

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th June 2006 in the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston, commencing at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: 14 parishioners
County Councillor J. Garvican
P. Ayers Clerk

Public Questions

1. Mrs Sherstone complained about the lack of progress with a sign to the Tye to be placed on an existing pole in the High Street next to the United Reformed Church. The Amenity Society had offered funding towards the cost, but nothing had been heard for some months. The Chairman accepted the point. The Clerk had sought the assistance of ESCC with a suitable sign contractor, but as no reply had been received, alternative action would be taken quickly.
2. Mr Wilson pointed out that the recent verge trimming in West Street had avoided the periphery of the Vicarage again. The grass contractor would be reminded.
3. Mr Phillips advised those present of the wealth of congratulations about the Charter 600 event, which had been received from within and outside the village. He wanted to thank Councillors jointly and individually for all the help they had given. Concern about lottery money being used inappropriately was entirely unfounded. Detailed accounts had to be provided to justify the grants received. The Chairman thanked Mr Phillips for that clarification and went on to thank the Organising Committee and all the volunteers to whom the village owed an enormous debt for a wonderful 48 hours of events.
4. Mr Wilson asked what had happened to the magnificent lanterns produced for the procession. These were all in store with a view to further use, probably during the Dickensian Fayre in December.

579.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received on behalf of Cllr Kegg, whose reason for absence was recorded in the Attendance Register, and was accepted as valid by Councillors.

580.0 MINUTES

580.1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th May 2006 had been published and circulated previously. They were taken as read. Cllr Banham requested an amendment to minute 567.1 where the second sentence should read '...at least 7 addresses from outside the village...', and the first bullet point, where the response had been from Cllr **Knights**, not himself. With those amendments, acceptance as a true record was **proposed** by Cllr Banham, **seconded** by Cllr Monteath-Wilson and **all agreed**. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

581.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Garvican reported that full Council had met some four weeks ago and since that time nothing of significance had arisen.

582.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Whitehead was not present, had not offered apologies, nor supplied a report.

583.0 PLANNING

583.1 Planning Committee meetings – 15th and 24th May 2006

Members received the Minutes from the meeting on 15th May and draft Minutes from that on 24th, and noted the Committee's decisions on applications as outlined below:

WD/2006/0909/F Dawes House and Barn Cottage, Berwick: change of use from 'residential' to 'residential institutions' to provide home for 2 No. groups of 10 No. young people with learning difficulties. *There appears to be a significant over development in an A.O.N.B. Objection.*

WD/2006/0910/O Dawes House and Barn Cottage, Berwick: extension to provide a home for 2 No. groups of 10 No. young people with learning difficulties. *The Council queries whether this is a suitable place for this type of project. Objection.*

WD/2006/1037/F Land within curtilage of Frog Firl Barn, Seaford Road: proposed construction of agricultural buildings (stables, hay barn, tack room). *No objection.*

WD/2006/1248/FT Winton House, Winton Street: renewal of temporary permission for loose boxes. *No objection, but as the 'temporary construction' dates back to 1985, we suggest that it is made permanent within the next three years.*

583.2 Matters to be considered by the next Planning Committee meeting

A meeting would be held in the Committee Room at the War Memorial Hall immediately after the current Parish Council meeting to consider the following application:

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

WD/2006/1373/LB Candle Cottage, High Street: renovation and repair.

WD/2006/1454/F Moonrakers Restaurant, High Street: change of use from class A3 (restaurant and café) use to class C3 (dwelling house) use.

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

583.3 Decisions notified

WD/2006/0884/F Winton Barn, Winton Street: external and internal alterations to existing two-storey annexe. Use of existing garage for the purpose of domestic use (kitchen, dining). *Granted.*

WD/2006/0909/F Dawes House and Barn Cottage, Berwick: change of use from 'residential' to 'residential institutions' to provide home for 2 No. groups of 10 No. young people with learning difficulties. *Granted with conditions.*

583.4 Wealden District Council planning team.

Cllr Banham reported that retirements and re-organisation had left the remaining team extremely stretched, particularly in the Enforcement section.

584.0 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

584.1 Review of local bus services

The Clerk had received no further details about the July changes.

585.0 RECREATION GROUND

585.1 Goalmouth petition

The Chairman adjourned the meeting

Cllr Banham read out a letter received by the Clerk that day from Mr Drewek, an opponent of the goalmouth in its present position. He read out a letter in support of retaining the goalmouth where it was. A copy of both letters is appended to the Minute Book.

The Chairman then re-convened the meeting

Cllr Banham had received two further letters in support of retaining the goalmouth in its present position. He summed up the situation again, and had secured quotations of between £1,670 and £1,740 + VAT for the supply of Polymesh safety net and supporting posts 4 metres high between the goalmouth and the trees, and covering some 25 – 30 metres (three times the width of the goalmouth). It might be possible to reduce the width by not placing netting directly behind the goalmouth and reducing the width to its right. Cllr Banham suggested that this might halve the price. A safety net would solve the problem of balls getting onto the Broadway, but the noise disturbance would remain.

Moving the goalmouth to the suggested alternative location nearer to the cricket pitch was estimated to cost approximately £200. This might resolve the noise problem, and could help the safety issue although there was not such a slope at that point to dissipate a ball's energy. It was more exposed, visually unattractive and without safety netting, it would still be possible for balls to get onto roads. The Cricket Club had objected to the new location on the grounds of the danger of users being hit by a cricket ball, and possible damage to the pitch as footballers sought to retrieve balls. Although the Stool ball Club was unable to field a team at present, it remained in existence, and had also objected to the new location, which would be within the usual stool ball pitch.

