

# ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

## CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2004 in the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston, commencing at 7.15pm.

**Present:** Cllr A. Banham  
Cllr Mrs S. Charlton  
Cllr J. Kegg  
Cllr G. Knights  
Cllr A. Lloyd  
Cllr Ms D. Monteath-Wilson

**In attendance:** P. Ayers Clerk  
8 parishioners

### Public Questions

1. Concern was expressed at the number of wagons using Kings Ride. This was considered to be due to the starting of construction work at a property, and was not likely to last longer than the building work.
2. A query was made about street sweeping, which did not appear to have been undertaken for some time. Cllr Mrs Charlton would make enquiries.
3. Problems had arisen again with emergency service vehicles trying to use the narrow end of Sloe Lane. Cllr Mrs Charlton had already enquired about the continuing delay in re-positioning the Sloe Lane – cars only sign onto wooden posts, agreed last autumn. She had not received a satisfactory answer from the officer concerned, and had referred the matter to District Councillor Whitehead to progress. It was understood that the posts should now be erected in June.

### The Clerk in the Chair

#### **178.0 Election of Chairman.**

The Clerk called for nominations as Chairman of the Parish Council.

Cllr Knights was proposed by Cllr Banham and seconded by Cllr Mrs Charlton. There were no other nominations, and the Clerk declared Cllr Knights duly elected as Chairman for the 2004-5 Council year. He offered his congratulations to the new Chairman, and all members echoed that view.

Cllr Knights completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman and the Clerk witnessed this.

The new Chairman thanked members for their confidence in him, and promised to work for the benefit of the village. A by election was to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> June to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Cllr Robson, and thus some duties would remain unallocated until after that date.

#### **170 The new Chairman in the Chair**

#### **179.0 Election of Vice-Chairman.**

Cllr Ms Monteath-Wilson was proposed by Cllr Banham and seconded by Cllr Lloyd. There were no other nominations, and the Chairman declared Ms Monteath-Wilson duly elected. She completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice-Chairman, which was witnessed by the Clerk. All members congratulated Ms Monteath-Wilson on her election.

## **180.0 Apologies for absence.**

County Councillor Shing had tendered apologies as he was attending the Annual Meeting in his own Parish.

## **181.0 Annual Accounts.**

### **181.1 Progress with Annual Accounts.**

The Clerk reported that the Annual Accounts had been reconciled exactly, and he had completed drafting the Annual Return for the external auditors, Mazars. Once the internal auditor had approved these, they would be placed before the Council for approval before submission to Mazars by the end of July.

### **181.2 Appointment of Internal Auditor.**

The Clerk enquired about the appointment of an internal auditor for the coming year, and members confirmed their agreement to the re-appointment of Mr N. Butten, subject to agreeing suitable terms with him.

## **182.0 Allocation of Portfolios.**

182.1 After some discussion, members confirmed their wish to retain their existing portfolios, subject to reconsideration after the by election. Until that time Cllr Banham would continue with the Planning portfolio.

- Allotments – Cllr Banham.
- Coach and Car Parks – Cllr Lloyd.
- Finance – Cllr Knights.
- Highways and Twittens – Cllr Mrs Charlton.
- Planning – Cllr Banham.
- Public Transport – Cllr Lloyd.
- Recreation Ground – Cllr Banham.
- Rights of Way and the Countryside – Cllr Ms Monteath-Wilson.
- The Tye – Cllr Kegg.
- Tourism – Cllr Mrs Charlton.

182.2 Two committees were formed:

- Finance (4 members): Cllr Knights (Chairman), Cllr Banham, Cllr Lloyd and Cllr Ms Monteath-Wilson.
- Planning (3 members): Cllr Banham (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Charlton, and one vacancy.

All appointments outlined above were agreed unanimously on the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Banham.

## **183.0 Appointments to outside bodies.**

183.1 Councillors considered the appointment of representatives to the following outside bodies, and agreed to the nomination of the members indicated, on the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Lloyd.

