

# ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

## CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16 March 2009 in the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston, commencing at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Cllr D Monteath-Wilson, Chairman, in the Chair  
Cllr S Charlton  
Cllr J Byford  
Cllr J Dumelow  
Cllr G Ellis  
Cllr R Savage

**In attendance:** District Councillor A Watkins  
Prof V Reynolds – Parish Plan Chairman  
Dr J Goodfield – Save Alfriston for Everyone (SAFE) Chairman  
J Hurwood – Cuckmere Flood Forum Parish Representative  
PCSOs M Morter and K Newton  
13 Parishioners  
S Smith - Clerk

### Public Questions

1. Mr Wilson drew attention to a small amount of tree debris which remained on the verge between Deans Place Hotel and Riverdale House in Seaford Road, despite an earlier clearance. Cllr Charlton will contact East Sussex CC Highways to request removal.
2. Mrs Daw noted that there had been no decrease in dog fouling in and round the village, despite assurances that the Wealden DC Dog Warden would increase her patrols. The Clerk confirmed contact had been made with the Dog Warden and that the situation would be kept under review.
3. Mrs Daw expressed concern that the BT kiosk in the Dene Car Park had been adorned with an advertisement for a film which many villagers found offensive. The Clerk advised he had already contacted Wealden DC Planning Department who had agreed to send an Enforcement Officer to investigate.

***Prior to the Meeting the Chair extended a welcome to the following Parish Officials and visitors and invited them to address those present:-***

**Professor Reynolds** advised that the Parish Plan Committee had held two meetings since the public meeting in February. A template has been submitted to Wealden DC which contains a summary of the views of parishioners. This document will feed into the evidence being gathered by Wealden DC for the forthcoming Local Development Framework consultation.

**Dr Goodfield** reported that 120 people attended the SAFE public meeting on 7 March, including Norman Baker MP. SAFE have received many messages of support from many individuals and organisations including English Heritage, the Vanguard Way Working Party, the South Downs Joint Committee and Alfriston Pre-School. At this stage the organisation is building evidence, especially from professionals, about the traffic problems facing the village. Dr Goodfield stressed that SAFE

did not seek to ban, nor displace traffic from the village centre and thanked everyone for their support to date. The next SAFE meeting will be held on 12 June at Deans Place Hotel.

**Mr Hurwood** advised that the next Cuckmere Flood Forum meeting will be held in the War Memorial Hall on 24 March.

**PCSO M Morter** advised that he would shortly be transferring from Alfriston and introduced his successor PCSO Katie Newton who is currently undergoing training.

## **The Meeting**

### **311.0 Apologies for Absence**

**311.1** The Clerk had received an apology for absence from County Cllr Garvican.

### **312.0 Minutes**

**312.1** Unadopted Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 February 2009 had been circulated previously. Acceptance of the Minutes as a true record was **proposed** by Cllr Ellis, **seconded** by Cllr Dumelow and **agreed**.

### **313.0 Report from County Councillor**

**313.1** The Clerk read a report received from Cllr Garvican advising there had been no developments at County level of specific relevance to the Parish.

### **314.0 Report from District Councillor**

**314.1** Cllr Watkins updated the Meeting on the following points which had arisen since the February Parish Council Meeting.

- He was aware that the relining of the Dene car park had been delayed due to a combination of bad weather and essential roadworks which had necessitated digging up part of the car park.
- Free swimming for the over sixties residents of WDC is scheduled to commence on 1 April now that funding has been approved.
- At a recent meeting in Berwick it was resolved that a Friends of Berwick Way organisation be set up.
- The location for a possible recycling point in the village continues to be discussed.
- He had been unable to attend the recent SAFE meeting due to other commitments.
- There had been no tangible progress with the Affordable Housing initiative.
- Although outside this Parish, he noted the Planning Application involving a young Marine injured in Afghanistan who lives in WDC which had been given National Press coverage had now been granted.
- He noted recent Planning decisions within the Parish by WDC which would be detailed later in the meeting as an Agenda item, as well as noting that a recent application for a replacement overhead cable within Alciston Parish had been objected to by that Parish Council.

### **315.0 Address by Wealden District Planning Officer**

**315.1** Cllr Monteath-Wilson expressed her disappointment that no one from WDC Planning Department was able to attend this meeting to explain the planning position relating to the Affordable Housing proposals for the Cuckmere Road. It was especially disappointing to note that although the invitation had been extended to the Planning Department, the apology was relayed through an official within the Housing Department.

