

# ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL  
Mrs Suzanna Dry CILCA  
Tel: 07936 904743  
E-mail: [clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk)

Alfriston War Memorial Hall  
Old School House  
The Tye, Alfriston, BN26 5TL  
29<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## **Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC), held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 7.15pm**

---

### **Present:**

Cllr D Monteath-Wilson (Chair) Cllr N Parkinson  
Cllr J Watkins (Vice Chair) Cllr S Rabagliati  
Cllr R Embry Cllr J Spring  
Cllr A Harris

### **In attendance:**

Mrs Suzanna Dry – Parish Clerk & RFO  
There were approximately 28 members of the public present.

### **47 . Chair's Welcome**

Cllr Monteath-Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting and mentioned it was nice to see so many villagers here.

### **48. Public Questions**

Nick White thanked APC for adding agenda item No. 57 to the meeting following a recent transphobic incident in the village. He felt it was important to make a statement, which has led him to starting the 'Alfriston Pride' initiative. Nick White felt Alfriston was a very inclusive village and wants to make sure this continues. He has spoken to all local businesses and the vast majority will be taking part by decorating their shop front and putting a flag in the window. Several other villagers made comments in support of this initiative with the desire to keep Alfriston a welcoming and inclusive place to live.

### **49. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **50. Update from MP**

James MacCleary's report was not received in time for the meeting, but has since been received and is attached to the minutes. ([Appendix A](#)). Cllrs **AGREED** to display a poster from James MacCleary's office advertising the Meet & Greet taking place in Alfriston on 6<sup>th</sup> August. The Clerk will provide a laminated copy to Cllr Rabagliati to put up.

**Action Point 1.**

### **51. Update from Cllr Stephen Shing – East Sussex Council**

Cllr Shing was unable to attend the meeting and his report will be sent out on receipt.

### **52. Update from Cllr David Greaves - Wealden District Council**

Cllr Greaves presented his report to the meeting, a copy is attached to the minutes. ([Appendix B](#)).

### **53 . Declaration of interest**

Cllr Parkinson declared he has an interest in allotments. Cllr Watkins declared an interest in AEG and Heartstart.

#### **54. Minutes**

Cllr Watkins proposed and Cllr Embry seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC monthly meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026, were a true and accurate record. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Chair duly sign the minutes as an accurate record.

#### **55. Finance**

To approve the Statement of Finances for June 2026 as attached to the Agenda. Cllr Rabagliati proposed & Cllr Parkinson seconded a motion these be approved. This was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

#### **56. PCSO's Monthly Report**

PCSO Isaac Wood presented his report to the meeting. PCSO Wood covers Alfriston, Alciston and Berwick.

Parking – PCSO Wood offers advice where possible however PCSO's have no power to deal with parking. Members of the public can report parking incidents and anti-social parking to the Police either by Operation Crackdown or by calling 101. Recent images of HGV vehicles going through the village have been forwarded on to the Commercial Vehicle Unit.

Knife Issue with Nord Shop - Numerous complaints have been received about the display of knives in the shop window and by the front door. PCSO Wood has attended several times to speak with the shop but it has always been closed. There is a Nord shop in Lewes which has an on line presence and PCSO Wood will pursue via this route. I have been advised that the knives have now been relocated further inside the shop, away from the door. The shop is permitted to sell them, but will look at getting them displayed more safely. The Chair commented that knife crime is a serious issue and the village is concerned. PCSO Wood confirmed there is only guidance on displaying knives but will pursue this with the shop.

#### **57. To discuss and Agree APC's response to Nick White's Letter re Alfriston Pride . (Appendix C).**

Cllrs discussed and were unanimous in their disappointment that a transphobic incident has taken place in the village. Cllrs felt this went completely against APC's values and the Civility & Respect pledge.

Cllrs had been made aware of one correspondence sent to APC in support of the LGBT community, where the writer was concerned at the attempt to put forward a special interest theme which in itself could create division. The Clerk was asked to summarise the correspondence at the meeting. (Appendix D). Note: Cllr Embry did not receive a copy due to a technical fault.

The Chair acknowledged receipt of an anonymous e-mail sent to her supporting inclusivity but also concerned about the village holding a pride event. As this correspondence was anonymous APC cannot respond to or act on anything in it.