- Cuckmere Community Bus – Cllr Mrs Charlton.
- Cuckmere Flood Forum – Cllr Lloyd.
- Sussex Association of Local Councils (to attend autumn AGM) – Cllr Knights.
- Village Hall – Cllrs Banham and Ms Monteath-Wilson.
- Wealden District Association of Local Councils – Cllr Kegg.

## **184.0 MINUTES**

184.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2004 had been published and circulated previously. They were taken as read. A correction was made to minute 173.3 to read 'Cllr Monteath-Wilson **had investigated** a possible problem affecting the bridle path at this location, and **the Sussex Downs Conservation Board had re-established the path**. With that amendment, the Minutes were **accepted** as a true record on the **proposition** of Cllr Knights, **seconded** by Cllr Kegg, and signed by the Chairman.

## **185.0REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

185.1In Cllr Shing's absence, the Clerk reported that Cllr Shing had attended the May Day fair, and despite poor weather, felt that people had enjoyed the day.

## **186.0REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

186.1Cllr Whitehead reported on alterations to the way planning applications were considered, following the Comprehensive Performance Assessment. In future, the Area Plans sub committees would each comprise 12 local members, rather than every member. Any member in whose area an application was made would have the right to address the committee, whether or not he/she was a member of it, but the local member would not be able to vote on an application within his ward in future. The change was intended to speed up consideration of applications, and to free up Councillors to deal with other matters, such as Liquor Licensing, where 15 members would be needed in future.

186.2He would be following the question of the de-criminalisation of parking with interest, and would use the process to increase his knowledge of the subject, whilst representing the Parish's interests.

## **187.0ALLOTMENTS**

187.1£50 had proved insufficient to rotavate the unused plots, but after discussion with allotment holders, Cllr Banham had agreed that these plots could be sprayed to kill the weeds.

187.2Mr Pocock was behind schedule with his mowing due to weather conditions.

187.3Two allotments now remained vacant.

## **188.0CAR and COACH PARKS**

### **188.1Cycle racks**

There was no news on the request for two additional racks.

### **188.2Retirement of Weekday Parking Attendant**

Cllr Lloyd reported that the new weekday attendant, Mr John Lumley, had been appointed from 3<sup>rd</sup> May, initially on a short-term contract until the end of October, but with the possibility of extension, dependent upon Council consideration. The Clerk was dealing with a Contract of Employment.

### **188.3Dene Car Park spaces**

The Clerk had written to Wealden DC about replacing the damaged posts and chains, and a response was awaited.

### **188.4Photoplot 2005**

Arrangements had been finalised, and an Attendant would assist in marked out the reserved spaces on the day.

### **188.5Parking bays on Tye**

Neither Cllr Lloyd nor Cllr Kegg had been able to contact the taxi proprietor to discuss matters, but Cllr Lloyd **proposed** a compromise whereby the two spaces would be available for use by disabled people during the day time and the taxi at night. This was **seconded** by Cllr Mrs Charlton and **agreed unanimously**.

## **189.0FINANCE**

### **189.1VAT Inspection**

The Clerk had been unsuccessful in his attempt to secure compensation from East Sussex for their inefficiency, and it was agreed not to pursue the matter further. The VAT return for the first quarter had been accepted, thus clearing the question of VAT payments on grass cutting. This left just the Recreation Ground matters, which Cllr Banham and Cllr Lloyd had raised with the Cricket Club. As there had been no response, it was **proposed** by Cllr Lloyd, **seconded** by Cllr Monteath-Wilson, and **agreed** that the Clerk should raise an invoice on the Cricket Club for the sum involved, and to send it with a letter confirming the Council's willingness to discuss the situation further.



### **190.5 Temporary traffic control, High Street**

To enable the provision of a gas supply to a property in the High Street, single line working with traffic signal control would be in place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Concern was expressed about proximity to the Bank Holiday weekend in case of an over-run, but ESCC had expressed confidence in their ability to complete the works in a timely fashion.

### **190.6 White Court, Kings Ride**

The Chairman queried the provision of concrete kerbstones at White Court, replacing granite setts. Cllr Mrs Charlton would investigate. The road edges needed weed-killer treatment also.