### **316.0 The Tye – Cllr Savage**

**316.1 Any matters relating to the Tye**

**a. Dog Bin Emptying** - This had lapsed for one week due to sickness.

**b. Dog Warden** - Our Dog Warden has been asked to pay special attention to the Tye.

**c. Use of Tye** – A request to use the Tye by the Long Man Morris Team between 6.00 and 10.00pm on 20 June has been received. After discussion it was agreed that permission be granted

### **317.0 Car and Coach Parks and Public Transport – Cllr Ellis**

#### **317.1 White Lines and Entry and Exit Markings in Dene Car Park**

Cllr Ellis reported that WDC has still not done this work in view of the bad weather and the emergency road works which involved digging up part of the car park.

#### **317.2 One Way System in Dene Car Park**

The blue exit has not yet been replaced by a red sign by WDC.

#### **317.3 Willows Car Park – Potential Recycling Point**

The Clerk reported on the updated position from WDC. There are three potential sites for recycling:-

- The Star Inn
- The Willows Car Park
- Deans Place Hotel

Councillors then debated the merits of the various sites.

There were concerns about the Star Inn on grounds of noise, although it was noted that in any event it was likely that the owners would go ahead and pay for a commercial operation. It was noted that WDC will require a survey of the Willows site which is likely cost over £3,000, although the annual budget for all of their recycling points (over 70) is only £8,000. Accordingly, it is probable that the majority of the cost for this would be required from APC, (which has no budget for such a project). Councillors were reluctant to spend money on such a survey. Cllr Ellis will investigate the possibility of obtaining a grant for the development of the Willows site.

Cllr Savage will investigate the feasibility of the Deans Place site.

#### **317.4 Any other Car and Coach Park Matter**

- a. Cllr Monteath-Wilson requested an update on the condition of the chains and posts in the Dene Car Park. Cllr Ellis will arrange for an inspection by a local contractor.
- b. Cllr Monteath-Wilson noted that there had been instance when the lights in the Dene Car Park had been on during the day. Cllr Ellis will keep the matter under review.
- c. Cllr Charlton advised that during the recent excavations in the Dene Car Park, the foundations of a windmill had been discovered. Cllr Ellis will advise the Historical Society.

#### **317.5 Any Public Transport matter**

None

### **318.0 Allotments and Recreation Ground – Cllr Byford**

#### **318.1 Re-letting of Plot 22**

The plot requires topsoil which will cost about £200. Interest in taking over the plot has been shown by Alfriston Pre-School. Cllr Byford suggested that the plot be let to them and the fee waived. Councillors agreed with this proposal

#### **318.2 Allotment Competition 2008**

Carried forward to April.

#### **318.3 Any other Allotment matter**

- a. An updated list of plots is to be produced and a letter sent to all holders to confirm that the details held are current.
- b. Progress on the provision of a Notice Board is continuing.

#### **318.4 Pavilion Progress Report**

The inspection has not yet been carried out as the flooring is currently being put down.

#### **318.5 Licence for Clubs using Pavilion**

The Clerk reported this is ongoing and will provide an update in April

#### **318.6 Recreation Ground – Dog Fouling / Play Area**

Cllr Byford is to obtain quotes for the provision of fencing around the play area, both to avoid dog fouling in that area and also to enhance the play experience.

#### **318.7 Any other Recreation Ground matter**

- a. It was noted that a football net needs to be fixed.

### **319.0 Planning – Cllr Charlton**

#### **319.1 Minutes from Planning Committee meetings held since last Parish Meeting**

**Meeting held on 16 February 2009**

- WD/2009/0240/OH: Frog Firle – Re-conductor existing low voltage overhead line.  
– *No objection.*

**Meeting held on 9 March 2009**

- WD/2009/0044/FR: Little Stow, The Furlongs, BN26 5XS – Retrospective application for extension to front roof slope to form loggia and incorporating amendments to Planning Permission WD/2007/2745/F. – *No objection.*
- WD/2009/0308/LB: The Chaise House, West House, BN26 5UX – Formation of small high level window in north elevation of annexe. – *No objection.*
- WD/2009/0368/FA: 10 Deans Road, BN26 5XJ – Removal of Condition 3 of WD/2008/2515/F (replace hedge with fence). - *No objection.*

**319.2 Matters for consideration by Planning Committee after the Meeting**

None.

