

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Stephen Smith

Tel/Fax 01323 870212

alfristonpc@googlemail.com

Brockmead
Litlington
East Sussex
BN26 5RD

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 21 September 2009 in the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr S Charlton (in the Chair)
Cllr J Byford
Cllr J Dumelow
Cllr G Ellis
Cllr M Hogestijn
Cllr D Monteath-Wilson
County Cllr N Bennett
District Cllr A Watkins

In attendance: Dr June Goodfield – Chair of Save Alfriston for Everyone (SAFE)
13 Parishioners
Stephen Smith – Clerk

Public Questions

1. Mr Wilson drew attention to 4 “A” Boards which had recently appeared outside Deans Place Hotel and wondered whether they contravened local byelaws. Cllr Monteath-Wilson advised that they were situated on an area which was maintained by the hotel and therefore almost certainly were situated on private land. No further action would be taken.
2. a. Mr Lion voiced his concerns over a number of recent cases of Parking Tickets being issued by the Police to motorists who parked on yellow lines. He advised that his business depended on people using the Post Office and that those facilities were currently running at a loss which would be exacerbated if people were unable to park outside for a short time while conducting their business. Cllr Charlton undertook to speak to the Police about the current situation.
b. Mr Lion also drew attention to an alleged sign which had appeared in the village proclaiming that coaches were not welcome. Cllr Charlton advised that despite extensive enquiries no firm evidence of its existence had been produced, but asked everyone present to be on the lookout so that action could be taken if such a sign appeared in the future.
3. a. Mrs Daw noted the existence of a hole in the carriageway of Weavers Lane. Cllr Charlton will speak to ESCC Highways Department.
b. Mrs Daw also voiced her concerns about delivery drivers to the Wingrove regularly causing an obstruction on the Tye Road. Cllr Charlton asked the Clerk to send a letter to the owners of the Wingrove reminding them of their responsibilities.
4. Mr Phillips drew attention to the poor condition of the recently established WDC Recycling Centre at Deans Place. The Clerk will contact WDC to request a tidy-up.

The Meeting

402. 0 APOLOGIES for ABSENCE

402.1 The Clerk had received apologies from Cllr Savage, County Cllr Bennett and District Cllr Watkins.

403.0 MINUTES

403.1 Unadopted Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 July 2009 had been circulated previously. Acceptance of the Minutes as a true record was **proposed** by Cllr Dumelow, **seconded** by Cllr Hogestijn and **agreed**.

404.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

404.1 The Clerk read a report from County Cllr Bennett confirming his attendance at the recent SAFE meeting held in the village and that he has recently spoken to ESCC Byways and Rights of Way officers about safety, especially in connection with the Old Coach Road.

405.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

405.1 The Clerk read a report from District Cllr Watkins advising of his continued involvement with SAFE. He is also currently pursuing the need for a larger sign for the narrow part of Sloe Lane and the absence of electricity to the Willows Car Park attendants hut and the toilets in the Willows Coach Park.

406.0 ALLOTMENTS and RECREATION GROUND – Cllr Byford

406.1 Allotment Renewals / Waiting List

Cllr Byford noted the poor state of certain allotments and advised that she was looking to renumber / reallocate certain of the plots to assist those plot holders who were experiencing difficulty in tending to their current plot. It is anticipated that letters will be sent during the Autumn reminding plot holders of their responsibilities.

406.2 Any other Allotment matter

a. Cllr Byford advised that the provision of a Notice Board remains a priority and will be revisited.

b. Cllr Byford noted that the walkways between allotments are not being cut properly and will liaise with the Clerk to ensure that the terms of the grass cutting contract are being observed.

406.3 Licence for Clubs using Pavilion

The Clerk and the Pavilion sub-committee will arrange a further meeting with the Cricket Club to progress this matter.

406.4 Recreation Ground – Play Area / Fencing

Cllr Byford is conducting a review and will report again next month, although she noted that the swing remains unfixed.

406.5 Any other Recreation Ground matter

Arrangements to hold an activity day at the Sports Pavilion are ongoing.

