

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20 July 2009 in the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston, commencing at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: Dr June Goodfield – Chair of Save Alfriston for Everyone (SAFE)
Professor Vernon Reynolds – Chair of Parish Plan Committee
John Hurwood – APC Representative on Cuckmere Flood Forum
20 Parishioners
Stephen Smith – Clerk

Public Questions

1. Mr Wilson drew attention to recent sewage leaks in North Street and enquired whether the Parish Council should contact Southern Water, to ensure that remedial action be taken in conjunction with ESCC Highways, especially in view of scheduled resurfacing works to be carried out next year. It was decided that Cllr Charlton would contact ESCC Highways as they would be co-ordinating the works.
2. Mr Hurwood noted an ailing chestnut tree outside 2 Kings Ride. The Tree Warden will be contacted as a result. He also referred to a Downland Protection petition created by Berwick Parish Council, which was to be debated during the Meeting.
3. Mr Burden voiced his concerns about a number of issues concerning parking in the village, including an increase in vans and camper vans parking in the car parks, some of which stayed overnight in contravention of the regulations. He also noted a significant number of cars were parking illegally on the Tye. The Chairman noted the concerns, which will form part of a forthcoming review of parking matters.
4. Mr Phillips suggested a height restriction for the car parks could alleviate this problem, although it was acknowledged that both refuse vehicles and the Cuckmere Community Bus might encounter difficulties if such a limit was imposed.
5. Mr Burden was dismayed that he had not seen a PCSO in the village for 3 months as he felt that a police presence would deter illegal parking. The Chairman replied that whilst he was aware that some villagers may not have seen a police officer for some time, he recognised that visits were made as frequently as possible, and that he shared the wishes of all interested parties, including SAFE, that a frequent visible police presence would be of benefit to the village.

Presentations

1. **SAFE** – Dr Goodfield noted that a PCSO does visit the village at weekends and that she was grateful for the support of APC and the public. A second Public Meeting held on 12 June had been well attended and provided a platform for further actions as follows:-
 - Transmanche Ferries have agreed to display posters in 3 languages in their drivers' lounge explaining the best way to visit Alfriston by coach is via the A26 and A27.
 - New signage advising the weight restriction will be deployed on the A259 in Seaford.
 - The existing Lorry Watch scheme will be further supported.
 - SAFE supports the delay of a plan for the High Street to be re tarmaced next year until the underlying service providers have completed their intended works.
 - The establishment of a 20 MPH speed restriction is investigated.
 - A visit will be made by ESCC officials on 29 July to establish if Visually Activated Signage (VAS) is a viable option for the bottleneck at the south end of the High Street.
 - Discussions about a "Shared Space" for vehicles and pedestrians continue with ESCC.
 - Discussions with Wealden District Council's Conservation Department about damaged buildings have revealed that the only legislative response is that all repairs have to be up to Listed Building standards, although WDC have no power to enforce.
 - There remain concerns over who is responsible for repairing pavements.
2. **Parish Plan** – Professor Reynolds thanked APC for their support in the commissioning of the Parish Plan. He added that he was disappointed that there was no direct reference to Parish Plans in the documentation provided by WDC in their current Local Development Framework consultation.
3. **Cuckmere Estuary Partnership** – Mr Hurwood explained the process of the 3 recent local meetings convened by the Cuckmere Estuary Partnership. He noted they had been set professionally and reflected a wide range of opinions. He advised of the forthcoming second tier meetings, which were by invitation only.

The Meeting

386.0 APOLOGIES for ABSENCE

386.1 The Clerk had received apologies from Cllr Dumelow and Cllr Monteath-Wilson.

387.0 MINUTES

387.1 Unadopted Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 June 2009 had been circulated previously. Acceptance of the Minutes as a true record was **proposed** by Cllr Hogestijn, **seconded** by Cllr Charlton and **agreed**.

388.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR – County Cllr Bennett

388.1 County Cllr Bennett referred to the current WDC Local Development Framework Consultation and noted that whilst the various listed housing options provided for between 25 to 150 houses to be built in the village in the next 17 years, this had come about because of the increase to 11,000 new homes which the national government required WDC to site within their boundary before 2026.

County Cllr Bennett advised he was involved with the SAFE programme as previously detailed.

389.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – District Cllr Watkins

389.1 District Cllr Watkins reported that WDC had recently approved a contentious Affordable Housing project in Polegate, emphasising that the subject was still very high on the Council's Agenda.

He noted that the WDC Development Control Committee had changed its name to Planning Control, to better reflect its purpose.

Following the SAFE presentation, Cllr Watkins intimated his wish to be kept involved with the ongoing discussions with the WDC Conservation team.

He also invited villagers to contact their PCSO on her mobile telephone number if they had concerns, stressing that she strived to maintain a presence in the village whenever possible.

Cllr Watkins noted the forthcoming National Park Consultations and urged APC to lobby WDC for support in their presentations, if required.

Lastly, Cllr Watkins advised that Parish Plans were referred to in certain parts of the Local Development Framework documentation as being evidence documents and noted that differing policies had been adopted by Parish Councils in their submissions.