Cllrs **AGREED** unanimously of their support for all protected characteristics so that everyone in the village is made to feel welcome. As a Council support is given to the initiative put in place by Nick White. It will be down to individual businesses if they wish to take part. Any requests for grant funding should be made in writing to APC.

Cllrs **AGREED** to display a poster in the A board to support the event, for the maximum of 2 weeks following the MP's Meet & Greet on 6<sup>th</sup> August. **Action Point 2.**

#### **58. To Agree expenditure for replacement A board in Market Square - Cllr Rabagliati**

Cllr Rabagliati proposed APC purchase a black aluminium A board to replace the current one, the cost for this is £63.90. Cllrs **AGREED** unanimously to this purchase. The Clerk was asked to process the order. **Action Point 3.**

#### **59. Update on Coffeehouse Conversation 20<sup>th</sup> June - Cllr Rabagliati**

Cllr Rabagliati confirmed this will take place at the Alfriston War Memorial Hall as the OCC was unavailable. It will start at 10.30am and the topic is the Village Allotments. We hope all Cllrs can make it and as many villagers as possible.

**60. To discuss Sussex Craft Week 20<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June - Chair**

A request has been received from the organisers of Sussex Craft Week to promote the event. The Chair commented that APC do not promote events but can support them. Cllrs **AGREED** that a poster can be put in The Dene Car Park board. **Action Point 4.**

**61. Tree Survey 2026 - To Review & Agree expenditure for tree work - Clerk**

Cllrs had had sight of the Tree Survey for 2026 and the cost for the necessary tree work at £640.00. The Clerk confirmed there were funds to cover this cost in the budget. Cllrs **AGREED** unanimously to pay for the tree work. **Action Point 5.**

**62. Update on Changing Banks - Clerk (Appendix E).**

Clerk's report attached to the minutes.

**63. Update on Moving to .GOV.UK - Clerk (Appendix F).**

Clerk's report attached to the minutes.

**64. Report on Highways & Twittens – Cllr Embry**

**Illegal Fence at 23 Deans Road**

We have shared the news of the property being put on the market with East Sussex Highways Enforcement, and Karl Taylor (Assistant Director of Transport & Operations), in case this impacts the legal proceedings that are currently underway regarding the removal of the illegal fence. They have acknowledged this information with thanks.

**CityFibre**

CityFibre has been undergoing considerable organisational and personnel changes. The responsibility for the Alfriston Build will be handed over to Ben Green and Zoe Bloxham at the end of June. Meanwhile, I have continued to liaise with Josh Cooper (Delivery Lead) as Tom Foy has now left the company. He has advised that Alfriston Village will be 'ready for release' in July 2026 with the following exceptions:

- Properties on Whiteway past the lane up to the Campsite
- Rope Walk
- Bottom of River Lane

The works on White Way to repair the Openreach network cannot be completed at night, so road closures are required. ESCC has deferred these closures until after the summer period so that the impact to the village's tourism industry is reduced. When the CF contractors return to carry out these works, they will also complete the outstanding works on Rope Walk and the bottom of River Lane.

**East Sussex Highways**

A reminder that Highways actively encourage members of the public to raise problems using their online reporting tool: <https://live.eastsussexhighways.com/report-problem> or by calling 0345 6080193 if it is an emergency.

I have put together an agenda for our next Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) meeting with Highways, which they have unfortunately had to postpone until July. Topics include:

- Beachy Head Marathon TMP
- TMPs in general
- HGVs
- Central Line Road Markings for Whiteway
- Overgrown vegetation, including Weaver's Lane
- Potholes, kerb repairs, road resurfacing
- Alfriston Road, North Street & Lullington Junction signpost

- Loose Gravel sign on West Street
- Blocked drains & gullies

At the start of April, I made a data request to ESCC regarding speed monitoring in the village. Nicholas Mitchell, Principal Transport Schemes Officer ESCC, provided feedback showing that the mean speed post implementation of the 20mph limit, is 24mph. The speed survey was conducted at four sites, over seven days in early October 2025, which is their standard monitoring period. They are satisfied that the installation of signing alone has been successful in reducing the traffic speeds in the village, and Nicholas advised that there are currently no further highway measures proposed for Alfriston.