407.0 FINANCE – The Clerk

407.1 Statement of Finances

The Clerk advised the summary of bank account balances as at 21 September 2009

Precept Deposit account	8,118.17
Current account	13,879.72
Savings Account	5,484.27
Car Park Account	<u>32,560.55</u>
Total	<u>£60,042.71</u>

407.2 Invoices for Payment

a. August 2009

The Clerk presented the following cheques for payment

- £ 278.00 – Wages – C Burden
- £ 347.45 – Wages – D Skertchly
- £ 696.95 – Wages – S Smith
- £ 451.98 – HMRC – Tax and NI
- £ 1483.00 – HMRC - VAT
- £ 220.00 – Richard Bartlett – Tree Cutting
- £ 80.00 – Alfriston War Memorial Hall – Donation 2008/2009
- £ 4.00 – Wealden District Council - Car Park underpayment

Total **£ 3,700.34**

b. September 2009

The Clerk presented the following cheques for payment

- £ 250.40 – Wages – M Honisett
- £ 333.08 – Wages – D Skertchly
- £ 695.95 – Wages – S Smith
- £ 477.18 – HMRC – Tax and NI
- £ 512.88 – Glasdon – Litter Bins
- £ 130.00 – Alfriston War Memorial Hall – Donation 2009/2010
- £ 129.34 – Viking Direct – Stationery
- £ 112.20 – BT Telephone
- £ 77.62 – BT Internet
- £ 40.00 – Go Pest – (re Recreation Ground)
- £ 17.51 – S Smith – Reimbursement of Expenses (re Tye /Litter)

Total **£ 2,776.16**

A proposal to accept the Finance Report was **proposed** by Cllr Byford, **seconded** by Cllr Monteath-Wilson and **agreed**.

407.3 AWMH Hire

The Clerk confirmed that the hire of the Hall by APC would continue to be funded by a mutually acceptable donation, reviewable and payable annually.

407.4 External Audit 2008-2009

The Clerk reported the accounts had not yet been completed.

407.5 Any other Finance matter

None

At this point Cllr Charlton adjourned the Meeting for a presentation by Dr June Goodfield, Chair of SAFE

Dr Goodfield started her presentation by referring to items which had been raised during Public Questions prior to the meeting and confirmed that SAFE had had nothing to do with any 'Coaches Not Welcome' sign, and that so far as she was aware, PCSOs did not affix tickets to illegally parked vehicles straight away.

She made the following points:-

- WDC's Duty of Care to the conservation of Listed Buildings
- Civilian Parking Enforcement is currently out of the question in Alfriston, given WDC and ESCC policies.
- It is possible that English Heritage may assist financially with the conservation of buildings
- ESCC will shortly be implementing a 20 mph speed limit in the village centre.
- Overweight lorries continue to traverse the village illegally despite Lorrywatch.
- SAFE continues to investigate ways to overcome problems at the bottleneck points.
- It would be helpful if members of the public reported any incidents to the Police at the time as the chances of a successful prosecution are greatly enhanced.
- It is hoped to hold a further Public Meeting in the New Year.

Cllr Charlton then reconvened the Meeting

408.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS – Cllr Charlton

408.1 Half Yearly Meeting with ESCC (SLR)

Cllr Charlton outlined an experiment which is being proposed by ESCC Highways to regulate the flow of traffic through the bottleneck in the High Street near to Moonrakers Restaurant by traffic signals. At this stage final details have still to be worked out, but it is likely that APC will be asked for a contribution to the costs of monitoring traffic flows.

In addition the proposed 20 mph speed restriction in the High Street will now be going forward to the consultation stage which is likely to take a minimum of 6 months, prior to implementation. This will cost APC £2,300 plus £600 advertising costs. A resolution supporting this expenditure was **proposed** by Cllr Byford, **seconded** by Cllr Hogestijn and **agreed** by all Councillors.

The sign to be posted in the Drivers' Lounge in Transmanche Ferries, showing the preferred route to Alfriston from Newhaven via the A26, A27 and C39, prepared by ESCC, was circulated to general approval.

408.2 Lorry Watch

Cllr Charlton reported that PCSO Katie Newton continued to provide positive feedback concerning its effectiveness.

408.3 Temporary Road Closure Application

Cllr Charlton advised that an application had been received via WDC from the Comforts and Joys Committee requesting a partial closure of the High Street on December 5 (Saturday) and 6 (Sunday) between 13.00 and 19.00 hours. A discussion about safety ensued.

At this point Cllr Charlton adjourned the meeting to allow Mr Phillips representing the Comfort and Joys Committee to address Councillors. He confirmed that the Committee would marshal the event to the highest standards, to ensure public safety. Following his presentation the meeting reconvened.

Councillors then instructed the Clerk to contact WDC to advise that APC had no objection to the closure, provided the event was stringently marshalled.

