

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20 April 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 M Hogestijn (elected during Meeting)
Cllr R Savage

In attendance: District Councillor A Watkins
J Hurwood – Cuckmere Flood Forum Parish Representative
17 Parishioners
S Smith - Clerk

Public Questions

1. Mr Wilson drew attention to the poor condition of the road adjoining the Spots, which he believed was owned by the Environment Agency. Cllr Dumelow will look into the matter.
2. Mr Hurwood enquired about local representation on the National Parks Authority. The Chair advised this was an Agenda item.
3. Mr Hurwood expressed concern about customers of the Singing Kettle blocking the right of passage of other pavement users when sitting outside. Cllr Charlton confirmed that an ESCC Enforcement Officer had recently attended and concluded that the Proprietor had complied with her responsibilities in this regard by placing notices and asking her customers to sit within the curtilage of her property.
4. Mr Hurwood enquired what action, if any, ESCC would take to provide passing places in Winton Street, given the congestion that had been caused by recent road closures due to flooding, which had caused traffic problems. Cllr Charlton advised that it was ESCC's view that the provision of passing places could in fact have a detrimental effect as experience elsewhere in the County suggested that passing places in popular tourist areas act as a magnet for illegal parking.
5. Mr Hurwood also drew attention to the numerous pot holes which remained unfilled. The Clerk urged Parishioners to self report any pot holes via the ESCC website, as the more people that reported a problem tended to increase the priority in which incidents were treated. Cllr Savage explained the procedure for filling in potholes and noted that because of the recent extremes of weather some of the solutions could only be classed as temporary.
6. Mr Burden questioned whether funding might be available from the National Park Authority to repair the Flint Wall on the C39 northern approach to the village. This was an Agenda item.
7. Mr Burden raised several points concerning parking in the village, which again was an Agenda item. The Chair thanked Mr Burden for the work he did for the Parish Council and the community in his capacity as a Car Park Attendant.
8. Mr Chevan complained about illegal parking on the Tye, which was noted by the Chair.

9. Mrs Cowin suggested that parking on the Tye Road should be for residents only. Councillors advised the difficulties of enforcing such an option would make any such action very difficult to enforce.

At this point the **Chair** and **Cllr Byford** presented the **Allotment Competition Winner's Shield for 2008** to **Mr Thomas** and complimented him on the standard of his allotment.

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

Mr Wilson advised that the URC redevelopment plans had been dealt a blow by the refusal of English Heritage to allow any alterations to the upstairs of the premises. It was therefore possible that the site might be sold on the open market. Councillors expressed their dismay at such a potential outcome and urged all present to lobby for it to be used as a heritage centre for the benefit of the community.

Mr Hurwood presented a report on the recent Cuckmere Flood Forum meeting which had taken place following the recent flooding in the Cuckmere Valley. This had concentrated minds on the recent Environment Agency decision to withdraw from routine maintenance south of the A259 from 2011. Cllr Savage drew attention to the lack of maintenance over many years in the vicinity of the village, although it was noted that some work had recently been undertaken.

Mr Bennett, a candidate for the Conservative Party at the forthcoming ESCC election stood up to introduce himself

The Meeting

329.0 Apologies for Absence

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

330.0 Minutes

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

331.0 Parish Councillor Vacancy and Election of New Councillor

331.1 The Chair advised that following last month's Meeting, when it was reported that three candidates had applied for the vacancy, in the event two of the candidates withdrew prior to interview. The Chair then outlined the interview procedure and confirmed that the Interview Committee comprising herself, the Vice Chair and Cllr Savage, with the Clerk in attendance were impressed by the standard of the interviewee, Mayke Hogestijn. It was proposed by Cllr Savage, seconded by Cllr Charlton that Mayke Hogestijn be appointed to Alfriston Parish Council and the proposal was carried unanimously.

332.0 Report from County Councillor

332.1 The Clerk read a report received from Cllr Garvican advising there had been no developments at County level of specific relevance to the Parish apart from the establishment of the National Park, the full implications of which at a local level were still unclear.

333.0 Report from District Councillor

333.1 Cllr Watkins updated the Meeting on the following points which had arisen since the March Parish Council Meeting.

- He noted that the rubble had been cleared from the site which had been the focus of the refused Winton Street Stables planning application and that no appeal had yet been lodged.
- The new signage and relining of the Dene car park had been completed.
- There had been no progress on Affordable Housing, although in recent initiatives in Willingdon and Polegate, local Parish Council objections had been unheeded.

