

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Philip Ayers

Tel/Fax: 01323 870212

E-mail: candpayers@mistral.co.uk

The Old Rectory,
Litlington,
POLEGATE,
East Sussex,
BN26 5RB.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18th September 2006 in the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr G. Knights, Chairman, in the Chair
Cllr J. Apps
Cllr Mrs S. Charlton
Cllr D. Monteath-Wilson

In attendance: County Councillor J. Garvican
District Councillor K. Whitehead
10 parishioners
P. Ayers Clerk

Public Questions

1. Mr Wilson pointed out paviers which were breaking up on the High Street between Artisan and The House. Cllr Mrs Charlton would seek advice from ESCC. Mrs Phillips commented that older paviers may have suffered from the high pressure washing treatment meted out from time to time.
2. Mrs Peacock sought clarification of minute 608.2 concerning the Parish Council's letter to accommodation providers concerning car parking facilities for guests. The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent setting out the Parish Council's position, as contained in that Minute. There had been no responses, and he now regarded the matter as closed.

617.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received on behalf of Cllrs Banham, Kegg and Lloyd, whose reasons for absence were recorded in the Attendance Register, and were accepted as valid by Councillors.

618.0 MINUTES

618.1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th July 2006 had been published and circulated previously. They were taken as read, and there were no amendments. Acceptance as a true record was **proposed** by Cllr Apps, **seconded** by Cllr Mrs Charlton and **all agreed**. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting was suspended to allow a presentation to take place.

Mr M. Pashler, Head of Waste and Commercial Services

The Chairman welcomed Mike Pashler, who had agreed to update the meeting on progress with recycling in rural areas, which was an important issue within the Parish.

Mike had last addressed a meeting in Alfriston in 1988 prior to the introduction of wheelie bins, when little thought was being given to problems with landfill site capacity, but in the intervening period, Wealden had earned itself a place within the top 50 local authorities in the country with its CROWNE recycling programme, covering the urban areas, and 30% of all waste was recycled in this way. This comprised a black and green bin plus a box for dry recyclables such as plastic and cans. Each bin was emptied every two weeks, and there had been only minimal complaints because of smells resulting from the extended period over which refuse could remain in the bins. A lot of time, effort and money had been spent on the scheme which covered two thirds of the District. The rural areas had not been covered because of the extra costs involved where housing density was lower. However, an extension to these areas was a key Corporate Plan objective and kerbside recycling would be a statutory legal requirement wherever reasonably practicable by

2010. A scheme was to be trialled in Forest Row and Danehill in 2007, using a new type of vehicle with a split body to accept both types of waste in one collection. If this was successful, Wealden would review the scheme after about 12 months and then seek to roll it out to other rural areas quickly. He hoped that the District Council had heard the messages coming from rural Parishes and could now be seen to have taken those messages on board.

Landfill sites at Beddingham and Pebsham were expected to be full around the same time, and no other facility was available within the County, unless the incinerator at Newhaven secured planning consent. If not, all material would have to be transported out of the County at considerably increased cost.

The District recycled glass through 'bring' sites in car parks and at supermarkets where it was colour separated, transferred to Wealden's site at Uckfield and then moved in bulk to Harlow, where it was used to manufacture new bottles in a process which had also achieved reduced energy consumption. He did not consider the use of crushed glass instead of sand to be a sensible re-use of a relatively expensive product when sand itself was so cheap.

Mixed cans were collected from 'bring' sites and kerbside collections and moved to Uckfield where they were sorted into aluminium and steel, with the former being sold for re-use as cans or the manufacture of car parts, whilst the steel was sold to Corus via Canning Town and used in the manufacture of all steel products.

5,000 tones of paper and magazines were sold to Aylesford papermills each year and turned into news-print in a very high tech plant.

All green waste was taken to a site near Isfield where it was composted with cardboard over a six week period and then sold as a soil enhancer.

The County Council recycled other metal products, batteries and white goods through its household waste sites.

