

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th April 2004 in the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr G. Knights, Chairman, (in the Chair)
Cllr A. Banham
Cllr Mrs S. Charlton
Cllr J. Kegg
Cllr A. Lloyd
Cllr Ms D. Monteath-Wilson, Vice Chairman

In attendance: County Councillor S. Shing
District Councillor K.J. Whitehead
P. Ayers Clerk
14 parishioners

Public Questions

1. Mr Wilson raised questions about the state of the Old Coach Road near Comp Barn, and about Footpath 8 across Winton Fields. Cllr Monteath-Wilson understood that the section of the Old Coach Road would be refurbished at the end of the current financial year, provided that funds were available. The new stiles appearing on footpath 8 were because the landowner was using the area for grazing, and needed to ensure that it was stock-proof. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the landowner and the Sussex Downs Conservation Board, drawing attention to the use of that footpath by disabled people in wheelchairs, who would no longer be able to do so once stiles were in place.
2. Mr Butcher sought clarification of the creation of a taxi bay in the resurfaced area outside the Wingrove Inn. This had reduced the amount of parking available for disabled people. Cllr Knights commented that there were still three spaces on the Tye reserved for disabled people, and the Council had felt that they should support the continued provision of a local taxi service by allotting a space. However, in the light of feelings expressed, Cllr Lloyd and Cllr Kegg would discuss the matter further with the taxi proprietor, and the manager at the Clergy House.
3. Mr Wedge complained that the turning circle on the Tye was blocked by parked cars on Bank Holiday Monday, and wondered whether larger signs were needed, or a clamping system brought into use. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of clamping given the success of the Star Inn, but it was feared that it would prove impractical because of practicalities such as the need for a system of release at any time of the day or night.

160.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies to report.

161.0 MINUTES

161.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2004 had been published and circulated previously. They were taken as read, **accepted** as a true record on the **proposition** of Cllr Mrs Charlton, **seconded** by Cllr Lloyd, and signed by the Chairman.

162.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

162.1 Cllr Shing provided an outline timetable for the construction of a single carriageway bridge on the A27 over the railway line at Beddingham. An Environmental Site Survey was taking place in spring 2004, followed by an Environmental Statement in the summer. A contractor would be appointed over the winter period, any Public Enquiry necessary

would be held during 2005 allowing construction work to commence that winter with a target completion date of autumn 2007.

162.2 He commented on the Alfriston Group meeting, the possible by-election and public transport penalties, all of which appear below.

163.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

163.1 Cllr Whitehead reported that the new draft Local Plan was making its way through the consultation process, but had nothing further to report on this occasion.

164.0 ALLOTMENTS

164.1 Just one and a half plots remained unlet, and Cllr Banham sought authority to have these and the Tree Warden's nursery plots rotavated at a price not to exceed £50, using Mr Pocock, the grass-cutting contractor. This was **agreed** on Cllr Banham's **proposition, seconded** by Cllr Kegg.

164.2 Mr Archie Skinner had kindly agreed to judge the Best Kept Allotment competition again this year, and would make four unannounced visits during the growing season.

164.3 The water had been turned back on for the summer season.

165.0 CAR and COACH PARKS

165.1 Cycle racks

Two racks had been installed on the grass area adjacent to the Willows Car Park, and an additional two would now be sought in the same area.

165.2 Retirement of Weekday Parking Attendant

Cllr Lloyd reported that a new attendant had been interviewed, and that subject to satisfactory references, would take up his duties early in May. Until that time, the weekend attendant was doing an additional two days a week.

165.3 Dene Car Park spaces

Following damage reported by one tenant, Cllr Lloyd proposed approaching Wealden District Council to replace the posts and chains in the Dene Car Park. The Parish Council had wanted to undertake the work, but could not afford to do so in the current financial year. However, Wealden were already patching the surface near the exit, and might be prevailed upon to replace the posts as well. He would make enquiries and report back.

165.4 Photoplod 2005

The Clerk had received a request from the organiser of this annual event, which the Council had sought to move from the Dene Car Park to the Willows Car Park following complaints last year. Councillors approved use of part of the coach park for this purpose, and the Clerk would make arrangements for the attendant to assist.

166.0 FINANCE

166.1 VAT Inspection

The VAT only invoice to East Sussex CC had now been paid, and formed part of the current VAT return. Provided this was not queried, this would resolve the grass-cutting section of the problem, leaving just the Recreation Ground matters, and Cllr Banham and Cllr Lloyd would be raising this in a meeting with the Cricket Club. The Clerk was still seeking £35 to compensate the Parish for the excessive delay caused by the County Council in resolving the grass-cutting queries.

