and recoup some of the cost.

#### 160.2 Tye Road resurfacing

Cllr Beechey said nothing new to report at this time.

#### 160.3 To discuss and consider the private hiring of the recreation ground

Cllr Beechey reported that following a request from a gentleman to run a fitness class on the Recreation Ground, who would be charging clients, the question was previously raised whether APC should allow this, and if so what are the insurance risks, and should there be a charge. Clerk explained that other Councils do allow this and their insurance does cover it. Cllr Beechey was concerned that hirers may then feel that they have some proprietary rights over and above ordinary users, and what would happen if there was a class ongoing, but a group visited the Rec for a kick-about. All Councillors discussed, including whether it was feasible to earmark a part of the Ground, and it was agreed that the Recreation Ground is for everyone to use so should not be given to profit making organisations to rent in part or in whole. Cllr Beechey proposed and this was seconded by Cllr Cooper. **MOTION CARRIED.** 

#### 160.4 To approve and adopt the Tye Useage Policy

Cllr Beechey reported that amendments have been made to the Tye Useage Policy which was circulated to all Councillors. The policy can be found under <u>Appendix C</u>.
Cllr Bell proposed to approve the Tye Useage Policy and this was seconded by Cllr Cooper. **MOTION CARRIED.** 

# 161. Report from Planning Committee - Cllr Bell

161.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting No applications.

#### 161.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

SDNP/22/04149/HOUS Flint Cottage, 12 North Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UG Approved SDNP/22/04972/LIS Laburnum Cottage, Sloe Lane, Alfriston, BN26 5UP Ongoing SDNP/22/02365/HOUS Somerset House, High Street, Alfriston, BN26 5TD Ongoing

# 161.3 To discuss whether further action should be considered with the recent works undertaken by Burnt House on the village green known as Dukes Green

Cllr Bell reported that the owner of Burnt House has put gates and hard standing on the area which is a village green. There is no dispute by anyone that Dukes Green is registered as a village green. It is not an aesthetic thing, it is the simple fact that the owner has possibly broken the law by inclosing the village green contrary to statute. Cllr Bell explained that it is his opinion that the owner has broken the law and action should be taken. Cllr Bell read out the Magistrates' Court process. It was passed to other Cllrs for comment.

Cllr Cooper explained that if it should be an open space and a green for people to enjoy then so be it. She herself has a right of way on her property and there are no issues. The owner of

Burnt House is saying she was not aware when she purchased the property but Cllr Cooper pointed out she is aware now. Cllr Cooper suggested that a meeting could take place with the owner to discuss. Cllr Cooper asked who would complete the legal paperwork. Cllr Bell confirmed he would complete the paperwork; it is not a lengthy process and there is no cost attached. Cllr Bell explained that the landowner refuses to attend APC meetings and it is unlikely that she would be willing to take down or change the gate.

Cllr Beechey said that everyone agrees it is a village green. It is immaterial if the owner was aware or not at the time of purchase. He said this is not a planning matter, and so the advice received by APC from SALC was premised either on insufficient information given to them or a misapprehension on their part as to the correct position. Cllr Beechey explained he feels very strongly that as a matter of principle the Parish Council should do everything they can to protect rights of parishioners with regards to a village green. Open spaces are important. He suggested there could be an official invitation to meet with the landowner, to see what she is willing to do. Cllr Beechey explained that APC need to establish what has been done and what should not have been done. Cllr Beechey explained that APC need to move quickly as the process has a 6-month window which started when the works completed in October 2022. Albeit there are not costs involved in lodging the information, if unsuccessful there may be some costs involved.

Cllr Rabagliati stated that he did not feel that APC are a law enforcement agency and that we should not be spending the precept/public money on this issue. He supports a sit down meeting with the landowner.

Cllr Monteath-Wilson said it is very important as this is public money. She suggested that legal advice is obtained as she can't see how APC have a case and can't see what has been done wrong. Although there is a gate, it is unlocked, and access can be obtained at any time. Cllr Monteath-Wilson has walked the route and feels that it has not been blocked and is still accessible. She also fully supports a meeting with the landowner.

Cllr Daw is concerned why the landowner has not met with APC. SDNPA have no issues with it and it seems to have been blown out of proportion. Cllr Daw thinks it looks nice and can't see a problem. She feels that taking a resident to the Magistrates' Court is not something APC should do lightly and with public money. A meeting is required and legal advice obtained.

Cllr Monteath-Wilson reiterated that she feels that there are no grounds to take this to the Magistrates' and is not really sure what the landowner has done wrong as the land is still accessible. Cllr Bell explained he is member of the Open Spaces Society and they have said we have a case.

Cllr Bell proposed to move to legal proceedings. This was not seconded. Cllr Monteath-Wilson proposed to seek legal advice before proceeding. This was seconded by Cllr Daw. **MOTION CARRIED.** 

Clerk will obtain legal advice and report back to Councillors in due course. Action 8.