In answer to questions, Mr Pashler stated that:

- There was currently no satisfactory way of re-cycling household paints or other solvents.
- He understood concerns at the need to accommodate two wheelie bins, but this had been overcome elsewhere.
- Wealden did not recycle plastics at present as the process was expensive for such a bulky and light material, although a trial would be carried out to re-assess the position, since public pressure was increasing, and the value of plastic was increasing thanks to the Chinese economy. However, there were 5 or 6 different types of plastic which needed different treatments after separation.
- Each household in Wealden contributed around £51 per year towards the collection/recycling of waste, net of income from the sale of by-products. Recycling of glass was probably self financing, but this was not the case for paper, green waste or cans, since the price of steel was only £50 per ton.
- Districts had a close but complex relationship with Counties. Districts were the waste collection authorities, whilst Counties had to dispose of it. Because of Wealden's excellent record on recycling, they received 'waste credits' from the county to recognise their contribution in reducing the cost of disposing of waste.
- There was very little recycling of wood waste within the County, although a plant was under consideration at Whitesmith. Districts did not collect much timber from household or kerbside collections.
- He agreed that moral and environmental issues were joining cost in the consideration of how to dispose of waste.

The Chairman thanked Mr Pashler for a most illuminating presentation, and it was clear from the number of questions that he had provoked a great deal of interest locally.

The meeting was re-convened.

619.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Garvican reported at length on a seminar about the Health Service Review, which he had attended earlier in the day. Government was seeking to introduce hospitals able to deal with a different range of services according to the populations they served. As a result, it appeared that emergency treatment was not likely to be available continuously at either Eastbourne or Hastings, leaving people unsure where to go at such times. He outlined the

thinking behind the proposals which would be the subject of consultation early in the New Year. This was a nationwide initiative brought about by the perceived overspend in many hospitals allied to a programme of change in health care bringing in standards of competence based upon treatment numbers as well as the European Working Time Directive, reducing working hours.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Garvican for his detailed description, and it was agreed that advance warning of the changes meant that the Parish Council could consider its response to the consultation better.

620.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Whitehead reported that Wealden's full Council meeting on 20th September would consider its draft Statement of Community Involvement, which, if approved, would be sent on to Government. This document described how the District Council would consult with local people in future.

Consideration of the Core Strategy was where decisions would be taken about housing allocations and he anticipated a process of discussion with villages about taking on small numbers of new houses to aid the process. The next stage after that would be the Design Guide providing guidance to developers about estate development.

621.0 RECREATION GROUND

621.1 Cricket Pavilion

Cllr Apps reported that formal Notice of a planning application had been received by the Cricket Club. The application itself was attached, but had not been released yet by Wealden for consideration by the Planning Committee.

It was understood informally that an application for funding from Viridor (Land Fill) Credits was to be considered in December, and if successful, work should be undertaken next spring.

621.2 Playground Inspection

Mr Trowell was working through the list, giving particular attention to those items noted as medium risk or higher.

621.3 Dog fouling

Cllr Apps reported a reduction in fouling, and as the remaining problem was likely to be wild animals, patrols by the Dog Warden would be futile. A price for fencing the area was in hand, so that this could be considered for inclusion into a future year's budget.

621.4 Fencing and pruning

The fencing work had been completed and pruning would be done by the end of September. Broken fence posts had been duplicated.

621.5 Water meter – pipe leak

There appeared to be a leak on/around the meter, as its chamber filled with water if the supply was left turned on. Mr Trowell would liaise with South East Water, who had installed the meter, to secure remedial action. He was turning the supply to the Pavilion and allotments on and off as required to preserve a water supply whilst not wasting water.

621.6 Goalmouth

The netting was on order with delivery expected soon. Cllr Banham had agreed siting with Mr Trowell.

622.0 RIGHTS OF WAY & COUNTRYSIDE

622.1 Surface on White Bridge

The work had been completed, satisfactorily at present.

622.2 Post on glebeland

Cllr Monteath-Wilson had ascertained that the post in question had not been erected by the Environment Agency. The Clerk would approach ESCC with a view to its removal.