## **191.0 OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **191.1 A.D.A.P.T.T.**

Cllr Mrs Charlton reported that Wealden DC and Tourism South East had agreed to assist the traders with a form of Market Towns Health Check for the village. This would be undertaken in June or July to offer suggestions that might make the businesses flourish.

### **191.2 Cuckmere Flood Forum**

Cllr Lloyd had received a CD from the Environment Agency, which he would pass on to the Forum.

## **192.0 PARISH CLERK**

### **192.1 Parish Plans and Community Warden**

A full discussion on the Middleton-on-Sea Parish Plan was still to be arranged.

Upto eight Community Support Police Officers supported by Wealden DC generally were due to be available for duty from July, and once they were in place Councillors would review any further steps needed. It would be possible to continue employing the weekday parking attendant on reduced hours, but with a broadened remit over the winter months.

### **192.2 By-election**

Three nominations had been received at Wealden DC within the timescale laid down, and a by election would be held on 10<sup>th</sup> June. The Poll Cards had been ordered.

### **192.3 Wealden District Corporate Plan**

Cllr Lloyd had reviewed this document, but found nothing of concern to the Parish.

## **193.0 PLANNING**

### **193.1 Matters already considered by the Planning Committee**

WD/04/0735/F Down Lane, The Broadway – two storey extension and alterations to form new dwelling. Erection of single storey extension to existing dwelling house. *No objections.*

WD/04/1039/F Greyholm, Cuckmere Road – single storey extension allowing enlargement of kitchen, replacement shower room plus lobby. *No objections.*

WD/04/1041/F France Hill - demolition of existing breakfast room. Construction of two storey extensions and provision of disabled facilities on the ground floor. *No objections.*

### **193.2 Decisions notified**

WD/04/0163/F Merrythought, The Broadway – two storey extension to right hand side of property and single storey garage and utility room to left hand side, and conservatory to rear. *Granted.*

WD/04/0392/LBR Rosemary Cottage, High Street – retrospective application for swan nest open grate, fireback and hood. *Granted.*

WD/04/0408/F 1, Kings Ride – extension to form double garage with bedroom and bathroom over, enlarged kitchen, utility and W.C. *Granted, despite Parish Council concerns.*

### **193.3 Update on previous applications**

Wealden DC had given notice of two sets of enforcement proceedings in connection with the Airwave mast erected at Berwick Court Farm.

## **194.0 PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

There was nothing to report.

## **195.0 RECREATION GROUND**

### **195.1 Cricket pavilion**

Cllr Banham understood that the Cricket Club were progressing with architect's plans, but there was no club representative present to describe them. He would encourage the club to send a representative to the June meeting.

#### **195.2 Annual Playground Inspection**

The inspection would take place in June, and Cllr Banham would deal as necessary, once the report had been received.

#### **195.3 Cricket Club six-a-side competition**

The Club had written seeking permission for their annual six-a-side competition, including the erection of a marquee on the recreation ground on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2004. This was agreed.

### **196.0 RIGHTS OF WAY & COUNTRYSIDE**

#### **196.1 Black Poplars on riverbank**

The Clerk had written to the Environment Agency with a plan for planting the five remaining black poplar saplings on the riverbank, and permission was awaited.

#### **196.2 Crown reduction of sycamore in Smugglers Close**

The Tree Warden had discussed the need for the work with local residents. An application to Wealden DC for permission to undertake the work would be necessary.

#### **196.3 Haven Road**

The Tree Warden was concerned about the standard of work undertaken along Haven Road, which he considered potentially dangerous. He felt that remedial work by the Conservation Board was necessary and the Clerk would write to them accordingly.

#### **196.4 Tree Nursery**

The Tree Warden had succeeded in germinating three acorns from the Great Oaks of Windsor. These would be transplanted into the nursery at the end of the year, by which time it should have been prepared ready to accept them, and other saplings.