390.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS – Cllr Charlton

390.1 Monitoring Traffic Volumes

Cllr Charlton confirmed that SAFE will be monitoring this in future alongside the existing measures put in place by the Parish Council and ESCC.

390.2 Lorry Watch

Cllr Charlton advised that this is continuing and praised contribution made by Wendy from the Youth Hostel who had provided information.

390.3 Any other Highway matter

a. Cllr Charlton gave details of a meeting which she and the Chairman had held with an official of ESCC, which covered, inter alia, new signage at the Druscillas roundabout, weight restriction notices on the A259, the provision of Visually Activated Signage (VAS) near Moonrakers in the High Street, the provision of a 20 mph speed limit and notices to be placed in Transmanche ferries, all of which would be discussed at the September Strengthening Local Relationships Meeting (SLR). She urged traders to arrange deliveries before 10.00am which would alleviate vehicle congestion; this could be something which could be promoted by the Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership.

b. Cllr Byford advised she had met local neighbourhood Police officers with a view to establishing a training programme for local volunteers to use speed guns. The possibility of arranging the loan of a Speed Indicating Device (SID) has also been discussed. The Chairman suggested this could be pursued in tandem with SAFE.

391.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING – Cllr Hogestijn

391.1 Parish Plan Progress

The Chairman advised that Councillors would meet to discuss how the Parish Plan would dovetail into the Local Development Framework response by APC.

391.2 Local Development Framework

The Chairman referred to the leaflet posted to every household by WDC inviting comment on the options and asked the Clerk to report back to Councillors on any feedback received. He noted that the letter was not sent to named individuals, but to each household and asked our District Councillor to convey to WDC that several parishioners had claimed non receipt.

391.3 Affordable Housing

Cllr Hogestijn reported that there was nothing at present, although the outcome of the recent Housing Needs Survey by WDC was awaited.

391.4 Registration of Allotment land

The Clerk reported that this had now been completed.

391.5 Future of United Reformed Church and Hall

Discussions between the URC authorities and English Heritage are ongoing; there have been delays over the acceptance of plans for development.

391.6 Cuckmere Estuary.

Cllr Hogestijn advised that she was investigating whether certain EU Grants could be used to help fund local initiatives to maintain the river banks. The Chair advised that he had arranged to walk the river bank with the Chairman of Cuckmere Valley Parish Council and an official from the Environment Agency to identify locations which required attention.

392.0 PLANNING – Cllr Charlton

392.1 Minutes from Planning Committee meetings held since last Parish Meeting

- 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 – *There were no objections and it is thought that it will enhance the property and be in keeping with other properties in the vicinity*
- 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 – *There were no objections as it would be a bonus to nature and enhance wildlife to the area.*
- 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 – *There were no objections as it would be a bonus to nature and enhance wildlife to the area.*
- 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 – *There were no objections to the railings, gate and post. However, with regard to the garage block the following objections were raised:*
 - a. *The proposed garage block is excessively high and a substantial over-development of a small / garden space.*
 - b. *The garage and studio are out of proportion with each other, with the proposed studio being much higher.*
 - c. *The building could be imposing to neighbouring properties with the proposed removal of the trees along the boundary near the road.*
- 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 – *There were no objections to the railings, gate and post. However, with regard to the garage block the following objections were raised:*
 - a. *The proposed garage block is excessively high and a substantial over-development of a small / garden space.*
 - b. *The garage and studio are out of proportion with each other, with the proposed studio being much higher.*
 - c. *The building could be imposing to neighbouring properties with the proposed removal of the trees along the boundary near the road.*
- 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 – *There were no objections as the extension would not be overlooked as there are no near neighbours and the boundary is surrounded by trees.*

392.2 Matters for consideration by Planning Committee after the Meeting

None

392.3 Decisions Notified

None

392.4 Enforcement Action to be Reported

None

392.5 Local Development Framework

Nothing to report

392.6 Liquor Licence applications

None

393.0 RIGHTS OF WAY and COUNTRYSIDE

393.1 Any Rights of Way matter

None notified.

393.2 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.

393.3 South Downs / National Park – Progress with Consultation Meetings

Councillors have been invited to a meeting at Lewes Town Hall on 11 August organised by the Sussex Association of Local Councils at which further information on the setting up of the new Authority will be provided.

393.4 Any Countryside Matter

The Chairman had recently attended a meeting convened by Berwick Parish Council at which a petition to Protect the approaches to the National Park had been presented to local Parish Councils for their approval. He had joined APC to the Petition.

393.5 Any report from Tree Warden

None.

394.0 The TYE

394.1 Litter Bins

In Cllr Monteath-Wilson's absence, Cllr Charlton read a report requesting the purchase of a new dog litter bin and the replacement of an existing litter bin with a larger model more in keeping with the ambience of the Tye. It was expected that the cost would not exceed £500.00. A proposal to sanction the expenditure was **proposed** by Cllr Charlton, **seconded** by Cllr Ellis and **agreed**.

394.2 Any other matter relating to the Tye

Cllr Monteath-Wilson's report requested that an approach be made to WDC to change the designated parking bay provided for Heartstart to Heartstart / Disabled.

