

# ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

## CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Stephen Smith

Tel/Fax 01323 870212

[alfristonpc@googlemail.com](mailto:alfristonpc@googlemail.com)

Brockmead  
Litlington  
East Sussex  
BN26 5RD

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Monday 19 October 2009

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

**Present:** Cllr R Savage (in the Chair)  
Cllr S Charlton  
Cllr J Dumelow  
Cllr G Ellis  
Cllr D Monteath-Wilson  
District Cllr A Watkins

**In attendance:** Mr Nash Robbins – Comforts and Joys Committee Member (Alfriston & Cuckmere Valley Partnership)  
16 Parishioners  
Stephen Smith – Clerk

## Public Questions

1. Mr Wilson noted that there was substantial debris in West Street. Cllr Charlton advised that cleansing took place every 12 weeks and that she would follow up with Wealden District Council the next day.
2. a. Mrs Daw requested permission to plant crocus bulbs in the vicinity of The Tye in memory of a local person who had recently passed away. Cllr Monteath-Wilson advised that she would approach the Church authorities for their views.  
b. Mrs Daw also sought the Councillors views on the planting of a memorial tree. Cllr Monteath-Wilson advised that a written request giving full details would be appropriate.  
c. Mrs Daw further sought permission for the Pre-School to hang decorations on certain trees during their annual Autumnal Procession around the Tye on 31 October 2009. Whilst Councillors had no objections, Cllr Monteath-Wilson suggested that the Church authorities should be approached if it was intended to festoon trees in the churchyard.

*Prior to the Meeting, there was a Presentation by Nash Robbins on behalf of the Comforts and Joys Committee of the Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership*

Mr Robbins thanked the Council for granting time for his presentation and invited everyone present to the Christmas Tree switching on ceremony for the Christmas Lights which will be held on Saturday 28 November 2009 at 4.00pm in the Market Square. The theme this year will be 'Hats off to Santa' and it is hoped that as many people as possible will wear headgear. Mr Norman Baker MP has been invited to attend. As usual many organisations have worked hard to ensure the success of the event and local traders will be promoting special events. 800 puddings, donated by local restaurants, will be on sale for £1 each. A Road Closure Order has been granted, which will enable children's wishes to be placed on the Christmas Tree in safety.

## The Meeting

### 421.0 APOLOGIES for ABSENCE

421.1 The Clerk had received apologies from Cllrs Byford and Hogestijn and County Cllr Bennett.

#### **422.0 MINUTES**

**422.1** Unadopted Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 September 2009 had been circulated previously. Acceptance of the Minutes as a true record was **proposed** by Cllr Dumelow, **seconded** by Cllr Monteath-Wilson and **agreed**.

#### **423.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**423.1** No report

#### **424.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

**424.1** Cllr Watkins advised that he is now on the WDC Planning Committee and in this connection drew the Council's attention to recent cases where Planning Application recommendations had fallen foul of Permitted Rights. He also noted that unless the Highways Agency applies another stop, the Pelham Homes application for a development at Honey Farm, Polegate will be heard in December. There were no further developments on the new South Downs Authority to report. He had inspected the public toilets operated by WDC in the Dene Car Park and the Willows Car Park and will press for electricity to be installed at the Willows site, which should include the hut used by the Car Park Attendants. He noted that WDC electric blanket testing was soon to be carried out in the village. In addition a meeting is scheduled to discuss leisure strategy within the District. Cllr Charlton noted that the Sloe Lane signage (which is the responsibility of WDC) has still not been improved and asked Cllr Watkins to expedite.

#### **425.0 CAR and COACH PARKS and PUBLIC TRANSPORT – Cllr Ellis**

##### **425.1 Condition of Posts in Dene Car Park**

Cllr Ellis is awaiting estimates for the repair of damaged posts

##### **425.2 Extension to Willows Car Park**

As requested at the last meeting the Clerk read the Minutes from September 2007, which decided against extending the car park. Notwithstanding, Councillors decided to convene a site meeting to assess the present position, in the light of the high usage during this summer.

##### **425.3 Vacancy for Car Park Attendant**

The Clerk will take steps to advertise the vacancy.

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

None.