408.4 Any other Highway matter

- a. Cllr Monteath-Wilson sought confirmation that APC had been involved in the decisions on enforcing the ongoing Lorry Watch programme, which was given by Cllr Charlton.
- b. Cllr Hogestijn mooted the idea of an extra SLR Meeting with ESCC during this busy period, but this was not to be possible.
- c. Cllr Hogestijn suggested the possible move of the soon to be replaced pebble dash litter bin from the Tye to the Recreation Ground, as well as the acquisition of a new bin for the High Street. This is to be revisited next month.
- d. Cllr Hogestijn sought to have remedial work done to the oak tree in Market Square

409.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING – Cllr Hogestijn

409.1 Parish Plan Implementation

Cllr Hogestijn confirmed that the APC Parish Plan had underpinned the response to the Local Development Framework Consultation submission to WDC and had also acted as a mandate in connection with the Downland Protection Petition.

409.2 Local Development Framework

The Consultation Document has been returned to WDC and can now be viewed on their website.

409.3 Future of United Reformed Church and Hall

Cllr Hogestijn has been advised that new Architects have been engaged by the Church's Southern Synod and that revised plans for development could be ready by mid October.

409.4 WDC Housing Summit.

Cllr Hogestijn advised that the results of the Housing Survey were not provided, contrary to expectations. She was also disappointed to report that the meeting started one hour late. Cllr Hogestijn revealed that she has spoken to the Wealden and Rother Partnership about the possibility of obtaining a Grant to assist with the regeneration of the Cuckmere river. This item is to be added to future Agendas. In addition she has scheduled a meeting with WDC to discuss omissions to the register of Listed Buildings.

410.0 PLANNING – Cllr Charlton

410.1 Minutes from Planning Committee meetings held since last Parish Meeting

- WD/2009/1699/F: West Down, Kings Ride, BN26 5XN – Proposed pitch roof canopy. Replacement of plain tile hanging with oak weatherboarding and replacement of doors and windows including existing door canopy and finials – *No objections.*
- WD/2009/1855/F: Sloe Cottage, West Street, BN26 5UN – Proposed 2 storey extension to the side of existing property. – *No objections.*

410.2 Matters for consideration by Planning Committee after the Meeting

- WD/2009/1899/F: River Bank, River Lane, BN26 5SX – Loft conversion to include 3 no. pitched roof dormers to front elevation and 1 no. pitched roof dormer to rear elevation.
- WD/2009/1919/LB: Path between Candle Cottage and no. 5 High Street, BN26 5SZ – Re-pave path from High Street to access rear of properties.

410.3 Decisions Notified

- WD/2009/ 0992/LB: Tuckvar, West Street, BN26 5UX – Removal of cement render from West wing which is cracked, dilapidated and allowing damp ingress, replacing with lime mortar, 'Limetec Coarse Stuff' – *Granted 21/7*
- WD/2009/1108/F: Down Lee, North Road, BN26 5XE – Alterations and additions to a single family dwelling, including single storey rear and side extension and first floor extension. Alterations to the roof including a barn hip, a dormer and a gable alteration – *Granted 11/8*
- WD/2009/1272/F: Follers Manor, Seaford Road, BN26 5TT – Proposed rear (South East) lower garden terrace and provision of wildlife pond in place of existing tennis court – *Granted 24/7*
- WD/2009/1273/LB: Follers Manor, Seaford Road, BN26 5TT – Proposed rear (South East) lower garden terrace and provision of wildlife pond in place of existing tennis court – *Granted 24/7*
- WD/2009/1320/F: Rose Cottage, North Street BN26 5UQ – Replacement railings to front boundary together with provision of detached garage block with first floor studio – *Withdrawn.*
- WD/2009/1321/LB: Rose Cottage, North Street BN26 5UQ – Replacement railings to front boundary together with provision of detached garage block with first floor studio – *Withdrawn.*
- WD/2009/1335/F: 14 Deans Road, BN26 5XJ – Single storey extension to rear including new window to utility and replacement of door and window to hall – *Granted 30/7*

410.4 Any other Planning Matter

a. Cllr Charlton noted that an application had recently been received in connection with 8 West Street, BN25 5UX, which would be dealt with at a separate meeting in the next fortnight at a date and time to be decided.

b. The Clerk advised he had been made aware that a further consultation was being sought over an ongoing application by Pelham Holdings to develop a site at Honey Farm, Polegate, which although outside the APC boundary, was likely to have a profound effect if it were to be approved and suggested that Councillors might wish to respond.

411.0 RIGHTS OF WAY and COUNTRYSIDE – Cllr Dumelow

411.1 Any Rights of Way matter

Cllr Dumelow reported there had been a case of fly tipping in Winton Street, which had been reported to WDC, but on which action had still to be taken.

411.2 Condition of Fence between the Spots and Glebeland

The Clerk reported that he has still not received a full response from the landlord's agents to his letter requesting repairs to the fence, despite reminders being sent.

