

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Mrs Suzanna Dry

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Alfriston War Memorial Hall,
Old School House, The Tye,
Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5TL

Tuesday 11th May 2024

All members of the Parish Council are summoned to a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council to be held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on **Monday 17th June 2024**.

Please note that a digital sound recording is made of all meetings of Alfriston Parish Council including Public Questions sessions. The recording is not for publication and is only used to aid accurate minute taking.

S.C. Dry

Mrs Suzanna Dry - Clerk to the Council

37. Chairman's Welcome

38. Public Questions

39. Apologies for absence

40. Update from Maria Caulfield MP

41. Update from Cllr Stephen Shing – East Sussex County Council

42. Update from Cllr David Greaves - Wealden District Council

43. Declaration of interest

44. Minutes

To agree as a true record the minutes of the APC meeting held on 20th May 2024 .

45. Finance

To approve the Statement of Finances for June 2024. ([Appendix A](#))

46. Tree Survey

To discuss and agree on an annual tree survey and acceptance of quote ([Appendix B](#))

47. Village Clock

To discuss and agree on disconnection cost from disused meter.

48. D Day Commemoration

Feedback from D Day event on 6th June – Cllr Daw

49. Coffeehouse Conversations

- Update from Cllr Rabagliati following last meeting on 15th June.

50. Report on Highways & Twittens – Cllr Rabagliati

- Update from ESCC meeting on Traffic Scheme
- Parking in the village

51. Report on Allotments & Recreation Ground – Cllr Daw

52. Report on Public Transport – Cllr Harris

53. Report on Environment & Countryside – Cllr Harris

- Update from meeting with Maria Caulfield & E.A. [\(Appendix C\)](#)

54. Report on Strategic Planning – Cllr Spring

55. Report on Tye – Cllr Parkinson

56. Report from Planning Committee – Cllr Watkins

56.1 Applications considered by APC Planning Committee since last meeting

Ref. No: SDNP/24/01901/HOUS & SDNP/24/01902/LIS The Old Vicarage, West Street, Alfriston, BN26 5UY - **No objection**

Ref. No: SDNP/24/01164/HOUS Rosemary Cottage, High Street, Alfriston, BN26 5TB – **No objection**

Ref. No: SDNP/24/02061/DCOND Saddlers House, High Street, Alfriston, BN26 5SZ - **No comment**

Ref. No: SDNP/24/01355/HOUS Deans Barn Whiteway, Alfriston, BN26 5TP - **No objection**

Ref. No: SDNP/24/02077/NMA Pailin House, 6 Kings Ride, Alfriston, BN26 5XP - **Planning Committee feel this should be as per approved application, as otherwise could overlook neighbours garden.**

56.2 Applications notified or awaiting decision from SDNPA

SDNP/24/01338/DCOND - South Downs Way, France Hill, Kings Ride, Alfriston, BN26 5XW **Approved.**

56.3 Enforcement updates - None

57. Reports from Outside Bodies

57.1 Heartstart

57.2 Alfriston Emergency Group

57.3 Flood Forum

57.4 Neighbourhood Watch

57.5 Twinning Committee

57.6 St Andrew's Church

57.7 Clergy House

57.8 Cuckmere Buses

57.9 Alfriston War Memorial Hall

57.10 Speedwatch

57.11 Events

58. Correspondence to The Clerk – Asking for permission from the council.

- Feedback following Ultra Marathon on Sunday 26th May

59. Public Questions

60. Date of next meeting - Monday 15th July 2024 in the AWMH at 19:15.

APPENDIX A

Alfriston Parish Council Finance Report 11th June 2024

Authority is sought to make the following payments:-

	BACS	June Payroll	£1,778.60
		<i>Total:</i>	£1,778.60

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

21	DD	HP Instant Ink - printer	£11.99
22	DD	Information Commissioner's Office - Data Protection Fee	£35.00
23	DD	Castle Water - Allotments	£122.72
24	BACS	Inland Revenue - Tax & NI May	£318.07
25	BACS	Clear Councils - Insurance	£1,268.76
26	BACS	EDF Energy - Clock	£325.87
27	BACS	May Payroll	£1,778.40
28	DD	O2 Mobile Phone	£15.31
29	BACS	Mulberry Local Authority Services - Final Audit	£142.98
30	BACS	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd. - Grass Cutting	£768.00
31	BACS	ESALC Ltd. Annual Subscription	£245.04
32	BACS	Interbiz - Payroll services	£24.00
33	DD	Nest Pension - Employee Pension contribution - May	£152.88
34	DD	Bank Charges	£20.00
35	BACS	SLCC - Training 5th March	£36.00
36	BACS	Daniel Larkin Tree Surgery	£160.00
37	BACS	AWMH - Hall Hire	£48.00
38	BACS	Biffa - Allotment Bins	£158.59
		<i>Total:</i>	£5,631.61

Summary of Bank Balances as of 11th June 2024

Business Current Account	£1,875.44
Business Savings Account	£61,427.26
TOTAL	

Signed by: *S.C. Dry*
 Suzanna Dry - Clerk & RFO

Councillor who checked the invoices for the above payments:

APPENDIX B

DANIEL LARKIN TREE SURGERY

14th May 2024

Alfriston Parish Council
C/O Susanna Dry
Alfriston

Dear Susanne

Further to our discussion please find your quote below

To provide a map, map out, survey trees on The Tye and Rec and provide a survey report.