### Wealden Sign Replacement

I have requested that the slightly dilapidated sign on The Broadway (North Road side) be replaced or repaired by Wealden DC. Jo Heading, Green Spaces Team Leader, has come back to me today advising that this has been added on to their contractors work list, but may take some time as signs are ordered on a quarterly basis.

### The Dene Car Park

I have chased Tina Ford, Car Parking & Facilities Manager at Wealden DC, for an update on the works to the EV chargers that were due to have been completed in late May / early June, as nothing has happened so far which is rather disappointing. I am yet to have a response.

### Verge Damage on The Furlongs

At last month's meeting I was asked to proceed with the possibility of installing bollards on the large grass verge along the Furlongs. William Cruttenden, Licensing & Enforcement Officer at BB for ESH, has been assisting me with the requirements to apply for a license and bollard options, which are as follows:

- Obtain an Excavation Consent (S171) which is £447
- Obtain an Erect a Structure Permit (S115) which is £68 to be renewed every 2 years
- Installation to be completed by a Council approved Contractor, or if an external contractor, they must hold street works accreditation & have public liability insurance of at least £10 million
- Bollards must be passively safe and meet the requirements of BS EN 12767 or an equivalent current standard

William advised that the price of the bollards (should we source them from Glasdon which they recommend) range from £144.65 to £205.34. However, from what I can see the bollard options on this website that are BS EN 12767 compliant add an extra £100 to the cost, making the minimum bollard £287.54 plus VAT. I will continue to work on this, and with William, to get a selection that I can share with the Council before moving forward.

Please note that boulders are not eligible for licensing because they do not meet passive safety standards, and would be classified as obstructions on the highway. However, we can apply for a licence to plant trees / shrubs if Cllrs would still like me to present this as an alternative option to bollards. Cllrs **AGREED** that they would like to see costings for both options.

### HGV Infringements

A reminder to residents any infringements should be reported to the Police using [www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org). I am still chasing for a response from the Road, Traffic & Safety Team at ESH, regarding how they interact with the Newhaven Port Authority on the problem of HGVs using unsuitable roads, and also regarding the proposal they had asked the National Highways Southeast Traffic Signs Team to consult on, which I believe may be related to the Freight Strategy which is in progress as part of the East Sussex Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) (2024-2050), adopted in October 2024.

James MacCleary spoke with Norman Baker regarding the usefulness of liaising with the Port Authority, and the feeling was that this doesn't have much impact. Our communication progressed to the serious concerns we have with the diversion routes as determined by ESCC's Traffic Management Plans. James shares our concerns and has previously raised this with ESCC. I highlighted that it is not adequate for the Council to acknowledge that their TMPs

cause a serious problem, without looking at any measures to address this. He is going to email the Director of Transport on this matter once again, to see what can be done.

#### Coach Signs

I have been in contact with Nicholas Mitchell, Principal Transport Schemes Officer ESCC, to see if further signage can be erected to assist in reducing the number of coaches mistakenly coming through the village, as the small sign that currently exists is not enough.

#### Behaviour towards AEG & APC volunteers

At the last meeting an incident of unacceptable behaviour in the form of verbal abuse to a fellow Cllr from a trader was recorded at the request of our Chair. I am not aware of any further instances since then, but APC continues to monitor the situation, and we would remind residents to log any forms of inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour with the Clerk, noting that such behaviour will not be tolerated.

#### Commercial Bin Storage on Star Lane

ESH Enforcement, Wealden, and SDNPA have all advised that they are unable to provide any assistance on this matter. SDNPA suggested that these may cause an access issue for emergency services, and I have raised a query with the Fire Services as per their suggestion.

#### Obstructions on the Highway

ESH Enforcement has spoken with the business owner of the Chalk Coffee Shop, and it has been agreed that as the raised footpath is Highways land, signs may only be displayed during business hours, and must not cause an obstruction, allowing sufficient clearance for pedestrians at all times. I have highlighted that the A-Board is currently positioned on the side nearest the road, which does cause an obstruction, particularly for wheelchair users, and pushchairs. The Enforcement Officer will be revisiting the business, and we will receive an update in due course.

#### **65. Report on Allotments & Recreation Ground – Cllr Rabagliati**

Allotments – there have been two new allotment holders this month, which now only leaves three vacant plots. Some plots have no sign of work on them, after the Coffeehouse Conversation we will look into this.