161.4 Enforcement updates No update.

### 162. Reports from Outside Bodies

<u>162.1 Volunteer Task Force</u>: Clerk explained that his group has disbanded so will be removed as an outside body.

<u>162.2 Heartstart</u>: no report.

<u>162.3 Alfriston Emergency Group</u>: Mr Steve Woodgate reported that AEG are currently very busy with the flooding. They are trying to open a dialogue with the EA as the sluice valves are leaking and the amount of water on the roads is excessive. AEG can pump all they can but it does not seem to be making a vast difference. AEG are also spending a lot of time fishing vehicles out that have attempted to get through the flooding and got stuck. AEG will continue to publish all information on their Facebook pages regarding flood warnings and gritting etc. <u>162.4 Flood Forum</u> – no report.

<u>162.5 Neighbourhood Watch</u> – no report.

<u>162.6 Twinning Committee</u> – Mr Michael Anderson sent in the following update. "We celebrated the French Fete des Rois recently. Our AGM is fixed for Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> in the OCC. Our visit to France in 2023 is already agreed for the 8th/9th/10<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and we'll soon be planning further activities for our members before that."

Cllr Daw reported that Jean Cash (from Seaford), who was instrumental in starting the Twinning Association, sadly passed away last week. Our condolences to her family. 

162.7 St Andrew's Church — Cllr Daw reported that the Christingle event was fantastic again. Bell ringing is now on a Monday morning and no longer on a Tuesday evening. There is a concert being held on the 19<sup>th</sup> February to raise money direct for the Church. Cllr Daw reported that a PCC meeting is being held next week and she confirmed that the dilapidated graveyard fencing near the Clergy House is on the agenda for discussion.

<u>162.8 Clergy House</u> – no report.

<u>162.9 Cuckmere Buses</u> – no report.

<u>162.10 AWMH</u> – Mr Adrian Butcher reported that AWMH are now life post-Pre School. One positive result is that the Hall is now known to be available during daytimes and two new clubs have started using the Hall. It is a good venue for business meetings so please spread the word. The Alfriston Hub had their first event with carol singing in December and raised just over £200, which will be put aside for the Christmas tree.

<u>162.11 Speedwatch</u> – Clerk reported that the February schedule is going to be sent out this week to try and get some sessions booked in. As the member numbers have dropped, it is important to get some more so we don't run the current members ragged. If anyone is interested please contact the Clerk.

#### 163. Correspondence to the Clerk

- 1. Cllr Daw reported that the panto tickets are on sale, only a few remain, and the performances are on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- 2. Clerk reported that a gentleman from Ultra UK has asked to use the same site, close to the White Bridge, for a running event on Sunday  $28^{th}$  May 2023 between 05:00-15:00. As in previous years, they will be quiet and remove any litter. Permission was granted.
- 3. Mrs Katie Salmon wrote in about a few issues around the village; erratic bus service, no local taxi service, poor mobile reception and a hike to the Post Box. Cllr Beechey asked if anything has been heard about a new postbox, Clerk confirmed her calls are not being answered, but will continue to chase regularly. Action 9. Mrs Salmon did thank APC, and County and District Councillors for everything and in particular to AEG for their sterling work to ensure the village does not get cut off.
- 4. Mr Michael Anderson wrote in to report that on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2022, the litter picking team collected 16 bags of litter between the Wingrove and High & Over. Huge thanks to them. Mr Anderson has said more volunteers are needed so if interested please contact him on <a href="mailto:michaeleija@hotmail.com">michaeleija@hotmail.com</a>.

#### 164. Public Questions

- 1. Mr Adrian Butcher asked what day would the street party be on for the King's Coronation? The day of the Coronation or the Bank Holiday Monday? It was agreed it should take place on Monday  $8^{th}$  May 2023.
- 2. Mr David Lewis explained that he and his partner were overcome by the generosity they received with their recent Ukraine fundraising event. He is pleased to report that 4 generators have been purchased and are on the way over.

# 165. Date of next meeting

The date of the next APC meeting is Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall at 19:15.

Signed:

Mrs Victoria Rutt [Clerk and RFO]

#### **APPENDIX A**

Alfriston Parish Council Finance Report 16th January 2023

Authority is sought to make the following payments:-

156	BACS	Victoria Rutt - January 2023 salary	£1,743.02
157	BACS	Norvetts - clock works	£300.00
158	BACS	Biffa	£142.22
159	BACS	INTERBIZ	£22.80
160	BACS	Grain Reclaimed [mini libabry for playground]	£347.00
161	BACS	AEG - allotment gate post	£210.00
162	BACS	Latitude	£101.09
163	BACS	Greenbarnes Ltd [noticeboard for playground]	£569.43

