

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 16 November 2009 in the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston, commencing at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: 10 Parishioners
Stephen Smith – Clerk

Public Questions

1. Mr Goodchild, Vice Chairman of the Alfriston and District Royal British Legion, thanked Cllr Savage for attending the recent Church Service for Remembrance Day, which was much appreciated by those who attended.
2. Mr Wilson suggested that a local referendum might be called to establish if villagers would be prepared for a local traffic warden to be employed at a cost to APC Council Tax payers. Cllr Savage indicated that this could be revisited once the results of the recent Traffic Experiment were known.
3. Mr Burden was concerned that a local family might be in breach of the Car Park regulations; Cllr Savage noted the comments and confirmed the matter will be kept under review.
4. Mr Hurwood noted that a Chestnut tree in Kings Ride had been cut down but had not been replaced and questioned the replanting policy of ESCC. Cllr Charlton will investigate.
5. Mr Phillips noted that the flood warning sign on the C39 near Winton Street was still showing, despite there have been no floods for some time. Cllr Charlton will investigate.

The Meeting

437.0 APOLOGIES for ABSENCE

437.1 The Clerk had received apologies from Cllr Dumelow.

438.0 MINUTES

438.1 Unadopted Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 October 2009 had been circulated previously. Acceptance of the Minutes as a true record was **proposed** by Cllr Charlton, **seconded** by Cllr Monteath-Wilson and **agreed**.

439.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

439.1 Cllr Watkins noted the following points

- Since the last APC meeting both Planning applications for Riverbank, River Lane, have been withdrawn.

- The Planning Application for 520 houses at Honey Farm, Polegate will have a hearing on 10 December.
- The Planning applications for Merebank and Rose Cottage have not yet been determined
- The WDC Core Strategy is now scheduled to be published for representations in October 2010, to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in early 2011.
- The recent electric blanket testing undertaken across the District by WDC found that of the 278 blankets tested, 122 were unsafe and were destroyed.
- The request for an electricity supply for the Willows Car Park and Toilets is progressing.
- The requested signage for Sloe Lane is progressing
- There has been no answer yet about the number of lamp columns around the Drusilla's roundabout.

440.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

440.1 Cllr Bennett noted that the Bus and School Bus Strategy Consultation as well as the Waste Management Strategy Consultations are currently taking place. He confirmed that the results of the Traffic Experiment were still awaited and that ESCC are continuing their dialogue with SAFE.

441.0 ALLOTMENTS and RECREATION GROUND – Cllr Byford

441.1 Allotment Renewals / Waiting List / Clearance

Cllr Byford reported that following a site visit by Councillors on 7 November, plans will be drawn up to clear the waste areas and redefine the plots.

441.2 Allotment Competition

An invitation will be sent to the judge as well as the 2 plot holders who in his opinion had the outstanding entries to attend the next APC meeting when the Shield will be presented to the winner.

441.3 Any other Allotment matter

None.

441.4 Licence for Clubs using Pavilion

A meeting will be arranged between the sub-committee and the Cricket Club for final details to be resolved, prior to the next APC meeting.

441.5 Recreation Ground – Play Area / Fencing

Cllr Byford will arrange a meeting with local parents to discuss priorities.

441.6 Any other Recreation Ground matter

None

442.0 The TYE – Cllr Monteath-Wilson

442.1 Parking Spaces

Cllr Monteath-Wilson advised that all the posts surrounding the Tye should be tidied up by the Summer. The space currently occupied by Alfriston Heartstart could also be used for disabled drivers and contact will be made with WDC to arrange remarking.

442.2 Parking on the Tye

a. Cllr Monteath-Wilson considered that the Village Hall caretaker would benefit from having a defined parking space on the Tye road, as at present she sometimes has to park in front of her house to unload supplies etc. Cllr Monteath-Wilson **proposed** that a letter be sent by the Clerk to the Village Hall Committee requesting their support. Cllr Charlton **seconded** the proposal, which was unanimously **agreed**.

b. Cllr Monteath-Wilson read a copy of the letter sent by the Clerk to Tye user groups requesting their co-operation in not parking on the Tye. She said this was the fifth time in the last ten years that such a letter had been sent and that if the situation did not improve arrangements would be made to lock the gate on the access road.

442.3 Condition of Tenaxed Area

Cllr Monteath-Wilson will contact a local contractor to nail down parts of the Tenaxed area which have become loose.

442.4 Comforts and Joys wagon rides

Cllr Monteath-Wilson noted that a request had been received to reprise the very successful wagon rides during the Comforts and Joys weekend next month. Whilst she was keen for

the rides to place, she would hold discussions with the organisers nearer the event to ensure that the surface of the Tye would not be damaged.

442.5 Any other matter relating to the Tye

a. A request has been received to erect a small marquee on the Tye during a wedding to be held in September 2010. This had been refused so as not to set a precedent, although the veranda could be used.

b. The Alfriston Pre-school sought permission to plant a tree in memory of the late Andy Knight. Councillors had no problems with this request and Cllr Monteath-Wilson will progress.