##### **425.5 Any Public Transport matter**

None.

#### **426.0 ALLOTMENTS and RECREATION GROUND**

##### **426.1 Allotment Renewals / Waiting List / Clearance**

Cllr Savage, whilst be heartened by seeing youngsters working on the plot(s) noted the poor state of some of the allotments on a recent visit and confirmed that he will ensure that the site is cleared up so that greater use can be made of the facility.

##### **426.2 Any other Allotment matter**

Councillors decided to hold a site visit before the next meeting to establish priorities.

##### **426.3 Allotment Competition**

The Clerk advised that judging had been completed with further details to be provided next month.

##### **426.4 Licence for Clubs using Pavilion**

A diary date needs to be established for a meeting between the sub-committee and the Cricket Club for final details to be resolved

##### **426.5 Recreation Ground – Play Area / Fencing**

In the absence of Cllr Byford this was deferred to next month.

##### **426.6 Any other Recreation Ground matter**

None

## 427.0 FINANCE – The Clerk

### 427.1 Statement of Finances

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

Precept Deposit account	19,403.17
Current account	11,103.56
Savings Account	5,484.27
Car Park Account	<u>37,751.45</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£73,742.45</u></b>

### 427.2 Invoices for Payment

#### a. October 2009

The Clerk presented the following cheques for payment

- £ 278.79 – Wages – M Honisett (inc back pay)
- £ 515.82 – Wages – D Skertchly (inc back pay)
- £ 992.58 – Wages – S Smith (inc back pay)
- £ 95.08 – Wages – P Ayers (back pay)
- £ 131.85 – Wages – C Burden (back pay)
- £ 760.02 – HMRC – Tax and NI
- £ 4,602.17 – G P Pocock – Grass cutting
- £ 540.00 - Nigel Butten – Internal Audit and Accountancy
- £ 400.00 – HMRC Tax and NI 2008/2009
- £ 370.02 – South East Water - Pavilion
- £ 325.16 – Wealden District Council – Litter bins
- £ 150.00 – Cale Briparc – (re excess on insurance claim)
- £ 148.14 – Viking Direct – Stationery
- £ 105.00 – Richard Bartlett – (re Car parks)
- £ 78.39 – EDF – Pavilion
- £ 50.00 – Stredder Pearce – Glebeland rent
- £ 37.95 – Star Fireworks – (re Maroon)
- £ 6.66 – EDF – Jubilee Clock

**Total**            **£ 9,587.63**

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

### 427.3 External Audit 2008-2009

The Clerk presented the Statement of Accounts which revealed an excess of receipts over payments excluding VAT of £10,318.63 for the year to 31 March 2009. A proposal to accept the accounts was **proposed** by Cllr Dumelow, **seconded** by Cllr Charlton and **agreed**.

### 427.4 Any other Finance matter

None

## 428.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS – Cllr Charlton

### 428.1 Half Yearly Meeting with ESCC (SLR)

Cllr Charlton advised that she had now accompanied ESCC officers on a site visit to be shown the location of the proposed 20 mph speed limit signs. They will be placed on black posts in recognition of the Conservation Area in which they will be sited. The proposal will now go to Consultation. Cllr Monteath-Wilson enquired how many new signs will be required, it will be eleven.

### 428.2 Lorry Watch / Police Enforcement

Cllr Charlton reported that the Police will conduct a campaign to enforce weight limits, which will be based at the lay by close to Berwick Court Farm.

### 428.3 Traffic Experiment

Cllr Charlton confirmed that an experiment involving traffic lights to control the flow of vehicles in the High Street between The Star and Weavers Lane will take place from 27 October for a week. This will be conducted at no cost to the village. Local volunteers will be sought to monitor potential “rat running” and feedback questionnaires will be made available for submission to ESCC. The Clerk read out a note received from SAFE providing further details.

#### **428.4 Any other Highway matter**

Cllr Charlton reported that APC had been advised that the Highways Agency intended to carry out repairs on the Southerham railway bridge on the A27 over the weekends of 24/25 October and 30 October and 1 November which would result in partial closure. The Clerk would post details in the Notice Board.

### **429.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING**

#### **429.1 Parish Plan Implementation**

Nothing to report.