395.0 CAR and COACH PARKS and PUBLIC TRANSPORT – Cllr Ellis

395.1 Condition of Posts in Dene Car Park

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

395.2 Any other Car and Coach Park Matter

A new wooden "No Parking" notice in the private road which bisects the Willows Car Park will be commissioned.

395.3 Any Public Transport matter

None.

396.0 ALLOTMENTS and RECREATION GROUND – Cllr Byford

396.1 Allotment Renewals / Waiting List

Cllr Byford advised that 3 plot holders have indicated they do not wish to continue and that there are 4 people on the waiting list. The possibility of offering quarter plots will be considered to assist those who were unable to tend a full or half plot.

396.2 Any other Allotment matter

Cllr Byford advised that an allotment holder had offered to assist with producing a Notice Board although it was hoped that funds might become available for an all-weather board next year. The matter will be revisited.

396.3 Licence for Clubs using Pavilion

The Clerk produced a draft Licence, which will now be submitted to the Pavilion sub-committee.

396.4 Recreation Ground – ROSPA Inspection Report

Cllr Byford has recently received the report and is currently evaluating the most cost effective way of implementing the findings.

396.5 Recreation Ground – Play Area

Cllr Byford is conducting a review and will report again next month.

396.6 Any other Recreation Ground matter

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

397.0 FINANCE – The Clerk

397.1 Statement of Finances

The Clerk advised the summary of bank account balances as at 20 July 2009

Precept Deposit account	8,118.17
Current account	40,638.13
Savings Account	5,484.27
Car Park Account	<u>18,108.50</u>
Total	<u>£72,349.07</u>

397.2 Invoices for Payment - July 2009

The Clerk presented the following cheques for payment

- £ 222.32 – Wages – C Burden
- £ 352.04 – Wages – D Skertchly
- £ 696.95 – Wages – S Smith
- £ 439.18 – HMRC – Tax and NI
- £19972.66 – Wealden District Council – Car Parks
- £ 404.00 – Tansleys Printers – Parish Plan
- £ 349.95 – Alfriston Heartstart – The Mine
- £ 334.75 – Hedleys – Allotment Registration
- £ 325.16 – Wealden District Council – Litter Bins
- £ 137.61 – EDF Sports Pavilion
- £ 120.06 – Wealden District Council – Dog Bins
- £ 79.25 - Playsafety – Playground Inspection
- £ 24.82 – S Smith – Reimbursement of Expenses (Stationery)
- £ 6.67 – EDF – Jubilee Clock

Total **£23,465.42**

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

397.3 External Audit 2008-2009

The Clerk reported the accounts had not yet been completed.

397.4 Any other Finance matter

The Clerk sought authority to make donations of £100.00 to the Cuckmere Community Bus in respect of last year 2008/2009 and to AWMH of £80.00 for hire fees for the same period as these had been inadvertently overlooked. These were **proposed** by Cllr Charlton, **seconded** by Cllr Hogestijn and **agreed**.

398.0 PARISH CLERK

398.1 “A” Permits – Dene Car Park

The Clerk reported that his review of the allocation of “A” Permits had been completed and that there was no evidence of any significant abuse of the system.

398.2 Jubilee Clock

The Clerk reported that remedial work to minimise the sound of the mechanism had not yet commenced.

398.3 Any Website matter

The error on the Google Search Engine which gives incorrect details for our Parish has not yet been rectified.

398.4 Any other matter

None

399.0 Reports from Outside Bodies

399.1 Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership

No report.

399.2 Cuckmere Community Bus

Cllr Charlton reported that the July meeting revealed there had been a decline in year to date passenger numbers, although recent loadings had increased. The next meeting will be held in October

399.3 Cuckmere Flood Forum

Nothing to report, next meeting in October

399.4 Festival

Cllr Monteath-Wilson sent a report advising the Festival will be held next month and is progressing to plan

399.5 Heartstart

No report.

399.6 SAFE

Presentation made before Meeting.

399.7 Safer Wealden Partnership

Nothing to report.

399.8 Village Hall Committee

Cllr Monteath-Wilson sent a report advising that hire charges have been reviewed.

399.9 Wealden District Association of Local Councils

No Report.

399.10 Any other Outside reports

None.

400.0 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

400.1 Memorial Tree on Tye

The Clerk had received an enquiry about placing a memorial tree on what, in fact, was ecclesiastical land; this will be referred to the Church authorities.

400.2 Other Correspondence

None.

385.0 DATE of NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 21 September 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.

- Mr Wilson advised there is to be a Trustee Meeting of the URC on 23 July.
- Mr Fraser was concerned about the effect of possible closing of gates on to the Tye would have on disabled people. Cllr Byford confirmed that it should not impinge on their use.
- Mrs Daw thanked APC for the use of an allotment plot by the Preschool as the produce grown had been used to raise funds. It was agreed by Councillors that the Preschool should not charge for their produce but that they could solicit donations. The Chairman thanked the Preschool via Mrs Daw for their efforts in cultivating the allotment to such good use.
- Mr Burden noted that whilst a trunk had been felled in the Willows Coach Park, a tree remained to be felled; the Clerk undertook to advise the Tree Warden.