166.2 Invoices for payment – April

The Clerk presented invoices for payment in April:

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL	£
Clerk: admin and travel	27.00
wages	289.60
Inland Revenue	126.45
Hailsham Roadway – Tye Road re-surfacing	2,261.88
Clarity Copiers – toner cartridges	54.05
South East Water – allotments water October 2003	18.47
Wealden District Council – litter and dog bins	<u>506.07</u>
TOTAL	<u>3,283.52</u>
CUCKMERE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL	
P. Ayers – wages	105.32

Inland Revenue	<u>45.97</u>
	<u>151.29</u>

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

P. Ayers – wages	106.38
W. Newman – wages	270.00
Inland Revenue	46.45
Cale Briparc	553.74
W. Newman – extra hours	150.00
Wealden District Council – car park charges	<u>1,334.40</u>
TOTAL	<u>2,460.97</u>

Payments were **approved unanimously** on the **proposal** of Cllr Knights, **seconded** by Cllr Lloyd.

166.3 Statement of Finances

Councillors examined the Statement of bank balances on 18th April provided by the Clerk, and accepted them as follows:

	£
Precept deposit account	931.86
Current account	6,072.40
Savings account	4,813.42
Car Park Account	<u>899.17</u>
TOTAL	<u>12,716.85</u>

166.4 Purchase of computer

The Clerk had still not pursued this item because of the tight cash situation.

166.5 Inland Revenue on-line filing

The Clerk had investigated how to file Returns on-line from 2004/5, and how the savings of £825 would accrue. He had already found a compliant software package from D\$sh software, who had just supplied the Cashbook software for 2004/5. Purchase of this package at a cost of £70 was **approved** on the **proposition** of Cllr Knights, **seconded** by Cllr Monteath-Wilson.

167.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS

167.1 Parking on grass verges

The problem of parking on grass verges had reduced considerably following the Chairman's intervention, but would continue to be monitored.

167.2 Damage to Star Inn

Cllr Mrs Charlton was awaiting a report from East Sussex CC as to what might be done to resolve the problem.

167.3 Winton Street grass triangle

The County Council refused to accept that their contractor had caused the damage. The grass would eventually re-grow, and it was agreed to drop the matter.

167.4 Paviers for North Street

Cllr Mrs Charlton was still awaiting a visit from the officer responsible at East Sussex CC. A reminder had been sent.

167.5 Village Maintenance Team

The list of possible tasks had to be submitted by early May, and Cllr Mrs Charlton asked that ideas were passed to her at an early date.

167.6 Road Hierarchy review

Cllr Mrs Charlton reported that the County Council was undertaking a review of its road hierarchy and asked that any comments be passed to her for inclusion.

167.7 Freight Strategy consultation

East Sussex had issued a draft strategy for consultation. This sought to minimise the impact of freight on small villages by diverting heavy traffic away from them as far as possible. Councillors favoured this approach, even if it meant that directional signage to villages was thereby less obvious than might otherwise be the case.

167.8 Street naming

Cllr Mrs Charlton had understood that the new signs in Alfriston would be in place in April. On checking the matter with Wealden DC, it now appeared that the signs had not been ordered until then, so that they would not be in place until May at the earliest.

168.0 OUTSIDE BODIES

168.1 A.D.A.P.T.T.

Cllr Mrs Charlton had attended the AGM when a new committee was elected comprising Mr Nash Robbins (Chairman), Mr Mel Butcher (Secretary), Mr Andrew Ferris (Treasurer), and a committee of 5. Their principal work in the coming year would be through a sub-committee redrafting its brochure.

168.2 Cuckmere Community Bus

Once again, Cllr Mrs Charlton had attended the AGM, where all existing officers had been re-elected. A new low-floor bus was due to be delivered shortly.

168.3 Cuckmere Flood Forum

Cllr Lloyd reported that no meeting had been held.

168.4 Tourism without Traffic – Alfriston Group

Cllr Knights reported on a meeting held on 22nd March to consolidate progress and agree on a way forward for the remaining life of the project. This had been most useful in clearing the air. Cllr Mrs Charlton would report progress of the group following each future meeting.

168.5 Village Hall Committee

Cllr Banham reported that no meeting had taken place.

168.6 Wealden District Association of Local Councils

Cllr Kegg reported that no meeting had taken place.

169.0 PARISH CLERK

169.1 Parish Plans and Community Warden

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

The Clerk had obtained prices for use of a dedicated Community Support Officer through Sussex Police. These started at £2,300 per annum for half a day a week, and the scheme was unlikely to be available at present, as all time had been taken up. However, eight officers supported by Wealden DC generally were in training, and would be available for duty from July, and it was likely that some of their time could be allotted to Alfriston. Members agreed that this was a practical way forward at the present time, and would pursue the question of de-criminalization of parking through District Councillor Whitehead initially.