443.0 CAR and COACH PARKS and PUBLIC TRANSPORT – Cllr Ellis

443.1 Condition of Posts in Dene Car Park

Cllr Ellis provided details of folding barriers which would replace the existing damaged posts. These cost £81 + VAT each. He **proposed** the initial purchase of 2, which was **seconded** by Cllr Charlton and **agreed**.

443.2 Extension to Willows Car Park

Following a site meeting on 7 November, Cllr Ellis **proposed** that a feasibility study be undertaken to establish the costs of increasing the number of car parking spaces available. The extra space would be gained by (a) clearing the scrub between the Car and the Coach Park and (b) providing a summer overflow for 12 vehicles at the far end of the picnic area, to be utilised at the discretion of the Car Park attendant. This was **seconded** by Cllr Charlton and **agreed**. Cllr Savage asked Dist Cllr Watkins to assist with the liaison with WDC.

443.3 Any other Car and Coach Park Matter

a. The Clerk sought clarification as to the methods by which Cllrs wished to advertise the vacancy for a weekend car park attendant. It was agreed that an advert would be placed in the Hailsham and Seaford editions of the Friday Ad and the Cuckmere News, with a view to holding interviews in the New Year.

b. Cllr Charlton reported that the timing of the lights in the Dene Car Park had gone awry again. Cllr Ellis will investigate.

443.4 Any Public Transport matter

None.

444.0 FINANCE – The Clerk

444.1 Statement of Finances

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

Precept Deposit account	23,564.95
Current account	3,211.63
Savings Account	5,484.27
Car Park Account	<u>42,416.55</u>
Total	<u>£74,677.40</u>

444.2 Invoices for Payment

a. November 2009

The Clerk presented the following cheques for payment

- £ 239.62 – Wages – M Honisett
- £ 159.61 – Wages – D Skertchly
- £ 720.01 – Wages – S Smith
- £ 410.17 – HMRC – Tax and NI
- £ 524.40 – Trowell Building Co (re The Tye)
- £ 179.40 - Simon P Goacher (Payroll Services)
- £ 153.99 – Stephen Smith (Reimbursement of Costs)
- £ 130.07 – Wealden District Council – Dog bins
- £ 107.00 – P J Skips – (re Allotments)
- £ 54.60 - Viking Direct – Stationery
- £ 29.00 – Campaign to Protect Rural England – Subscription
- £ 10.00 – South Downs Campaign - Subscription

Total **£ 2,717.87**

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

444.3 External Audit 2008-2009

The accounts have now been sent to the external auditors.

444.4 Any other Finance matter

A Finance Committee meeting will be convened in December to set the Budget and Precept for 2010 / 2011.

445.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS – Cllr Charlton

445.1 Traffic Experiment

Cllr Charlton urged everyone to return the questionnaires to ESCC which had been made available following the conclusion of the Traffic Experiment. Cllr Charlton also noted that a suggestion had been made that ESCC officers address WDC officers about concerns over damage to Listed Buildings in the Conservation Area. Cllr Savage suggested an Open Forum on the subject of the Traffic Experiment be convened prior to the APC February Meeting, following which Councillors could debate the issues raised

445.2 Lorry Watch / Police Enforcement

Cllr Charlton reported that the Police conducted a campaign to enforce weight limits on 5 November, based at the lay by close to Berwick Court Farm, the results of which are awaited.

445.3 Any other Highway matter

a. Cllr Charlton reported that APC had been approached by a film company for permission to film a commercial for Air Canada around the High Street on the afternoon of 6 November, subject to Police approval, which had been granted. Whilst one letter of complaint had been received about the minor disruption caused, the general consensus among parishioners was positive.

At this point the Meeting was adjourned.

Cllr Charlton presented a cheque for £700.00 from the film company to Alfriston Heartstart as a village charity in recognition and thanks to villagers for their hospitality during the filming. Cllr Savage thanked Cllr Charlton for her assistance with the organisation and for her hard work in promoting Alfriston at this time.

The Meeting then reconvened.

b. Cllr Charlton advised ESCC had requested APC to approve the stopping up of a small portion of land adjacent to the footpath in Deans Road, which had been overlooked when adjacent houses had been constructed. She **proposed** that Councillors reported No Objections. This was **seconded** by Cllr Ellis and **agreed**.

446.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING – Cllr Hogestijn

446.1 Parish Plan Implementation

a. Cuckmere Regeneration – Cllr Hogestijn report that efforts to secure funding from the WARR Partnership had not been successful. Further meeting with the Environment Agency were taking place and an update will be provided in January.

b. WDC Building Conservation – Update in January.

446.2 Future of United Reformed Church and Hall

Cllr Hogestijn has been advised that the Architects plans for the Church and Hall will be available for viewing by the Parish Council on Monday 23 November between 12.30 and 1.00pm in the URC Hall.

446.3 Any other Strategic Planning matter

None.