Total £3,435.56

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

138	DD	Santander	£20.00
139	BACS	Mr Nick Beechey - reimbursement for cement	£21.72
140	BACS	Inland Revenue - Tax and NI for November 2022	£658.42
141	BACS	Mrs Sylvia Daw - APC contribution to Christmas tree	£100.00
142	DD	ВТ	£123.16
143	DD	HP Instant Ink	£9.99
144	BACS	Victoria Rutt - December salary	1742.82
145	BACS	INTERBIZ	£22.80
146	BACS	Biffa	£142.22
147	BACS	AWMH	£41.40
148	BACS	WDC - Q3 bins	£624.00
149	BACS	John O'Connor	£372.35
150	BACS	David Lewis - AEG donation	£270.00
151	DD	NEST pension	£153.88
152	DD	Santander	£20.00
153	DD	02	£19.85
154	BACS	Inland Revenue - Tax and NI for December 2022	£367.42
155	CARD	Post Office Ltd - 1st class stamps for grass tender	£15.20

Total £4,725.23

Summary of Bank Balances 16th January 2023

Business Current Account Business Savings Account TOTAL £5,126.43 £92,875.30 **£98,001.73** 

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	-£6,541.53	£1,458.47				
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				
		donations £10389.76						
Play Project	£200.00	plus grant £37,180		£47,769.76				
TOTAL	£34,969.07	add £11,000		£87,630.30				



Signed by: Victoria Rutt - Clerk & RFO

#### **APPENDIX B**

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

#### **Welcome News Regarding Housing Targets**

The Government has accepted changes to the planning system, alongside the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill and so mandatory local housing targets are to be scrapped and will become advisory only. This is a huge victory for local campaigners and while it will not reverse the recent decisions made by the planning inspector it does now protect future sites - if our local councils can get their Local Plans published as soon as possible.

It also puts forward the government's Brownfield first Strategy in a win for the protection of green spaces. The Levelling and Regeneration Bill will continue its passage through Parliament shortly and we expect this to become law this year.

I have emailed the council with information on the consultation that has been launched on the National Planning Policy. I would encourage the council and constituents to respond to this consultation to help shape the policy.

#### Call to boost the take-up of Pension Credit

There are already 1774 claimants of Pension Credit in the Lewes constituency but around a quarter of people who could claim the extra help do not currently do so. Pension Credit is a top up for our most vulnerable pensioners that is worth an average of £3,500. As well as a cash top-up to the State Pension, this can help pensioners access other support such as help with housing costs, council tax reduction schemes, heating bills, and a free over-75s TV licence. Pension Credit can be claimed online or over the phone. Information is available on Gov.UK website <a href="www.gov.uk/pension-credit">www.gov.uk/pension-credit</a> or by calling the Freephone Pension Credit claim line on 0800 99 1234.

#### **Homeless Prevention Funding**

I am very pleased to see the Conservative Government taking homelessness so seriously. This is a serious problem and it is good to see the government providing the Homelessness Prevention Grant. The government has announced the allocation of £654 million through the Homelessness Prevention Grant that will be made available to local authorities in 2023/24 and 2024/25 to support them to deliver services to prevent and tackle homelessness.

#### **Funding for Defibrillators**

The number of lifesaving defibrillators will be increased with new funding of £1 million, which the Department of Health and Social care estimates will increase the number of defibrillators by 1000. Organisations will be invited to bid to place defibrillators in areas in the most need. Organisations and individuals that acquire defibrillators, or already own them, are urged to register them on *The Circuit*, a National Defibrillator database for ambulance services to quickly identify the nearest device.

#### **East Sussex Lane Rental Consultation**

Under a Department for Transport backed initiative, highway authorities are able to charge utility companies for closing lanes for road works. I am pleased to hear East Sussex County Council have agreed that they would proceed with the scheme, it now awaits approval from the Secretary of State for Transport. It is likely that the scheme will start in 2023.

The lane rental encourages works promoters to reduce the time the works take, as well as the times in which they carry out their works, improve planning, co-ordination and working methods, as well as completing works to the required standard first time reducing the need for remedial work so as to not disturb commuters. Furthermore, I am very supportive of the surplus of money to be used for highway works as there are a number of roads in the Lewes constituency that could benefit from such money and I look forward to these works taking place and supporting the council where I can to ensure these works take place.

#### **APPENDIX C**

# Tye Useage Policy

- 1. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Tye Byelaws [available on the APC website or on request from the Clerk]
- 2. 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.
- 3. Hirers of the Alfriston War Memorial Hall [AWMH] do not have any right to use any part of the Tye or the Glebeland for their exclusive enjoyment.

# **Vehicular access**

- 4. Two reservable parking spaces have been provided on Tye Road for use by church and AWMH users only. Reservations to be managed by PCC and AWMH Committee.
- 5. There shall be no vehicular access and no parking on the Tye (excepting Tye road) save for the following:
- i) Access and parking for a hearse
- ii) Access and parking for one wedding car
- iii) Access only (no parking) for loading and unloading
- iv) Access and parking for one vehicle, only if necessary, to provide food to a wedding party hiring Hall. Vehicle to be parked between rear of Old School House and Hall terrace
- v) 'Special circumstances' applications to be determined by APC on a case by case basis (please give as much advance notice as possible).
  - 6. All care must be taken not to damage the Tye.
  - 7. Respect must be shown by vehicle drivers to all other users of the Tye.