**319.3 Enforcement Action to be Reported**

None

**319.4 Local Development Framework**

Nothing to report

**319.5 Liquor Licence applications**

None

**320.0 Highways and Twittens – Cllr Charlton**

**320.1 Flint Wall**

The sub-committee had met and would put their proposals to the owners of the land.

**320.2 Pedestrian Exit at Willows Car Park (possibility of pedestrian crossing)**

Cllr Charlton advised that any survey will not take place until agreed with ESCC and that it is likely this will not take place before the summer.

**320.3 Illegal Parking**

Nothing further to report.

**320.4 Monitoring Traffic Volumes**

A meeting with ESCC is to be held in early April to agree a way forward.

**320.5 Lorry Watch**

Cllr Charlton is continuing to obtain details of offending lorries to pass to the Police.

**320.6 Potholes in the High Street and Weavers Lane**

The severe weather of the last few weeks has resulted in a backlog of repairs being completed by ESCC, although Cllr Charlton is in frequent communication to chase completion of the work.

**320.7 Safety of Pedestrians on path adjoining Willows Car Park**

This will be reviewed at the forthcoming Strengthening Local Relationships meeting with ESCC.

**320.8 Strengthening Local Relationships Meeting**

To be held on 3 April 2009.

**320.9 Any other Highway matter**

a. Cllr Ellis noted that the setts by the junction near the Garage had become dislodged. Cllr Charlton will take forward.

**321.0 Rights of Way and Countryside – Cllr Dumelow**

**321.1 Condition of White Bridge**

Cllr Dumelow reported that the two missing slats have now been repaired.

**322.2 The Old Coach Road**

Nothing to report.

**322.3 Update on Berwick Way**

Previously reported upon by District Councillor

**322.4 Any other Rights of Way matter**

None.

**322.5 Condition of Fence between the Spots and Glebeland**

The Clerk has written to the landlord's agents requesting repairs to the fence, as it appears to be the landlord's responsibility and is awaiting a reply.

### **322.6 Any other Countryside matter**

None

### **322.7 South Downs Campaign**

Nothing to report.

### **322.8 Any National Park Matter**

Following a petition to Parliament, it is expected that an announcement on the composition of the National Park will be made very soon. In future meetings the Agenda items covering the South Downs Campaign and the National Park will be combined.

### **322.9 Any report from Tree Warden**

No report, although Cllr Dumelow advised that the Tree Warden had removed a growth of ivy around a Black Poplar tree on the Tye. The Clerk is to write a letter thanking the Tree Warden for his work.

## **323.0 Strategic Planning**

### **323.1 Affordable Housing**

No further progress to report in the absence of an official from WDC's Planning Department at this meeting.

### **323.2 Registration of Allotment land**

The Clerk reported that the Council's solicitors are proceeding to register with the Land Registry.

### **323.3 Emergency Planning Sub-Committee**

Cllr Savage that the sub-committee's work was continuing and that a full report would be made shortly.

### **323.4 Future of United Reformed Church and Hall**

No update available.

*At this point the Chair referred to the vacancy for a Parish Councillor. It is envisaged the co-opted Councillor will hold the Strategic Planning portfolio. There are three interested people and interviews will be held soon.*

## **324.0 Finance – The Clerk**

### **324.1 Statement of Finances**

The Clerk advised the summary of bank account balances as at 16 March 2009

Precept Deposit account	3,511.00
Current account	13,136.21
Savings Account	5,484.27
Car Park Account	<u>34,748.18</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£56,879.66</u></b>

### **324.2 Invoices for Payment - March 2009**

The Clerk presented the following cheques for payment

- £ 229.41 – Wages – C Burden
- £ 157.46 – Wages – D Skertchly
- £ 707.21 – Wages – S Smith
- £ 379.53 – HMRC – Tax and NI
- £2,982.51 – Norvett Electronics Limited – Sports Pavilion
- £1,106.00 – HMRC – VAT
- £ 671.72 – Cale Briparc – Car Park Contract
- £ 189.75 – Smith of Derby – Jubilee Clock Contract
- £ 86.29 – BT – Telephone Services
- £ 65.54 – C Burden – Protective Clothing (Reimbursement)
- £ 55.69 – Viking Direct
- £ 50.00 – Alfriston War memorial Hall – Donation
- £ 41.96 – D Skertchly – Protective Clothing (Reimbursement)
- £ 28.00 – CPRE - Membership

**Total**                    **£6,751.07**

A proposal to accept the Finance Report was **proposed** by Cllr Charlton, **seconded** by Cllr Savage and **agreed**.