447.0 PLANNING – Cllr Charlton

447.1 Minutes from Planning Committee meetings held since last Parish Meeting

- WD/2009/1931/F: Merebank, Seaford Road, BN26 5TP – Demolition of cattery buildings. Replacement with agricultural building on one of these foundations. Erection of polytunnel adjacent to site. Revert from use of land for cattery business to smallholding. *Insufficient information provided for Councillors to make a recommendation.*
- WD/2009/1959/O: Land adjacent to River Bank, River Lane BN26 5SX – Erection of chalet style house. *Objections.*
- WD/2009/2098/LB: Rose Cottage, North Street, Alfriston BN26 5UQ – Replacement railings etc to front boundary together with associated repairs to walls and frontage. *No Objections.*

447.2 Matters for consideration by Planning Committee after the Meeting

None

447.3 Decisions Notified

- WD/2009/1855/F: Sloe Cottage, West Street, BN26 5UN – Proposed two-storey extension to side of existing property. *Granted 14/10*
- 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. *Withdrawn 10/11*
- 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. *Granted 14/10*
- WD/2009/1959/O: Land adjacent to River Bank, River Lane BN26 5SX – Erection of chalet style house. *Withdrawn 3/11*
- WD/2009/1961/F: 8 West Street, BN26 5UX – Internal and external alterations and change of use. *Granted 2/11*
- WD/2009/1962/LB: 8 West Street, BN26 5UX – Internal and external alterations. *Granted 2/11*

447.4 Any other Planning matter

- None

448.0 RIGHTS OF WAY and COUNTRYSIDE

448.1 Any Rights of Way matter

None.

448.2 Condition of Fence between the Spots and Glebeland

Cllr Savage has requested the help of the Rector as the Clerk has still not received a full response from the landlord's agents to his letter requesting repairs to the fence, despite reminders being sent.

448.3 South Downs / National Park – Progress with Representation Meetings

The Sussex Association of Local Councils is co-ordinating the election of Parish Council representatives on the South Downs National Park Authority. In this connection each Parish within the SDNP has been invited to nominate up to 3 Councillors who in turn will go forward to an election of 2 Parish Council representatives from East Sussex. Whilst no APC Councillor sought nomination, it had been brought to the Clerk's attention that John West; Chairman of Long Man PC had indicated a willingness to stand. A proposal for APC to nominate John West as a candidate for election was **proposed** by Cllr Hogestijn, **seconded** by Cllr Charlton and agreed.

448.4 Any Countryside matter

None

448.5 Any report from Tree Warden

None.

449.0 PARISH CLERK

449.1 Jubilee Clock

The Clerk reported that remedial work to minimise the sound of the mechanism is now underway.

449.2 Notice Board refurbishment

The Clerk provided an estimate of £190.00 + VAT for the refurbishment of the Notice Boards affixed to the Post Office wall, together with an estimate of £255.00 + VAT for the Notice

Boards affixed to a garage wall in the Dene Car Park. Cllr Charlton **proposed** the estimates be accepted. This was **seconded** by Cllr Monteath-Wilson and **agreed**.

449.3 Car Park Attendant vacancy

Already covered in Minute 443.3a above.

449.4 Any other matter

None

450.0 Reports from Outside Bodies

450.1 Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership

Nothing apart from item covered in minute 442.4 above.

450.2 Cuckmere Community Bus

Cllr Charlton reported that passenger numbers had recently increased

450.3 Cuckmere Flood Forum

The Clerk read details of a report prepared by John Hurwood ahead of the formal Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October being circulated.

450.4 Festival

Cllr Monteath-Wilson advised that 2009 had been a record year with funds of £14,500 to be distributed. The Committee is seeking a new Chairman.

450.5 Heartstart

No report

450.6 SAFE

The Clerk read a report from SAFE thanking everyone for their support during the recently completed Traffic Experiment especially the volunteers, Sussex Police and ESCC. The detailed reports which will be produced are eagerly awaited. It is hoped to arrange a meeting of the SAFE Committee with APC Councillors in the near future, to discuss ways of moving forward.

450.7 Sussex Police

No report, although an apology for absence was received.

450.8 War Memorial Hall Committee

Next meeting to be held on 3 December.

450.9 Wealden District Association of Local Councils

No Report.

450.10 Any other Outside reports

Cllr Monteath-Wilson reported that the 18 month Licence granted for the carving from the Chestnut tree which is currently hanging in St Andrews Church is coming to an end. The Village Stores have indicated their willingness to accommodate the carving on their upper floor and Cllr Monteath-Wilson asked for authority for it to be moved there as it is a secure location. Councillors had no objection and she will take the matter forward.

451.0 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

451.1 Any Correspondence Received

None except as previously detailed.

452.0 DATE of NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 18 January 2010 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.

- Mr Burden advised that Heartstart had received 147 calls so far this year. He made a plea for assistance for homeowners to ensure that their houses are numbered, that if front doors do not work, they are clearly labelled as such, that entrances are illuminated wherever possible and that key safes are adequately accessible, all of which make the Responders' job easier in the event of an incident. He also suggested that anyone who had concerns that they might have contracted Swine Flu use NHS Direct.
- Mrs Phillips asked for clarification as to why the Chestnut tree in Kings Ride referred to during the meeting had been felled and was advised that it was because it was diseased.