#### **196.5 Parking at the Spots Pumping Station**

Southern Water had confirmed that no permission had been granted for parking at the Spots, and the owners had been visited. This had a knock on effect concerning parking in River Lane, and Cllr Monteath-Wilson was approaching East Sussex CC for a definitive answer before taking any action needed.

#### **196.6 Memorial bench – Kings Ride**

Cllr Monteath-Wilson and Cllr Banham would investigate possible sites for the bench at the top of Kings Ride, so that the potential donor could be notified. Some groundwork was likely to be necessary in addition to the bench itself.

#### **196.7 Beachy Head Marathon**

The event organisers had written confirming that the event would take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, with arrangements the same as in previous years. Nearer the event, posters would be placed on notice boards to advise local residents, and a note would be placed in Cuckmere News.

#### **196.8 Winton Fields footpath**

The Clerk had written to the landowner, and expected to discuss the matter with him the following day.

### **197.0 THE TYE**

#### **197.1 Mine**

The mine still had to be secured, and its paintwork would then be touched up.

#### **197.2 Replacement seat on the Tye**

The replacement seat was now in position. The Clerk would thank Mr Barnard.

#### **197.3 Parking on the Tye**

The Clerk had drafted a letter, which was approved, and would be despatched to all organisations using the War Memorial Hall, as soon as a list of addresses was received. The remaining stakes would be removed, as the grass was now well established.

#### **197.4 Manhole cover on footpath to the Spots**

The Clerk would contact Southern Water following a complaint that the large manhole cover on the footpath was slippery when wet.

### **198.0 TOURISM**

#### **198.1 Leaflet displays**

The boards had not yet been supplied.

#### **198.2 Proposed Extension to Berwick Way**

A letter confirming the Council's position was agreed for despatch.

#### **198.3 Village of the Year competition 2003**

Cllr Mrs Charlton had canvassed the views of other councillors and **proposed** that the £400 prize money remaining should all be put towards lighting the path to the War Memorial Hall. This was **seconded** by Cllr Banham, and **agreed** unanimously. Several local organisations had suggested this, and councillors felt it was the best use of the money for the good of the community as a whole. The Clerk would make the arrangements and advise all the local organisations of the decision.

#### **198.4 Village of the Year competition 2004**

It had been confirmed that the Parish was excluded from the competition for 2004.

#### **198.5 Winton Street Farm**

Cllr Monteath-Wilson had visited the new owner, who understood local concern, but claimed that overnight fly tipping and the deliberate firing of the manure heap had been beyond his control. He was taking steps to tidy the area as soon as time permitted. Members agreed to accept the situation at present, but to continue monitoring it, to ensure that a gradual improvement took place.

### **199.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **199.1 Housing Needs Survey**

The results were still awaited.

#### **199.2 Pigeons on Star Inn**

The Clerk had written to the owner, suggesting possible remedies, but the problem remained. It was agreed to leave the matter for a further week, after which action would be taken if no response had been received.

#### **199.3 East Sussex proposed electoral divisions**

Councillors still felt strongly that the new division should include Alfriston in its title. The Commission had rejected the Parish's comments as out of time, and it remained to be seen whether the County proposal (which included Alfriston), or the Wealden amendment (which did not) was approved by the Boundary Commission.

#### **199.4 Alfriston Festival 2004**

This year's Festival would take place between Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> and Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August. Mr King had written on behalf of the Festival Committee seeking permission as in previous years to park collectors' cars on the Tye near the Clergy House, to use the Recreation Ground for the Boot Fair on Monday morning and for car parking that afternoon and for use of the sandwich boards in the Square throughout the week. Councillors confirmed their approval for all requests.

### **200.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2004 at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Hall, preceded by Public Questions from 7.15pm.

### **Public Questions**

1. A question was asked about horses in the twitten leading from the High Street to the Tye. Cllr Monteath-Wilson confirmed that provided the rider dismounted and walked the horse this was permissible, and was sometimes advised by the Police when the High Street was busy.
2. In a similar vein, horses were not allowed to be ridden over the White Bridge, and riders should be asked to dismount and walk their animals across.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2004.