622.3 South Downs draft Management Plan

Cllr Monteath-Wilson had attended a briefing session at Exceat, and secured a supply of leaflets which could be used by local people to guide them through the consultation and comment process. The document had been put together by a partnership led by the South Downs Joint Committee, but embracing the County Councils, Environment Agency and English Nature, and would be adopted irrespective of National Park status in the future. It had been drafted from issues identified by those originally consulted by the Joint Committee,

and each of 10 sections resulted in a number of 'ambitions' being identified. There were draft Planning Guidelines too. Cllr Monteath-Wilson would draft a suggested response for consideration at the October meeting, as many of the 'ambitions' were so broad as to be uncontentious.

622.4 Horse Chestnut in Market Square

Cllr Monteath-Wilson reported that Mr Green, the Tree Surgeon, had contacted the Clerk of his own volition in August to express concern about the state of the horse chestnut. The Tree Warden was asked for his comments and had confirmed that he considered deterioration to have taken place, perhaps because of the hot dry weather, but the tree did constitute a risk, and had developed a more pronounced lean. This could be safeguarded by fencing it off, propping it up or felling it. The sonic survey in 2005 had suggested a further report should be undertaken in 4 years, with crown reduction in 2 years. Visual inspection suggested deterioration had been greater than might have been expected, possibly due to the weather, and fungal infection had spread. He was cultivating saplings as potential replacements, but these would not be sufficiently mature for some 2 – 5 years, and would then need screening for protection. He did not consider that a further sonic survey was needed, but did recommend a proper inspection by Richard Green Ltd.

Cllr Monteath-Wilson **proposed** that Mr Green be asked to update his report on the state of the horse chestnut, and how it should be made safe until replacement. This was **seconded** by Cllr Apps and **agreed unanimously**.

623.0 THE TYE

623.1 Display of Bye Laws

A response was still awaited.

623.2 Fence posts on Tye

The matter was held over to receive a report from Cllr Kegg.

623.3 Drinking Fountain

Nothing to report in the absence of Cllr Kegg.

623.4 Grass around manholes

This work had been completed.

623.5 Damage to Mine

Some of the sign-writing had been defaced deliberately. It was reported that Cllr Kegg had traced those responsible and an agreement had been reached for them to pay for the cost of repair.

623.6 New bench

Approval was given for a further new bench on the Tye in memory of a local person.

623.7 Charity Commission Annual Return

The Clerk had circulated the Annual Return to all Members in July. There were no questions arising. Approval of the return was **proposed** by Cllr Mrs Charlton, **seconded** by Cllr Monteath-Wilson and **agreed unanimously**. The Chairman and Clerk would sign the Return and despatch it.

624.0 TOURISM

624.1 Village of the Year competition

Cllr Mrs Charlton reported that Herstmonceux was the East Sussex winners for 2006. She understood that the content of the competition was to be reviewed. Details of the judges comments would be circulated for information and placed on the website.

624.2 Car Park Map

The Clerk had taken up the missing map with the Sussex Downs Joint Committee, but the officer responsible had been on sick leave for a month and had only just returned to work.

625.0 ALLOTMENTS

625.1 Removal of waste area

The Clerk reported that Cllr Banham had secured three quotations for the professional disposal of the mound. Two of these sought £500 whilst the third was for £350 plus VAT. He recommended acceptance of the lowest price from One2One Waste Solutions. This was **proposed** by Cllr Knights, **seconded** by Cllr Apps and **agreed unanimously**. The Clerk would make arrangements accordingly.

626.0 CAR and COACH PARKS

626.1 Proposed revisions to the 'A' permit system

Nothing to report.

626.2 Allocation of spaces to local accommodation providers

The Clerk had written to all accommodation providers, setting out the Parish Councils views. There had been no response.

626.3 Litter and vegetation

Cllrs Lloyd and Monteath-Wilson were still to review a sign for the Cuckmere Way.

Cllr Mrs Charlton asked for urgent attention to be paid to the state of the Dene Car Park, which needed a thorough clean up, and a drain filled with leaves should be unblocked too. The Clerk would seek assistance from Wealden DC.