- The Deans Place recycling centre was proceeding, the Parish Council's objections to alternative sites at The Star (noise) and The Willows (cost) having been noted.
- Representation on the National Park Authority was being sought from Parish Councils and he urged APC to apply.
- The Local Development Framework initiated by WDC was progressing with a sub committee meeting due to be held on April 22. This would (if proposals were accepted) involve new settlement options being put to consultation for a short period between 22 May and 6 June. This is likely to involve the siting of up to 100 homes in this Parish as part of wider Central Government plans to locate 11,000 new homes in WDC before 2026. This consultation would only be the first stage in a process which by June 2010 would be centred on core sites with a scheduled completion of May 2011.

334.0 Rights of Way and Countryside – Cllr Dumelow

334.1 Condition of White Bridge

Nothing to report.

334.2 The Old Coach Road

Nothing to report.

334.3 Update on Berwick Way

Nothing to report.

334.4 Any other Rights of Way matter

Cllr Dumelow gave an update on the bridleway between North Road and the South Downs Way.

334.5 Condition of Fence between the Spots and Glebeland

The Clerk has received an acknowledgement from the landlord's agents to his letter requesting repairs to the fence, but awaits a full response.

334.6 Any other Countryside matter

None

334.7 South Downs / National Park

The Clerk is to contact the South Downs Joint Committee to request representation on the new authority via meetings which are to be arranged. Whilst it is likely that a meeting is to be held in Chichester, there is a possibility of a meeting in Lewes and the Clerk will urge the convening of a meeting closer to the eastern boundary to the SDJC.

334.8 Any report from Tree Warden

No report, although Cllr Dumelow advised that the Tree Warden had dealt with a Sycamore tree in Kings Ride.

335.0 The Tye – Cllr Savage

335.1 Any matter relating to the Tye

Cllr Savage picked up on matters voiced during Public Questions surrounding parking on the Tye and noted that locking the gate is an option. He recognised that AWMH is unusual in that it does not have direct parking access and acknowledged the difficult role our Car park Attendants have in policing illegal parking on the Tye Road. The Chair noted that she wished to bring the question of parking back to the Agenda in the future.

336.0 Car and Coach Parks and Public Transport – Cllr Ellis

336.1 White Lines and Entry and Exit Markings in Dene Car Park

Cllr Ellis reported that this work has now been completed.

336.2 One Way System in Dene Car Park

The blue exit sign has now been augmented by a red sign by WDC.

336.3 Willows Car Park – Potential Recycling Point

Cllr Ellis reported that he had found no evidence of Grants being available to assist with the cost of a potential feasibility into a recycling point at the Willows and suggested the Deans Place site is pursued instead. Any future discussion regarding recycling will be dealt with by the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning.

336.4 Any other Car and Coach Park Matter

a. Cllr Ellis reported that the damaged bollards in the Dene had still to be inspected by a local contractor.

b. Cllr Charlton noted that the lights in the Dene Car Park had still been on at certain times during the day. Cllr Ellis advised that he had drawn the matter to WDC's attention and that if the problem persisted he would approach our District Councillor to assist.

c. A response from the Historical Society was awaited in connection with the remains of the windmill which had recently been discovered in the Dene Car Park

336.5 Any Public Transport matter

None

337.0 Allotments and Recreation Ground – Cllr Byford

337.1 Allotment Renewals / Waiting List

The renewal notices will be sent out this week after which the waiting list will be revisited.

337.2 Any other Allotment matter

Plot 22 has now been let to Alfriston Pre School on a rent free basis

337.3 Pavilion Progress Report

Work now completed, item to be removed from the Agenda. The Chair requested that an item is sent to Cuckmere News advising that the Sports Pavilion is now refurbished.

337.4 Licence for Clubs using Pavilion

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

337.5 Recreation Ground – Dog Fouling / Play Area

Cllr Byford has obtained a quote for the provision of fencing around the play area, which show an amount in excess of £6,000. She will seek other quotes and also investigate the costs of providing enhanced play and exercise facilities. The provision of further dog fouling bins will also be explored.