169.2 Wealden LSP

The Clerk reported on his attendance at the Wealden LSP Wider Partners meeting on 18th March. This had largely been an exercise to assess people's perception of the Partnership and how it might progress in future.

169.3 Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting

The meeting had gone well, and the speakers especially had been well received. Progress on these items was reported under the appropriate agenda item.

169.4 Website

James Knights had now loaded all information onto the website, which was functioning. All future agendas and minutes would be posted there for general perusal.

169.5 By-election

The Clerk had been advised that a by-election to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Cllr Robson had been requested by electors, and arrangements were now in hand for this to take place co-incident with the European elections on 10th June. The costs of that by-election would fall upon the Parish, and had only partly been included in the budget. A decision was required as to whether or not Poll Cards would be issued for the Parish Election, at a cost of around 12p per card (including postage). Members agreed that as there was to be an election, this should be done as professionally as possible, and that Poll Cards would be requested, since the additional cost of providing these was not great.

169.6 Wealden District Corporate Plan

This had just been received with a tight deadline for comments. Cllr Lloyd agreed to review the document and respond as necessary on behalf of the Parish.

170.0 PLANNING

170.1 Matters already considered by the Planning Committee

WD/04/0777/F Boundary View, North Road: Detached Garage. *No objection – retrospective application.*

170.2 Decisions notified

WD/04/0132/F The Jays, North Road: rear extension to form family room. Timber balcony to bedroom. Front porch enclosure. *Granted.*

WD/03/3059/F Little Appin, The Broadway: conversion of garage to games room, first floor extension over garage, new detached double garage. *Granted.*

170.3 Update on previous applications

WD/03/0714/O The White House, West Street – erection of 2 No. new four bedroom detached houses using existing entrances (amended plan reduced to 2 from 3 houses). *This application had been amended some months ago, but nothing further had yet been heard about its progress.*

170 171.0 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

171.1 ESCC Contract terms – service 126

Cllr Lloyd reported that East Sussex had now responded to the letter from the Parish seeking amendments to the standard contract terms to prevent incumbent operators achieving variations to their contract prices during the currency of the contract. The County had confirmed that it would be reviewing its standard terms accordingly.

172.0 RECREATION GROUND

172.1 Cricket pavilion

Cllr Banham reported that the Cricket Club had now met their architect, using funding agreed from the Parish Council, and an initial plan proposing an extension to the rear and changes to the roof was estimated to cost around £20,000. The Club would be seeking a meeting with the Parish Council for assistance with fund-raising. This would provide the opportunity to discuss the possibility of seeking funding through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme and Sport England.

172.2 Playground funding

Cllr Banham would discuss the matter with Cllr Lloyd. It was agreed that funding for the proposed play-wall would not be available in the current financial year.

172.3 Annual Playground Inspection

The inspection would take place in June.

172.4 Dog Fouling Orders

The Clerk enquired whether the Parish wished to include any areas within a new Order being proposed by Wealden DC. As no area within the Parish had been included within the existing Order, members agreed that there was still no need to put any areas forward on this occasion.

172.5 Arrest

The Clerk reported that a youth had been arrested in the area of the Recreation Ground on suspicion of using a motor vehicle whilst under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

173.0 RIGHTS OF WAY & COUNTRYSIDE

173.1 Mink trapping

The Tree Warden was awaiting a response about the possible supply of humane traps.

173.2 Black Poplars on riverbank

Three saplings had been planted on land at Bank House Farm, and the Tree Warden had just completed another plan showing proposed planting sites so that the Environment Agency could consider granting permission for planting them on the riverbank.

173.3 Bridle path at Short Bottom

Cllr Monteath-Wilson was investigating a possible problem affecting the bridle path at this location, and would report again if necessary.

173.4 Parking at the Spots Pumping Station

Cllr Monteath-Wilson was seeking clarification from Southern Water about the apparent granting of permission to park in front of the pumping station, blocking the emergency access.

174.0 THE TYE

174.1 Potholes

The work had been completed satisfactorily, if a little later than planned.

174.2 Refuse collections

The parking situation had improved, allowing access for the refuse vehicle.

174.3 Mine

The mine was back in place, but still had to be secured. It had been corrosion proofed and a new coin receptacle made, which should give it a further 20-year life. All the work had been undertaken free of charge by Cllr Kegg and the Tree Warden, and councillors thanked them for their skill and generosity. A notice would be placed on notice boards together with a photograph.