Community Orchard Grant - the deadline for comments from allotment holders on this is 30<sup>th</sup> June. The main objection that stood out is how the trees will be maintained and public access, this will be discussed at the Coffeehouse Conversation and brought back to APC.

#### **66. Report on Public Transport & Environment – Cllr Harris**

Nothing to report on Public Transport, except to thank Cllr Embry for attending the Cuckmere Buses meeting – they are a friendly and impressive bunch, and I hope she enjoyed the occasion.

Wind and rain over the past month did cause some branches to fall on footpaths and I reported those that I was aware of, or made aware of. As far as I know, there are no current obstructions.

I reported to the last meeting that 'Walk, Cycle, Wheel' (formerly Sustrans) are undertaking a feasibility study to improve the cycle route between Berwick Station to Alfriston and Litlington. They were due to make a site visit this month, and to contact landowners and stakeholders in August and September. I understand that this is a five year project for which government funding is available. I have received no further details of the scheme, but will of course keep the Council informed as information becomes available.

#### Repainting of the White Bridge.

I reported to the May meeting that I had approached East Sussex County Council (as owners of the White Bridge) to ascertain whether repainting works were include in their future schedule of works, and received the reply that no works were scheduled, as the structure was in good condition, and that repainting would therefore be simply cosmetic. I had also approached the SDNPA with a view to an application for a grant from CIL, or other funds, and

was informed that that the applications 'window' will re-open later this autumn, for funding in the 2026/27 financial year.

Clearly, repainting of the bridge is going to be a considerable project, involving coordination in the following particular areas:-

Consents for East Sussex CC, DEFRA – and probably several other bodies

Health and Safety Issues

Specifications for the work involved, and Method of Work statements.

Tendering process and selection of contractor

Funding – Grant applications and possible fund raising

Timing of the works, recognition that the bridge will have to be closed for a significant period.

Dealing with footpath closure and diversion notices.

I would therefore propose that a working party or committee be set up to investigate these areas, and others which I am sure I have missed, and that members should be drawn from residents of Alfriston. Whilst the parish council should certainly be represented on the group, I feel that 'ownership' of the scheme should be village wide.

Cllr Harris suggested that the next Coffeehouse Conversation be held in July, with the topic being the White Bridge, where we can discuss setting up a working party. Cllrs all **AGREED**, the Clerk was asked to contact Cllrs to co-ordinate a Saturday in July. **Action Point 6.** The Chair confirmed that the aim of a working party would be to examine these issues and to see whether it is feasible for the village to pursue it.

I will be attending a 'Stakeholder Update Meeting', organised by the National Trust and the Environment Agency, relating to the proposals for Chyngton Brooks, next Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

I will also join an on line webinar organised by the South Downs National Parks Association on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

#### **67. Report on Strategic Planning – Cllr Parkinson**

Cllr Parkinson confirmed the Emergency Plan is now in operation. There are three refuges – AWMH, OCC & Cricket Pavilion. An Emergency Kit has been placed in each one. The Chair thanked Cllr Parkinson for putting these together.

#### **68. Report on The Tye - Cllr Spring**

Byelaw Sign - further to discussions last month Cllr Spring had managed to get two signs printed at no cost, these were displayed at the meeting for Cllrs to see.

Rubbish on The Tye - the trial run of putting covers over the bins at night is proving successful. The Gun Room has put a small bin outside the café door, as well as those inside the café. APC thanked Bruce Sutherland and Chris Bates for their help in covering the bins. The Clerk was asked to write to them and extend APC's thanks. **Action Point 7.**

Rotten Wooden Table on Glebe – this is currently lying on the ground. Cllrs **AGREED** for Cllr Spring to move the table to the side. **Action Point 8.**

#### **69 . Reports from Outside Bodies**

69.1 Heartstart - Cllr Watkins advised there was now another defibrillator at The Star and hoping to put more in the village. Still looking for responder volunteers in the village, please contact Cllr Watkins to enquire.

69.2 Alfriston Emergency Group - No report.

69.3 Flood Forum - John Hurwood advised there was nothing to report this month.

69.4 Twinning Association - No report.

69.5 St Andrew's Church - Cllr Monteath-Wilson reported there is another concert at the Church on 25<sup>th</sup> June. These have been well received and proved a good source of income for the restoration fund.