411.3 South Downs / National Park – Progress with Consultation Meetings

A meeting is to be held at Arundel Town Hall on 7 October at which Parish Councillor representation on the new National Park Authority is to be discussed and to which APC Councillors have been invited.

411.4 Any Countryside Matter

Cllr Dumelow advised that discussions concerning the conversion of stiles to kissing gates along certain rights of way have been initiated and are ongoing.

411.5 Any report from Tree Warden

None.

412.0 The TYE

412.1 Litter Bins

Cllr Monteath-Wilson noted that a new litter and dog litter bin had now been installed, although some branches above the old dog litter bin need to be felled to improve its visibility

412.2 Any other matter relating to the Tye

a. Cllr Monteath-Wilson's noted that the posts and chains refurbishment remained outstanding.

b. Cllr Monteath-Wilson and the Clerk will liaise to prepare a request to local businesses to ensure that deliveries are scheduled to minimise disruption to other Tye users.

c. The Clerk advised the Charity Commission return for the Tye remained outstanding, but that he expected it to be completed by the next meeting.

d. Cllr Hojestijn drew attention to the condition of the Tenaxed area. In the absence of Cllr Savage, it was decided to adjourn this topic until the next meeting.

413.0 CAR and COACH PARKS and PUBLIC TRANSPORT – Cllr Ellis

413.1 Condition of Posts in Dene Car Park

Cllr Ellis is arranging for estimates for the repair of damaged posts

413.2 Extension to Willows Car Park

As this had been discussed over 2 years ago, the Clerk was asked to refer back to old Minutes and report to the next meeting.

413.3 Vacancy for Car Park Attendant

The Clerk reported that a vacancy had arisen for a weekend Car Park Attendant, following the resignation of Mr Burden, and that he would liaise with the chairman to advertise for a replacement. A temporary appointment had been made in the meantime. Cllrs asked the Clerk to write to Mr Burden, thanking him for his service.

413.4 Any other Car and Coach Park Matter

None.

413.5 Any Public Transport matter

None.

414.0 PARISH CLERK

414.1 Jubilee Clock

The Clerk reported that remedial work to minimise the sound of the mechanism had not yet commenced, although a local contractor had now been identified.

414.2 APC Equipment Replacement

The Clerk advised Councillors that both Notice Boards required attention as they were not weatherproof and need refurbishing. Approval was given to obtain estimates. In addition the monitor of the APC computer needed replacing as it was flickering, approval was also given to obtain estimates for replacement.

414.3 Any Website matter

The Clerk reported he had corrected the error on the Google Search Engine which gave incorrect details for our Parish. This will now be deleted from the Agenda.

414.4 Any other matter

None

415.0 Reports from Outside Bodies

415.1 Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership

The Clerk read a report confirming that arrangements were well in hand to repeat the success of last year's event, together with a request to address next month's APC meeting. It is expected that the 2010 edition of the brochure will be available for Easter next year.

415.2 Cuckmere Community Bus

No meeting – nothing to report

415.3 Cuckmere Flood Forum

No meeting - nothing to report.

415.4 Festival

Cllr Monteath-Wilson advised that although no precise details of funds raised were yet available, the events had been successful.

415.5 Heartstart

Cllr Dumelow reported that there have been 130 call so far this year, and that the new vehicle has already proved its worth.

416.6 SAFE

Presentation made before Meeting.

416.7 Sussex Police

No report

418.8 Village Hall Committee

Cllr Monteath-Wilson noted that future payments for hire by APC would continue to be made by donation. Next meeting due tomorrow

418.9 Wealden District Association of Local Councils

No Report.

418.10 Any other Outside reports

None.

419.0 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

419.1 Any Correspondence Received

The Clerk had received a request from Berwick Parish Council to support their call to ESCC to take steps to prioritise safety on the Old Coach Road. This was agreed by Councillors.

420.0 DATE of NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 19 October 2009 at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Hall, preceded by Public Questions from 7.15pm.

The Meeting was then closed; however, the following further Public questions / opinions were taken / noted.

- Mrs Gregory asked to be kept advised of when the Planning Meeting for 8 West Street was to be held. The Clerk will oblige.
- Mrs Daw drew attention to the failure of some cyclists to dismount when crossing the White Bridge and wondered whether a sign could be erected asking all riders to dismount, rather than just horse riders, as at present This will be revisited.
- Mr Hurwood noted that APC's subscription to the South Downs Campaign did not appear to have been renewed. The Clerk will investigate.
- Mr Hurwood also asked for details of the loading restrictions that apply on single yellow lines. Cllr Charlton will investigate.