#### **429.2 Local Development Framework**

The Clerk read a report from Cllr Hogestijn advising that WDC are now assimilating the responses they received to the LDF consultation and that a report is expected at the end of November / early December on a 'Preferred Option' after which they will consult again with Parishes which are unhappy with the Preferred Option as well as outlining the stages thereafter. In essence January and February next year will be vital time for the Parish to comment on what WDC's plans will mean for the village.

#### **429.3 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.

#### **429.4 WDC Housing Summit.**

Nothing to report.

### **430.0 PLANNING – Cllr Charlton**

#### **430.1 Minutes from Planning Committee meetings held since last Parish 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. *Objections*
- 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. *No objections*
- WD/2009/1961/F: 8 West Street, BN26 5UX – Internal and external alterations and change of use. *No objections*
- WD/2009/1962/LB: 8 West Street, BN26 5UX – Internal and external alterations. *No objections*

#### **430.2 Matters for consideration by Planning Committee after the 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.
- WD/2009/1959/O: Land adjacent to River Bank, River Lane BN26 5SX – Erection of chalet style house.
- 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.

#### **430.3 Decisions Notified**

- WD/2009/1699/F – West Down, Kings Ride, Alfriston BN26 5XX – Proposed pitch roof canopy, replacement of plain tile hanging with oak weatherboarding and replacement of doors and windows including existing door canopy and finials. *Granted 17/9.*

#### **430.4 Any other Planning Matter**

- Response by APC to WD/2008/MEA – Honey Farm, Eastbourne Road, Polegate - Up to 520 Dwellings together with a one form entry Primary School incorporating community uses, a Convenience Store and Doctors Surgery. *WDC acknowledged receipt of APC's concerns on 1/10*

#### **431.0 RIGHTS OF WAY and COUNTRYSIDE – Cllr Dumelow**

##### **431.1 Any Rights of Way matter**

Cllr Dumelow reported there had been problems with inconsiderate usage of vehicles in Winton Street, which will be monitored in case of repetition.

##### **431.2 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. Councillors requested that the Rector is advised of the position; meantime the Clerk will continue to pursue.

##### **431.3 South Downs / National Park – Progress with Consultation Meetings**

The Clerk read a report received from the Chairman of a neighbouring Parish who attended a meeting at Arundel Town Hall on 7 October at which Parish Councillor representation on the new National Park Authority was discussed. Each Parish Council will have to nominate a named person and the ballot papers will have to be returned to the Sussex Association of Local Councils. The nomination papers will be distributed shortly.

##### **431.4 Any Countryside Matter**

Cllr Dumelow advised an email had been received from the Chairman of a neighbouring Parish Council that a Traffic Restriction Order was being sought for the Old Coach Road which was being discussed with ESCC in December.

##### **431.5 Any report from Tree Warden**

None.

#### **432.0 The TYE – Cllr Monteath-Wilson**

##### **432.1 Litter Bins**

Cllr Monteath-Wilson noted that a new litter and dog litter bin had now been installed and that the old bin would be resited on the Recreation Ground. This item will now be removed from the Agenda.

##### **432.2 Posts and Chains Refurbishment**

Cllr Monteath-Wilson reported that most have now been replaced and this item can be removed from the Agenda.

##### **432.3 Illegal Parking**

The Clerk is to send letters to users of the War Memorial Hall reminding them not to park on the grass.

##### **432.4 Parking Spaces**

This will be further discussed at a site meeting concerning the village car parks, to be convened shortly.

##### **432.5 Charity Commission Return**

The Clerk advised this had now been successfully lodged and will be removed from the Agenda.

##### **432.6 Condition of Tenaxed Area**

This will be reviewed at the forthcoming site meeting.

##### **432.7 Any other matter relating to the Tye**

None

#### **433.0 PARISH CLERK**

##### **433.1 Jubilee Clock**

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

##### **433.2 APC Equipment Replacement**

The Clerk provided an estimate of £120.00 for the replacement of the monitor of the APC computer which was approved.

##### **433.3 South Downs Campaign Subscription**

The Clerk reported that he had established that the annual subscription / donation of £10.00 had not been paid and will be paid next month.