69.6 Clergy House - No report.

69.7 Alfriston War Memorial Hall - Adrian Butcher confirmed there was a committee meeting next week. A reminder that Alfriston Hub can be used to promote upcoming events and to promote local businesses.

69.8 Speedwatch - Cllr Rabagliati advised Speedwatch has been active this month with some early morning sessions added at 7.00am. The first one caught 20 speed offences which were reported to Police. Thanks to the volunteers for their commitment and any more volunteers would be very welcome. Cllrs thanked all those involved with Speedwatch.

69.9 Events - No report.

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

Covered under agenda items 57 & 60.

**71. Public Questions**

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.35pm and opened to public questions. Meeting was then re-opened at 8.36pm.

The Chair re-iterated that APC is very supportive of everyone who has attended tonight and the issues you have raised, and will do everything we can to keep the village as diverse and happy as it is now.

**72. Date of next meeting** – The next meeting will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> July in the AWMH.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.40pm

Please see Appendices attached below and/or on the website

## **MP Parish Report – June 2026**

### **New County Council Administration**

Last month, East Sussex reflected the growing diversity of UK politics, electing councillors from across the political spectrum, including Liberal Democrat, Conservative, Green, Independent and Reform representatives. At the first meeting of the newly formed County Council, however, Conservative and Independent councillors chose to support Reform, enabling them to take control of the council by a single vote, despite opposition from Liberal Democrats and others.

This development is concerning, particularly given the challenges already facing the county after years of Conservative leadership. Many residents continue to raise serious issues, including shortcomings in support for children with special educational needs, increasing pressures in adult social care, and the deteriorating condition of our roads, all core responsibilities of the County Council.

While this was not the outcome I had hoped for, I remain committed to working constructively with the new administration in the interests of local people. It is essential that the council focuses on delivering effective services and addressing these pressing issues with urgency and competence, rather than being distracted by divisive or symbolic actions seen elsewhere. I will continue to hold the administration to account and monitor closely whether it delivers for the people of East Sussex.

### **SEND Submission**

Since becoming a Member of Parliament, I have received a significant volume of correspondence from residents regarding concerns with the SEND system, both locally and nationally. The Government has been consulting on plans to address these issues, and I sought to ensure that the voices of local families were heard.

To support this, I held two consultation events in the constituency with parents, which helped inform my submission to the Government last month. I am grateful to councillors for sharing information with residents and for their engagement in this process. I now

await the outcome of the consultation and will keep residents updated as developments progress.

### **Water**

Residents across the constituency have raised serious concerns about water supply and infrastructure. In Rodmell, some households have experienced prolonged periods of low water pressure, with a number left without a reliable supply for weeks at a time. During this period, communication from South East Water has been inadequate, leaving residents frustrated and without clear information about when issues would be resolved.

Similar concerns are being raised in Ringmer, where ongoing supply problems have prompted worries about whether existing infrastructure can cope, particularly in light of proposed new developments.

I will also be attending events across our towns, villages and parishes over the summer and look forward to engaging with residents during these visits.

---

## **Report – Alfriston PC - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

### **1. Wealden Council sets aside £2m for local infrastructure boost**

A large sum of money has been set aside to help create community infrastructure projects. Wealden District Council has allocated £2 million to a three-year programme, the Community-Led Infrastructure Fund (CLIF).

The aim is to support and establish projects that will meet the needs of the area.

The fund prioritises those that will help the community's resilience and wellbeing, support a thriving local economy, or promote environmental sustainability.

The money has been made available through the Community Infrastructure Levy and the Climate Emergency Reserve.

If organisations are eligible, they can apply for a grant from £5,000 up to £200,000.

Eligible organisations include not-for-profit organisations, registered charities, constituted community groups, parish or town councils, schools (with community benefit), sports clubs and cultural organisations.

However, these organisations must have been active in Wealden within the past 24 months and have at least 20 per cent match funding prior to application, and projects must be located within the district

A spokesman said: "This fund is about investing in the heart of our communities, which create spaces and infrastructure that improves lives, brings people together and supports the wellbeing of all our residents.

"This funding will help to deliver projects that make a lasting difference across Wealden."

The fund is now open for applications.

For more information or to discuss project eligibility, organisations can contact the **CLIF grant funding coordinator** by email at [CLIF@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:CLIF@wealden.gov.uk) or by phone on 01323 443322.