174.4 Untaxed vehicles

Only one vehicle remained to be dealt with.

174.5 Use of Tye for events

Mrs Burton had formally sought permission to use the Tye on the occasion of the 600th Anniversary of the granting of the Market Charter in 2006. This was approved.

Mr Hernu also sought permission to use part of the Tye, extending out from the War Memorial Hall in connection with this year's 'World's Greatest Coffee Morning' event, previously held at the English Wine Centre. This was a fund-raising event for the Macmillan Nurses, and was approved.

A request had also been received from the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts Club to park around 30 vintage vehicles on the Tye one Sunday during the summer of 2005 when a rally was being arranged. Councillors did not feel able to support such an event because of its implications for more widespread use of the Tye for similar events. A compromise suggestion offering a section of the Recreation Ground could be put to the Club, provided that its event did not clash with Cricket or Stoolball matches. The Clerk would respond to the organiser accordingly.

174.5 Replacement seat on the Tye

Nothing further had been heard yet from Mr Barnard about replacing the bench near the Mine.

174.6 Parking on the Tye

Cllr Kegg reported that cars were still being parked on the Tye un-necessarily, and he sought to take steps to improve the situation. The Clerk was asked to write to all organisations using the Hall seeking their co-operation, and a notice was to be prepared for affixing to all car windscreens of offending vehicles. Whilst there was no objection to disabled people parking there for specific reasons, the situation was clearly being abused by others.

It was agreed that the remaining stakes would be left for a further month to allow the grass to re-grow fully.

174.7 Trolley for War Memorial Hall deliveries

Cllr Kegg had identified a trolley possibly suitable for deliveries to the Hall, and details would be passed on to the Village Hall Committee.

175.0 TOURISM

175.1 Leaflet displays

The design for the notice board to be affixed to the car park attendant's hut had been agreed so that construction could commence. Mrs H. Dalglish had kindly agreed to take care of the board, and advertising on it would be focussed onto the local area.

175.2 Proposed Extension to Berwick Way

Following his meeting met with the Chairman of Berwick Parish Council and county officers on site, Cllr Knights had now heard that Berwick Parish Council opposed the proposed extension to the Berwick Way on the grounds that it was un-necessarily wide and that the proposed elevated sections, requiring land purchase were not only un-necessary, but created the need for additional safety measures that were simply not in keeping with the area. Councillors debated the issues and agreed that there was no objection to work being undertaken to restore the path to its original width and to upgrade the surface, but they could not support the extent of the new work now proposed. This course of action was **proposed** by Cllr Knights, **seconded** by Cllr Mrs Charlton, and **agreed unanimously**.

175.3 Village of the Year competition 2003

Rev'd Fox-Wilson had written expressing his delight at the donation made after the last meeting.

Many local groups had responded with suggestions as to the possible use of the remaining money for local work. The Clerk described these, and copies had been given to all Members. They would reflect upon the proposals, discuss them informally and ratify any decision at the next meeting.

175.4 Village of the Year competition 2004

Cllr Mrs Charlton had received entry forms for this year's competition, but needed to clarify whether or not the village could enter again before 2005. Subject to that information, she would start work on the new entry, which took a rather different form this year.

175.5 Winton Street Farm

Members reported complaints about the current state of the yard adjoining the C39 road, and the burning manure heap. This was considered not to be in keeping with the area as a whole, and was potentially a matter for the Environmental Health department at Wealden DC. It was agreed to try local persuasion initially and two Councillors were deputed to approach the owner and report back to the next meeting.

176.0 CORRESPONDENCE

176.1 Housing Needs Survey

This had been undertaken, and the results were being analysed.

176.2 Pigeons on Star Inn

The number and location of pigeons was still causing concern, and it was understood that the owners of the Star Inn were proposing to remove the netting currently in place over the roof. The Clerk and a local resident had obtained contact details of firms able to assist with the problem, and these would be passed on to the owners of the Star Inn for action, as the problem was not the Parish Council's responsibility.

176.3 East Sussex proposed electoral divisions

The Parish's comments had been forwarded to the Commission, who had advised the Clerk that they had been received out of time.

176.4 Councillors' training courses

SALC had advised that the reason for all courses being held at weekends was the advantageous rate for the venue, which was not available during the week. However, they had noted the interest of members in weekday courses, and would bear this in mind as future courses were arranged.

177.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 17th May 2004 at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Hall, preceded by Public Questions from 7.15pm.

Public Questions

1. Mr Wedge enquired about progress with the double yellow lines in Smugglers Close. It was understood that the East Sussex Cabinet would consider the matter in May.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: 17th May 2004.