338.6 Any other Recreation Ground matter

Cllr Byford will make arrangements for the repair of the football goal nets.

338.0 Planning – Cllr Charlton

338.1 Minutes from Planning Committee meetings held since last Parish Meeting

None

338.2 Matters for consideration by Planning Committee after the Meeting

- WD/2009/0678/F: Follers Manor, Seaford Road, BN26 5TT – Piers and Entrance Gates

338.3 Enforcement Action to be Reported

None

338.4 Local Development Framework

Nothing to report

338.5 Liquor Licence applications

None

339.0 Highways and Twittens – Cllr Charlton

339.1 Flint Wall

The sub-committee's proposals had not yet been fully discussed with the owners of the land as one of the owners had been unwell.

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

Cllr Charlton hoped that a new survey will take place in the summer, although it is acknowledged that cost is an issue.

339.3 Illegal Parking

Cllr Charlton has had meetings to discuss local problems with our new PCSO.

339.4 Monitoring Traffic Volumes

Cllr Charlton is attempting to arrange for a new survey to take place.

339.5 Lorry Watch

Cllr Charlton reported that 19 companies have now been written to by the Police in connection with over weight lorries illegally passing through the village.

339.6 Potholes in the High Street and Weavers Lane

Following a recent meeting with ESCC, it was acknowledged that remedial work on temporary repairs will need to be undertaken.

339.7 Safety of Pedestrians on path adjoining Willows Car Park

At a recent meeting, representatives from ESCC suggested that part of the problem for pedestrians attempting to cross the C39 was the inability to see clearly due to the vegetation in the adjoining property. An approach will be made to the owner.

339.8 Strengthening Local Relationships Meeting

Cllr Charlton outlined those issues raised at the recent SLR meeting which had not already been featured during this Meeting, namely:

- Improved signage on A27 advising weight restrictions in the village
- Portable flood signs
- Recent road closures due to water leaks
- Recent repairs by BT has caused broken kerb stones

ESCC advised that the signs on the A27 were of a standard size and that they were not prepared to make a local exception. The other three items will be carried forward for local proposals / action.

339.9 Any other Highway matter

a. Cllr Byford enquired whether volunteers could be trained to conduct traffic surveys as a method of saving costs.

b. The Chair requested the Clerk to write to South East Water expressing concern over the number of recent leaks which had caused serious disruption.

340.0 Strategic Planning

340.1 Affordable Housing

The Chair had previously updated Councillors and it was noted that an official from WDC's Planning Department would be invited to the Annual Assembly

340.2 Registration of Allotment land

The Clerk reported that the Council's solicitors have requested details of a sample of allotment holders so that they could be contacted to verify that rents have been paid in support of the Council's application to the Land Registry.

340.3 Emergency Planning Sub-Committee

The Chair reported that the sub-committee's work was continuing and that a full report would be made shortly.

340.4 Future of United Reformed Church and Hall

An update had been given earlier by Mr Wilson. This item will be removed from the Strategic Planning Portfolio and will now come under the auspices of Reports from Outside Bodies / Parish Plan. Cllr Savage expressed his concern over the current stance of English Heritage / Listed Buildings over the proposals for the URC.

At this point the Chair advised that our new Councillor will act as the Council's Representative on the Wealden Association of Local District Councils as well as the liaison Councillor for the Cuckmere Flood Forum.

341.0 Finance – The Clerk

341.1 Statement of Finances

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

Precept Deposit account	1,833.17
Current account	2,696.69
Savings Account	5,484.27
Car Park Account	<u>40,063.08</u>
Total	<u>£50,077.21</u>

342.2 Invoices for Payment - April 2009

The Clerk presented the following cheques for payment

- £ 222.52 – Wages – C Burden
- £ 333.68 – Wages – D Skertchly
- £ 696.95 – Wages – S Smith
- £ 434.18 – HMRC – Tax and NI
- £ 310.21 – Wealden District Council – Litter Bins
- £ 227.20 – Cale Briparc – Till Rolls (Annual Supply)
- £ 95.45 – Wealden District Council – Dog Bins
- £ 77.62 – BT – Internet Services
- £ 49.29 – EDF - Pavilion
- £ 18.00 – Wealden District Association of Local Councils - Subscription