### **2. South Downs Local Plan**

#### **Have your say on vital placemaking plan**

*The South Downs National Park Authority has published the South Downs Local Plan (Proposed Submission) for Regulation 19 (Publication) consultation.*

This is the final consultation stage before the plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination by a Planning Inspector. This consultation stage differs from previous consultations on the new Local Plan, as the Planning Inspector

#### **Consultation details:**

Consultation period: **12 May to 23 June 2026 (closing at 23:59)**

Documents published:

- The South Downs Local Plan – Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) May 2026
- The Policies Map
- Supporting evidence (including Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment) and background documents

View the [consultation documents on our website](#)

Hard copies of the documents are available for inspection at our principal offices during opening hours:

- **South Downs Centre**, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH, see the [website for opening hours](#)
- **Seven Sisters Country Park Visitor Centre**, Exceat, East Sussex, BN25 4AD, see the [website for opening hours](#)

Alternatively, the documents can be viewed at the following libraries during their opening hours:

- **Lewes Library**, Styles Field, Friars Walk, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2LZ

If you are having trouble accessing the documents, or if you require the consultation documents in an alternative format, please contact the Planning Policy Team via email at [planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk)

#### **Making representations**

During this stage, comments should focus on:

- **Whether the Local Plan meets the legal requirements; and**
- **Whether it is sound (positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy).**

**Representations must be submitted by Tuesday 23 June at 23:59** and cannot normally be accepted after this date.

#### **Publicity**

If you are able, please help promote the consultation by sharing this [poster](#)

**We strongly encourage all representations to be made online using our consultation portal:** <https://southdowns-consult.objective.co.uk>

Submitting comments online is the quickest and most efficient way to make a representation and helps us to process all representations promptly and effectively. If you are unable to comment online, representations may alternatively be submitted using the **Representation Questionnaire**, and returned:

- **By email:** [planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk)
- **By post:** Planning Policy Team, South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH

Further details on how to comment, and what matters can be raised at this stage, and how representations will be handled are set out in our **Guidance Note on Making a Representation**, and **Statement of Representations Procedure**.

#### **What happens next**

Following the close of consultation, the Local Plan and all duly made representations will be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination by a Planning Inspector.

#### **Data protection**

Representations will be made publicly available as part of the examination process. For information on how we handle personal data, please see the [website for our privacy notice](#).

You can also view our [Frequently Asked Questions on our website](#).

If you have any questions about the consultation, please contact the Planning Policy Team at [planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk) or by telephone at 01730 814810.

**Kind regards**  
**Planning Policy Team**  
**South Downs National Park Authority**

### **1. Government to consult on modified Sussex Local Government Reorganisation proposal**

Government has announced it will consult on a potential modification to the two unitary proposals for reorganisation of local government in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

For East Sussex, a potential modification to the single unitary proposed by East Sussex - one single unitary authority which would see East Sussex County Council and Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother and Wealden councils becoming one council - was formally requested by Brighton and Hove City Council in response to an initial consultation and seeks to move four wards and one parish from Lewes into an expanded Brighton and Hove, reducing the size of the East Sussex unitary council. It would mean that LGR could look like:

- **Authority A:** Brighton plus the following wards and parish from Lewes (as requested) – East Saltdean & Telscombe Cliffs, Peacehaven West, Peacehaven East, Peacehaven North, Falmer Parish (from Kingston ward). That would give the authority a population of around 308,000.
- **Authority B:** Eastbourne, Hastings, Rother, Wealden and remaining parts of Lewes. That would give the authority a population of around 537,000.

The Secretary of State wishes to explore whether this potential modification would deliver the positive strengths of the East Sussex proposal in relation to service delivery while facilitating the growth of Brighton and Hove.

The [government consultation](#) runs until 23.59pm 15 June'26 (i.e. today's meeting date).

#### **For further information please contact:**

Matthew China  
Policy Insight & Communications  
Manager / Transformation  
Programme  
Wealden District Council  
Email:  
[matthew.china@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.china@wealden.gov.uk)

Or

Annemarie Field  
Senior Media and Communications  
officer  
Wealden District Council  
Tel: 07985 812076  
Email:  
[Annemarie.field@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:Annemarie.field@wealden.gov.uk)

## 1. Stay Smart, Grow Strong

Following the success of Start Smart, Grow Strong, funded through UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocations for Wealden District Council, Eastbourne Borough Council and Rother District Council, the East Sussex Growth Hub has commissioned Freedom Works to deliver Stay Smart, Grow Strong - a next-step programme designed for established sole traders, micro and small businesses.