627.0 FINANCE

627.1 Invoices for payment – August

The Clerk sought ratification for payments made in August on the approval of the Finance Committee:

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

| | £ |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Clerk: admin and travel | 40.67 |
| wages | 333.33 |
| Inland Revenue | 150.70 |
| Wealden DC – dog bin emptying to June | <u>120.67</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>645.37</u> |

CUCKMERE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| P. Ayers – wages | 121.21 |
| Inland Revenue | <u>54.80</u> |
| | <u>176.01</u> |

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| P. Ayers – wages | 113.34 |
| C. Burden – wages | 259.34 |
| D. Skertchly – wages | 394.64 |
| Inland Revenue | 253.65 |
| Wealden DC – share of car park takings | <u>10,293.63</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>11,314.60</u> |

Payments were **approved** on the **proposal** of Cllr Knights, **seconded** by Cllr Monteath-Wilson.

627.2 Invoices for payment – September

The Clerk presented invoices for payment in September:

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

| | £ |
|--|------------------------|
| Clerk: admin and travel | 40.67 |
| wages | 333.33 |
| Inland Revenue | 150.70 |
| Viking Direct – laser drum and cartridges | 492.28 |
| Mazars – external audit fee | 411.25 |
| British Telecom | 62.42 |
| Streder Pearce – rent on Glebeland – one year in arrears | 50.00 |
| Star Fireworks – maroon | 44.36 |
| EDF Energy Customers Plc – pavilion | <u>17.91</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>1,602.92</u> |

CUCKMERE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| P. Ayers – wages | 121.21 |
| Inland Revenue | <u>54.80</u> |
| | <u>176.01</u> |

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| P. Ayers – wages | 113.34 |
| C. Burden – wages | 238.00 |
| D. Skertchly – wages | 364.09 |
| Inland Revenue | <u>235.86</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>951.29</u> |

Payments were **approved** on the **proposal** of Cllr Knights, **seconded** by Cllr Monteath-Wilson.

627.3 Statement of Finances

Councillors examined the Statement of Bank Balances on 17th September provided by the Clerk, and accepted them as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | £ |
| Precept deposit account | 19,553.00 |
| Current account | 3,588.62 |
| Savings account | 5,116.85 |
| Car Park Account | <u>11,159.13</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>39,417.60</u> |

627.4 Annual Return

The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Return for 2005-6 had been returned from the external auditor without comment. This had been published on the Notice-boards as required.

628.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS

628.1 Directional signs to Tye and Churches

The sign was in place, but slightly obscured by the ESCC post. Cllr Mrs Charlton would seek a reduction in the height of the post, or its re-location. The cost of £60 for the production of the sign had been met entirely by the Amenity Society, and the Chairman thanked them for their generosity.

Cllr Kegg was still to approach the owner of Twytten House to ascertain if he might agree to a sign being placed on the side wall, now that building renovation work had been completed.

628.2 'A' Boards

Cllr Mrs Charlton was arranging a meeting with Mr Guyton of ESCC.

628.3 Paviers

A revised pavior, acceptable to the Conservation Officers had been sourced, and would be used to re-lay an area of 3 sq. metres outside the Smugglers Inn, where the existing paviers were a hazard. The Clerk had written to Wealden's Conservation Officer for confirmation of the funding he had offered.

628.4 Graffiti in Rope Walk

This had been removed earlier in the day.

628.5 Report from SLR Meeting

The Clerk would circulate notes from the meeting for information.

629.0 OUTSIDE BODIES

629.1 Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership

Cllr Mrs Charlton reported that her previous report about new joint Chairs had subsequently been proved incorrect, and the post was again under consideration.

629.2 Cuckmere Community Bus

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service would be presented at the 30th anniversary Dinner at Deans Place Hotel in October.

629.3 Festival

Members agreed that this had been a great success and offered their congratulations to the new Committee. The Clerk would write to the Chairman accordingly.

629.4 Flood Forum

The Chairman had had some discussions with Cuckmere Valley Parish Council, and would report further in October.

630.0 PARISH CLERK

630.1 Charter 88 response

The Clerk had circulated details of the Charter 88 campaign for local democracy, and in view of the passage of time, needed to check whether comments could still be accepted. Cllr Knights **proposed** general support in principle for the Sustainable Communities Bill, this was **seconded** by Cllr Monteath-Wilson and **agreed unanimously**. The Clerk would ascertain the deadline for comment, and return the matter to the October meeting for more general discussion if the timetable permitted this.