	• £ 16.24 – South East Water - Pavilion
	• £ 6.67 – EDF – Jubilee Clock
Total	<u>£2,488.51</u>

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

342.3 Any other Finance matter

None

343.0 Parish Clerk

343.1 “A” Permits - Willows Car Park

The Clerk expressed his concern that not only were “A” Permits being regularly incorrectly used in the Willows Car Park, but that certain cars were parked in the Dene for more than 23 hours in contravention of the terms of the “A” Permit scheme. This had come to light following difficulties in clearing the Dene prior to the recent relining. A debate ensued at the end of which it was **proposed** by Cllr Byford and **seconded** by Cllr Dumelow and **agreed** that the restriction would be removed.

343.2 Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly will be held in the AWMH on Monday 11 May 2009 commencing at 7.30 pm.

343.3 Report on Wealden Planning Conference

The Clerk represented the Parish at the Conference which was held at the East Sussex National Golf Resort and Spa on 30 March 2009. He outlined the major topics which included Parish Plans, Affordable Housing and Building Control, details of which have been discussed with individual Councillors or in Council.

343.4 Report on East Sussex Transport Seminar

The Clerk represented the Parish at the Seminar which was held at Uckfield Civic Centre on 24 March 2009. He outlined the major topics which included local speed limits and community transport. The overriding message regarding speeding was that any limits have to be enforced and this is dependent on the Police. Much of the session on community transport was geared to start up situations and therefore of little relevance as we already have the established and successful Cuckmere Community Bus.

343.5 Any Website matter

The Clerk has referred the error on the Google Search Engine which gives incorrect details for our Parish to our webmaster. It appears that the error is intermittent and has been fixed.

343.6 Any Other matter

None

344.0 Reports from Outside Bodies

344.1 Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership

Nothing to Report, although it was noted that the 2009 brochure is now widely available.

344.2 Cuckmere Community Bus

Cllr Charlton advised that at the AGM last month it was revealed that in excess of 63,000 passengers had been carried last year. There had been no fare increases. Cllr Charlton **proposed** a donation of £100.00 to the CCB as no funds had recently been donated; this was **seconded** by Cllr Byford and **agreed**.

344.3 Cuckmere Flood Forum

Already discussed after Public Questions.

344.4 Festival

Cllr Savage reported that arrangements for this year’s Festival are already in hand. Deans Place had let the committee have the use of a shed for storage purposes. He also advised that the committee are low on members and that any offers of assistance would be appreciated.

344.5 Heartstart

Cllr Dumelow advised that the number of calls has doubled this year.

344.6 Parish Plan

The Chair advised that Professor Reynolds was currently in Africa. Cllr Savage advised that the plan is currently with the printers.

344.7 SAFE

Nothing to report – Next Public meeting Friday 12 June at Deans Place

344.8 Safer Wealden Partnership

Nothing to Report.

344.9 Village Hall Committee

No further meetings although Cllr Savage reported that the new West Wing had been repaired.

344.10 Wealden District Association of Local Councils

No Report

344.11 Any other Outside reports

None.

345.0 Clerk's Correspondence

345.1 Request from Alfriston Art Club 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.

345.2 Other Correspondence

a. The Council has been asked to attend a meeting with the owner of the building on which the Jubilee Clock is situated to discuss maintenance issues. The Chair and the Clerk will attend.

b. The Council has received details of Grants available under the Big Lottery Fund / Peoples Millions. Cllr Byford and the Clerk will pursue.

328.0 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 18 May 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 support from the Council in dealings with English Heritage over the future of the URC. Cllrs Savage and Hojestijn will take this forward.
- Mr Phillips expressed his frustration with the continued problems with the amplification equipment, some of which appeared to be missing. The Caretaker will investigate.
- Mr Phillips questioned the propriety of an election candidate introducing himself before the meeting. The Chair advised that any candidate was welcome to introduce themselves, subject to permission from the Chair beforehand, providing no speeches were made.
- Mr Phillips requested clarification as to the types of "A" Permit allowed. The Clerk will undertake a full review and report at a later meeting.
- Mrs Daw requested lids for the litter bins on the Tye, as foxes had taken to emptying the contents during the night.
- Mr Johnston wondered why Deans Place had offered recycling facilities – the Chair commended their public spirited gesture.