This programme supports businesses that are already trading and now want to gain clarity, strengthen their foundations, and prepare confidently for growth.

Stay Smart, Grow Strong is a new series of eight fully funded, expert-led workshops delivered across East Sussex. The programme focuses on the key skills business owners need as they move beyond start-up, including developing more effective marketing and sales approaches, strengthening financial understanding, and planning for sustainable long-term growth.

Participants will also benefit from practical guidance from experienced facilitators and the opportunity to connect with other local business owners.

Workshops will take place at locations across East Sussex between May and July 2026. For more information, visit: [eventbrite.co.uk/o/start-smart-grow-strong-112761617411?msockid=3efd8bd55add6b752fce9cc55b296a66](https://eventbrite.co.uk/o/start-smart-grow-strong-112761617411?msockid=3efd8bd55add6b752fce9cc55b296a66)

## 2. Sundry Business Training and Networking Opportunities

### a) Speed Networking at Bede's

Attend Bede's School for an evening of speed networking – the perfect setting to make new connections and grow your network. Run by Hailsham Chamber of Commerce, the event includes a buffet and the chance to meet like-minded local professionals.

*Thursday 18th June, 6 - 8:30pm, Bede's Senior School, Upper Dicker. £20 pp.*

### b) Staying Safe and Sound: Cyber for Small Business

Small Business Britain and BT have come together to deliver this free four-week live webinar series, designed to give you practical, straightforward guidance to help protect your business from everyday cyber threats.

*Every Thursday throughout June, 10 - 11am, Online. Free Entry.*

### c) FSB Connect in Eastbourne

Looking to grow your business network in a relaxed and welcoming space? Join one of the many Federation for Small Business' (FSB) in-person business networking events, designed for small business owners, freelancers and entrepreneurs.

*Tuesday 14th July, 10am - 12pm, The Friday Street Farm, Eastbourne. £10pp.*

## 3. Toxic Algae Warning Issued At Seven Sisters Country Park

Visitors are being warned to stay out of the water at Seven Sisters Country Park after potentially toxic blue-green algae was discovered in the meanders of the Cuckmere River.

The warning has been issued by the South Downs National Park Authority, which is advising people to avoid entering the water and to keep dogs on leads at all times.

Officials say anyone who has come into contact with the water and begins to feel unwell should seek immediate medical or veterinary advice.

Blue-green algae occurs naturally in freshwater environments, but some forms can produce harmful toxins affecting both humans and animals.

According to the Environment Agency, the algae can either float in the water or attach itself to rocks and other surfaces.

While it plays an important role in aquatic ecosystems, bloom-forming algae can release dangerous toxins.

Those toxins can prove fatal to wild animals, livestock and pets, while humans may suffer skin rashes or illness if contaminated water is swallowed.

The South Downs National Park Authority says it is continuing to work with the Environment Agency and will provide further updates when more information becomes available.

### 1. Councillor Ward Budgets Scheme

The Councillor Ward Budgets Scheme 2026/27 re-opened on 1 May 2026 and there has already been a steady trickle of new applications.

The [Scheme and Application Form](#) are accessible via the Council's website.

## [Appendix C - Nick White's Letter](#)

Dear Suzanna

I hope you're well. I'll be coming along to the APC meeting on June 15th to talk - in the opening questions - about an initiative being supported by all of the village shops - Alfriston Pride Month. I've attached a copy of the letter I gave to businesses explaining the idea and why now.

Best wishes

Nick

### Emmett & White Antiques and The Dressing Room

Dear fellow business owner

William and I were recently made aware of an incident in the village that left us both shocked and saddened. It involved expressions of transphobia and homophobia that have no place in a community such as ours. As a gay couple who are proud to call Alfriston home, we feel strongly that this moment presents an opportunity for us all to come together and demonstrate the values that make our village special: kindness, respect, inclusion, and acceptance.

We know that the actions of a few individuals do not represent the views of the vast majority of people who live and work here. However, it is important that we make it clear, both to residents and visitors alike, that Alfriston is a place where everyone is welcome, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, age, or background.