##### **433.4 Any other matter**

None

#### **434.0 Reports from Outside Bodies**

##### **434.1 Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership**

Presentation made before the Meeting.

##### **434.2 Cuckmere Community Bus**

No meeting – nothing to report

##### **434.3 Cuckmere Flood Forum**

No meeting - nothing to report.

##### **434.4 Festival**

Cllr Monteath-Wilson advised that a Festival Party is to be held on 30 October and also noted that there are vacancies on the Committee to organise next year's event.

##### **434.5 Heartstart**

Cllr Dumelow reported that there have been 136 calls so far this year, 40 more than at the corresponding time last year and that the new vehicle continues to prove its worth.

##### **434.6 SAFE**

The Clerk outlined the role SAFE had played in the Traffic Experiment and noted that it was hoped to arrange a meeting of the SAFE Committee with APC Councillors in the near future.

##### **434.7 Sussex Police**

The Clerk confirmed he had been in regular contact with the Police, who were unable to attend this meeting, in connection with their role in the forthcoming Traffic Experiment

##### **434.8 War Memorial Hall Committee**

Cllr Monteath-Wilson noted that problems had been experienced with certain users who had left the kitchen in a poor state. A new sound system and lighting is being established.

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

No Report.

##### **434.10 Any other Outside reports**

The local Transition Group is to hold a showing of the film The Age of Stupid – a view of the world in 2050 in the AWMH on 20 November to which everyone is invited.

#### **435.0 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **435.1 Any Correspondence Received**

The Clerk had received two items of note via WDC:

- a. Details of EDF's Priority Services Register which will be forwarded to the Emergency Planning Committee.
- b. Details of WDC's Private Housing Renewal Strategy which details financial assistance to people who are on low incomes or are disabled or are over 60 with repairs or adaptations or keeping their home warm for the winter. Details will be posted on the Notice Board.

#### **436.0 DATE of NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 16 November 2009 at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Hall, preceded by Public Questions from 7.15pm.

*The Chairman then invited the District Councillor to make a response to those issues aired during the Meeting on which he wished to make an observation.*

Councillor Watkins noted the following:

- Nothing substantive was likely to be approved by WDC following the LDF Consultation exercise prior to the General Election being held in the summer.
- He praised the Council for making its position clear to WDC on the proposed Honey Farm Planning Application and drew a parallel with the situation at Mornings Mill Farm in Willingdon.
- He suggested that some Parish Councils might unite behind a single candidate in the forthcoming South Downs Authority election.
- He confirmed his awareness of the current situation regarding the Old Coach Road where Alciston Parish Council was lobbying ESCC.

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

- Mr Wilson reiterated the offer made by Katie Salmon of Hope in the Community for APC Councillors to preview the plans for the URC. Cllr Savage thanked him for his continuing involvement in trying to ensure the buildings would continue to be used as a village amenity.
- Mr Burden noted the proliferation of lamp standards near to the Drusilla's roundabout. As this outside the APC boundary he was referred to WDC and the Highways Agency
- Mr Burton drew attention to the lack of microphones being used, the caretaker advised him that there was a new sound system and that APC Councillors would receive training. Mr Phillips advised that the Historical Society had already received instruction.
- Mr Phillips noted that several horses had been seen using the path near to Deans Place, Cllr Monteath-Wilson explained that they had previously been instructed to use the path to get out of danger.
- Mr Goodchild reported there had been 2 cases of fly tipping since the last APC meeting and praised WDC and Cllr Dumelow for their efforts in getting it cleared.
- Mr Burden wanted clarification of the exact position of the temporary traffic lights to be erected outside the Star during the Traffic Experiment. Cllr Savage regretted that no more specific information was available.
- Mr Burden enquired about the allocation of allotments as he wished to be added to the waiting list. The Clerk advised he would be added to the list and that there would be more clarification as to the precise status of applications following the pending site visit.
- Cllr Ellis added that he, too, would like to be added to the waiting list. The Clerk will oblige.
- Mrs Daw offered her services should a sub-committee be formed in connection with refurbishment of the play area of the Recreation Ground, Cllr Savage thanked her for her offer.