630.2 Invitation from South Downs Joint Committee

The Clerk circulated an invitation to all Councillors to attend a briefing session with the Joint Committee to describe their work in the local area. He asked that members let him know their availability to attend within two weeks.

630.3 Attendance at AirS and SALC AGMs

Both AGMs would be held at the South of England Showground, Ardingly on Thursday 12th October. A representative was still required, and members were asked to indicate their availability to the Clerk.

631.0 PARISH PLAN

631.1 Progress report

In the absence of Cllr Lloyd, there was no report, but it was understood that the questionnaire was being devised at Brighton University, who were also considering its circulation. Cllr Lloyd would be asked to provide an update, which could be placed on Notice-boards and the website for information.

632.0 PLANNING

632.1 Planning Committee meetings – 29th August and 13th September 2006

Members received the Minutes from the meeting on 29th August and draft Minutes from that on 13th September, and noted the Committee's decisions on applications as outlined below:
WD/2006/1065/LB The Chaise House, West Street: alteration to replace bay window to east elevation. *No objection.*

WD/2006/2042/F Winton Barn, Winton Street: *replacement of existing oil tank to alternative location.* No objection.

WD/2006/2155/F 2, Deans Road: conversion of one dwelling into two dwellings. *No objection, but a slight reservation because of the asymmetrical appearance due to only one house having a chimney.*

WD/2006/2393/F land adjacent to 3, Kings Ride: erection of new dwelling. *The reason for refusal of the application made in 2001 remains the same viz: that the application represents an unacceptable cramped form of over-development of this narrow heavily constrained site. Also access to the plot would be a problem and a danger to road users. Several TPO's that are in existence on the land and the loss of other important mature trees would restrict the construction of such a dwelling. The application is contrary too to the Wealden Development Policy for this area.*

WD/2006/2491/F garage to The Dene, West Street: proposed conversion of redundant garage to dwelling house with parking space. *The Parish Council strongly objects to this application, which is in a Conservation Area.*

The main objection is that the building appears to be an over-development on an extremely narrow site. The proposed house is less than 11 feet wide and is in close proximity to the neighbouring property, which would cause over-shadowing. Furthermore, the neighbour's Listed flint wall would be likely to be damaged by the foundations of this house. The present garage, which is claimed to be redundant, has been used when the house has been let and its use would mean that the two car parking garage spaces as well as the parking space in front of it would be a loss to the village where there is a shortage of garaging.

The character of the proposed building is completely out of keeping with the large properties in the area and would present an ugly entrance to the Dene Car Park. It is noted that the applicants intend to demolish part of the car park wall to gain access for their own parking spaces, which would create a hazard. Not shown on the plan is a large mature beech tree, which could be damaged by the development. Also the proposed property would jut out beyond the building line of its neighbouring properties in West Street.

632.2 Decisions notified

WD/2006/0391/LB Alfriston Youth Hostel, Frog Firle: fire protection to basement ceiling. *Granted.*

WD/2006/0883/LB Winton Barn, Winton Street: external and internal alterations to existing two-storey annexe. *Granted.*

WD/2006/1468/LB Tuckvar, West Street: replacement of an existing window. *Granted.*

WD/2006/1801/LB Alfriston Youth Hostel, Frog Firle: to install new W.C., sink and shower in bedroom 1, connecting to existing foul drainage. *Granted.*

WD/2006/1823/F Downsview, North Road: side attached single garage and two storey rear extension + roof conversion. *Refused.*

632.3 Progress with appeals

The appeal against refusal of the antennae proposed at Alfriston Telephone Exchange had been turned down, and details posted on Notice-boards and the website.

633.0 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

There was nothing to report.

634.0 CORRESPONDENCE

This item was held over until October due to the late hour.

635.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 16th October 2006 at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Hall, preceded by Public Questions from 7.15pm.

Public Questions

1. Mrs Peacock asked that Wealden DC were approached to remove ivy and repair the flint wall on the Dene car park wall adjacent to Sloe Lane. The Clerk would seek Wealden's assistance when undertaking other work requested during the meeting.
2. Mr Phillips and others confirmed that despite the presence of a stand microphone, it was still difficult for the audience to hear what was being said. The Chairman asked Cllr Apps to explore the purchase of lapel microphones.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: 16th October 2006.