To show our support for a truly inclusive village, we are planning a Pride-themed window display and would like to invite you to join us by creating a display in your own shop.

Pride is an opportunity to celebrate diversity and recognise the many contributions that LGBTQ+ people make to our communities. More importantly, it is a visible reminder that everyone deserves to feel safe, respected, and valued. By taking part, your business can help send a powerful message that Alfriston stands for inclusion and that there is no place here for prejudice or discrimination.

Your display can be as simple or as elaborate as you wish. You may choose to incorporate rainbow colours or Pride flags, artwork, flowers, historical information, themed merchandise, or simply a message of welcome and support. Every contribution, no matter its size, will help create a collective statement that our High Street is a place of belonging for all.

Although Pride Month officially takes place in June, we have come to this a little late and are therefore proposing to hold our Pride Window initiative during August. We hope this will give businesses plenty of time to plan their displays and enable us to create a vibrant and visible celebration throughout the village.

We sincerely hope that you will consider joining us. Together, we can demonstrate the warmth, generosity, and community spirit for which Alfriston is known, and show clearly that everyone is welcome here. It would be great if you could let us know if you will be taking part as we may be able to get some publicity around this.

Thank you for your support in making our village a place where everyone can feel accepted, respected, and welcomed.

Yours

Nick & Will

info@emmettandwhite.com

[Appendix D - Correspondence from a resident re Alfriston Pride](#)

**Sent:** 13 June 2026 13:23

**To:** clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk

**Subject:** Themes in our Community

My apologies we can not be with this evening as we will be at Glynebourne

I am writing in regard to Nick Whites initiative, as I understand, to label our August festivities. I should state that I hold nothing against the LGBT community. In fact during the mid 70s, when attitudes were very different I supported a very good friend through the arduous process of "coming out".

We live, from my perspective, in a very harmonious community. This has developed over many generations, through families coming to the village along with those who can trace their family history in the village. Making a valuable contribution to our wonderful environment.

Accordingly, I am alarmed at this attempt to label a period of our year with a "special interest theme". When we start to attach labels to elements of our lives we create barriers. Whether it's sexual, political, racial, whatever. It creates division. We have had many successful community celebrations over the last decade, making a significant contribution to village life. I would hate to see this delicate balance of inclusion broken.

There are many platforms for those with special interests to air their views. I don't believe Alfriston should be added to the list.

Regards

## **ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026  
Report Subject: **CLERK'S UPDATE ON CHANGING TO UNITY TRUST BANK**  
By: **Suzanna Dry, Clerk & RFO**

---

Update - The Clerk has instructed Unity Trust Bank to open an on-line account for APC. The Clerk has an on line meeting with Unity Bank on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June to progress this.

Our account with Santander will remain in place until the on-line banking with Unity Trust Bank is set up and running.

---

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
Report Subject: **CLERK'S REPORT ON CHANGING BANKS FOR MAY APC MEETING**  
By: **Suzanna Dry, Clerk & RFO**

---

Further to my earlier report below, please see attached form showing fee comparison for our current bankers Santander, Unity Bank Trust and Barclays bank.

To enable multi factor authentication, the Clerk plus the two other bank signatories (the Chair & Vice Chair) will need to be set up for on line banking. The Clerk will prepare on line payments on a weekly basis and the Chair or Vice Chair will need to log on once a week to confirm authorisation, before the payments can be sent.

Recommendation:

## **ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026  
Report Subject: **UPDATE ON REVIEWING WEBSITE & EMAIL SYSTEMS**  
By: **Suzanna Dry, Clerk & RFO**

---

Update - Some information re contract details have been received. I am currently putting all the information into a summary for Cllrs and will distribute the summary and full information from each supplier to Cllrs as soon as this is ready.

However, priority is being given to finalising APC's transition to new bankers.

---

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
Report Subject: **CLERK'S UPDATE ON REVIEWING WEBSITE & EMAIL SYSTEMS**  
By: **Suzanna Dry, Clerk & RFO**

---

Further to my earlier report below, we have received 3 quotes. However, none of these have any information regarding contracts, which was specifically requested in the original specification.

I have chased for this and as soon as details on contracts are received, I will bring back to the next meeting.

Suzanna