£420

Hope to you hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely
Daniel

DANIEL LARKIN TREE SURGERY

APPENDIX C

Notes of a TEAMS meeting held on 23rd May 2024 – by Cllr Harris

In attendance:-

Maria Caulfield	MP and Host
Russell Long	EA. Flood and Coastal Risk Manager
Claire Francis	EA. Flood and Coastal Risk Management Business Manager
Phil Camamile	Chief Exec. Water Management Alliance
David Greaves	Wealden District Council
Richard Brown	Well known to all!
Mark Lamb	Cuckmere Valley PC
Julian Martyn	West Dean
Jamie Mansfield	Alfriston (Poco)
James Dopson	Manager, Deans Place
Adrian Harris	Alfriston PC

Maria Caulfield hosted and controlled the meeting well, and seemed to be well briefed about the problems. Russell Long (EA) spoke well, and dealt with questions and complaints in a very straightforward way, though not giving the answers the meeting wished to hear. Claire Francis (EA) spoke less, and seemed less aware of the problems.

In summary, Russell Long made the following points:-

1. Work to the east bank of the Cuckmere, downstream from the White Bridge, will be carried out in July, and de-silting works will be carried out in September.
2. Licences for these works are in place and are current. De-silting cannot be carried out before September for ecological reasons.
3. The budget for clearing shingle at the mouth of the Cuckmere is separate and ring fenced, and works are carried out as necessary. (Richard Brown has confirmed this).

The sluice gates.

Russell Long stated that these were cleared of silt twice each year, and any necessary maintenance carried out. This claim was met with some scepticism, and he was asked to provide copies of work logs to demonstrate that this was actually the case.

There was much discussion about problems relating to the sluices – particularly being jammed open by driftwood – RL said that the Environment Agency have an Incident Report Line (0800 807060) where all reports are recorded and given an Incident Number. (I subsequently looked at the EA website, and this number is generic for anything covered by the EA. The number for their Worthing Office is 03708 506506).

RL stated that the sluices would be inspected in September.

On general works and maintenance, Russell Long made the following points:-

1. He has an annual budget of £5,000 for maintenance of the Cuckmere.
2. The EA have assessed the Cuckmere as a low flood risk – only 5 houses are at risk, and there is no threat to life. The EA budget has remained unchanged for the last 10 (?) years, representing a significant decrease in spending power.

Maria Caulfield asked whether Parish Councils (and others) could add to the EA budget. RL said no. It would be possible to add funds to the Water Levels Management Board, but any works proposed by them would have to be licenced by the EA, who would assess the works taking a broad view – ie including ecology, effect on the river upstream and downstream, flood meadows, etc. (and see my notes under ‘de-maining’ below). I raised the point about delays in dealing with licence applications, and Claire Francis in a written reply stated that ‘the statutory determination process for environmental permits is 2 months. This time frame is prolonged where the necessary information is submitted as part of the application’. I replied ‘But – if there is no response in that time, is there a presumed grant of consent?’ I did not get a reply!

Julian Martyn pushed hard about the flooding of the only road leading to West Dean. RL responded that the road was low priority, and did not justify emergency expenditure from the minimal budget.

Mark Lamb raised the subject of de-maining the Cuckmere. Both RL and CF stated that any decision on de-maining was well above their ‘pay grades’, but they were very sure that an application would be refused, to ensure that the EA retained control over any local works and their broader effect on flora, fauna and fish in the general area. There was extended discussion about de-maining, but the EA reps. Repeated that whilst it was not their decision, they were fairly certain of refusal.

Jamie Mansfield raised the point that flooding had severely affected businesses in the area, with a considerable and identifiable loss of income – and that he proposed to lodge a claim against the EA for loss of profits. Russell Long said that there was nothing to stop him doing that, but pointed out that ‘no one has a legal right to protection from flooding’.

As a final point, RL was asked if he would supply a copy of the EA’s latest flood modelling for the area. He seemed reluctant to agree to this, but did admit that it would have to be supplied if a Freedom of Information request was submitted.

The meeting closed after about 1 ½ hours.

Adrian Harris
31/5/24