### **324.3 Any other Finance matter**

None

## **325.0 Parish Clerk**

### **325.1 Co-Option of Councillor**

The Clerk confirmed that three candidates had come forward prior to this meeting and that interviews would be held soon.

### **325.2 SAFE**

The Clerk confirmed that reports from SAFE would now feature as an Agenda item.

### **325.3 "A" Permits - Willows Car Park**

The Clerk reiterated that "A" Permits were issued for use in the Dene and not the Willows car park. The Chair also reiterated the need for designated bays for disabled drivers to be respected on the Tye and in the car parks.

### **325.4 Any Website matter**

Cllr Savage drew the Clerk's attention to an error on the Google Search Engine which gave incorrect details for our Parish. The Clerk will investigate and report next month.

### **325.5 Any Other matter**

None

## **326.0 Reports from Outside Bodies**

### **326.1 Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership**

Nothing to Report, although the Clerk drew attention to the recent publication of the Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley 2009 brochure.

### **326.2 Cuckmere Community Bus**

Cllr Charlton confirmed the next meeting would be held on 6 April.

### **326.3 Cuckmere Flood Forum**

Next meeting to be held on 24 March.

### **326.4 Festival**

Nothing further to report.

### **326.5 Heartstart**

Cllr Dumelow advised that there have been 23 calls so far this year. The table top sale raised over £500. It is possible that Heartstart will seek to purchase a second-hand 4x4 vehicle to assist with off road incidents.

### **326.6 Parish Plan**

Already covered after public questions

### **326.7 Safer Wealden Partnership**

Nothing to Report.

### **326.8 Village Hall Committee**

Cllr Savage reported that the recent meeting had welcomed Mrs Daw as the new caretaker. The committee noted with sadness the passing of Mr Knight and sent condolences to his family. The roofing on the Hall is to be upgraded. Following on from the renewal of the flooring, all the chairs have been "reshod" to protect the surface. All villagers have been asked to keep a look out for trespassers on the roof, and to report such incidents to the caretaker following a recent incident.

### **326.9 Wealden District Association of Local Councils**

No Report – The Chair advised that a representative needs to be appointed.

### **326.10 Any other Outside reports**

None.

## **327.0 Clerk's Correspondence**

### **327.1 Request from Alfriston Festival Committee for Permissions to Use**

A request has been received which is in line with previous years. Councillors agreed and the Clerk will confirm in writing.

### **327.2 Other Correspondence**

a. The Council has been invited to send representatives to the WDC Planning Conference to be held on 30 March – the Clerk will attend.

- b. The Council has been invited to send representatives to the ESCC Transport Seminar on 24 March – the Clerk will attend.
- c. A letter has been received from a Parishioner drawing the Council's attention to a potential hazard for motorists using the Recreation Ground as Car Park during this year's Festival, following an incident last year. This will be investigated.
- d. The Clerk was asked to advise the date for this year's Annual Assembly. He will confirm the date shortly.

### **328.0 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 20 April 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 were taken.***

- Mr Wilson asked for clarification as to whether the proposed recycling point would be self financing. Councillors advised that although at the present time this was not the case, it did not diminish the need for recycling in the wider context.
- A visitor, Mr White, the Chairman of the Cuckmere Flood Forum drew attention to the problems associated with the recent flooding, although he noted that no homes had been flooded since 2000. The Chair confirmed the Council's stance in supporting a local initiative by Cuckmere Valley Parish Council to highlight the potential difficulties that may arise from the Environment Agency's decision to withdraw maintenance of the Cuckmere Estuary from 2011.
- Professor Reynolds asked when the doorstep recycling plans are to be provided by WDC, which the Chair advised should be in place by 2011.
- Mr Phillips drew attention to the heavy ivy growth on a Sycamore tree on the South side of Kings Ride. This will be brought to attention of ESCC at the forthcoming Strengthening Local Relationships meeting.