Councillors were asked to indicate their views, and each indicated their support for retaining the goalmouth in its present location. Safety and the need to provide facilities within the Parish for young people were emphasised. Cllr Banham **proposed** that the Parish Council erect netting behind the present site of the goalmouth in line with the quotations received, and review the need for more netting once the autumn leaf-fall had occurred. This was **seconded** by Cllr Lloyd and **agreed unanimously**.

585.2 Cricket Pavilion

Cllr Lloyd outlined a letter received from the Cricket Club seeking advice and a further contribution towards architects' fees. The Clerk clarified his understanding of the VAT position. Members requested that the Club was asked whether or not Wealden DC's advice had been sought about any planning application. Cllr Lloyd **proposed** that being cognisant of having invested in architects' fees already, the Parish Council would pay up to 50% of the charges with consideration to a further contribution at a later date if the project were to proceed. In the meantime, two further competitive quotations should be obtained and the Club should initiate informal consultations with Wealden DC about any application. This proposal was **seconded** by Cllr Mrs Charlton and **agreed unanimously**.

585.3 Playground Inspection

The annual inspection would take place during June.

585.4 Dog fouling in the play area

Cllr Apps reported that the problem was persisting. A note would be placed in *Cuckmere News*, as the problem had increased throughout the village. Wealden DC would be asked to increase dog warden patrols, and Members agreed that it might become necessary to consider fencing off the play area.

585.5 Fencing and pruning

Mr Trowell's prices of £270 and £50 respectively were approved.

585.6 Extensively damaged bench in play area

The bench was a memorial, and the plaque would be obtained from Mr Trowell so that relatives might be approached before disposal of the bench, which was beyond repair.

585.7 Thanks

Cllr Apps recorded her thanks to Cllr Banham for assuming responsibility for the portfolio during her recent leave of absence.

586.0 RIGHTS OF WAY & COUNTRYSIDE

586.1 Parking on River Lane

The parking signs had been replaced, and advice from the County Council would be discussed with the farmer to ensure that his access was not obstructed.

586.2 Surface on White Bridge

The County Council was arranging a further inspection of the site.

586.3 Grass cutting

Cllr Monteath-Wilson reminded members that prolific growth in early summer often meant that paths were temporarily over-grown. She asked to be advised of any areas not cut by the end of June.

586.4 South Downs conference

Cllr Monteath-Wilson apologised that work commitments meant that she was unable to attend the conference on 22nd June.

586.5 Trees in Weavers Lane and Saffron Gardens

The Tree Warden had been asked to inspect trees at both locations to advise on any work necessary.

587.0 THE TYE

587.1 HeartStart sign beside Mine

The sign had been erected, but broken already. Cllr Kegg would be asked to reattach.

587.2 Display of Bye Laws

The United Reformed Church would be approached for permission to erect the display case to carry the Bye-Laws if this was a requirement.

587.3 Fence posts on Tye

The Clerk was not aware whether or not Cllr Kegg had asked Mr Trowell to proceed with the work agreed, but would follow up on his return.

Members asked that the chains, removed for Charter 600, were replaced.

588.0 TOURISM

588.1 Approach to film companies

Cllr Mrs Charlton had obtained sample material from Eastbourne BC, which would be passed to the Clerk for consideration.

588.2 Village of the Year competition

The entry had passed into the second round, and a visit by the judges would take place on Friday 23rd June. Cllr Mrs Charlton had arranged a representative group to meet the judges. The Chairman thanked her for her efforts once again. Concern was expressed concerning the representation of young people. Cllr Mrs Charlton confirmed that the Rector was in the reception group, and could speak in his capacity as head of the Youth Club, and Cllr Lloyd confirmed that the Parish Plan process was actively engaging young people.

589.0 ALLOTMENTS

589.1 Lettings

Cllr Banham reported that there was now a waiting list of two for allotments, although some plots were not being tended, possibly due to sickness. The waste mound had increased in size considerably in recent weeks with rubbish apparently being brought onto the allotments and dumped there. He asked for a note in *Cuckmere News* pointing out that the site was not a dumping ground. To clear the site would probably require two large skips and considerable cost to the Council. In addition, skips would have to be placed on a hard site away from the allotments and material moved into the skips mechanically, at a further cost. Cllr Banham would approach Mr Trowell and local farmers for views as to how best to remove the mound economically.

In relation to the untended plots, Cllr Banham mooted the idea of trebling the cost of plots but offering a 66% rebate for well-tended plots or where a good reason for not tending the plot could be shown. The matter could be re-visited later in the year.

590.0 CAR and COACH PARKS

590.1 Proposed revisions to the 'A' permit system

Cllr Lloyd had aborted his original proposal, but developed a series of letters, which he would discuss with the Clerk. There was a discussion about the size of spaces, and the Clerk confirmed that Wealden DC had been consulted previously and stated that they were satisfied with the present space sizes.

590.2 Allocation of spaces to local accommodation providers

A request had been received for overnight guests to be permitted to stay beyond the normally permitted hours without charge. Cllr Lloyd undertook to consider the request prior to the July meeting.

590.3 Light in Attendants' Hut

This would be raised with Wealden as a supply must be close by to feed the ticket machine.

591.0 FINANCE

591.1 Invoices for payment – June

The Clerk presented invoices for payment in June:

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

	£
Clerk:admin and travel	40.67
wages	333.33
Inland Revenue	150.70
Viking Direct – new toner cartridges and imaging drum	623.70
Alfriston HeartStart – agreed contribution towards Defibrillator	500.00

A.W. Lloyd – cost of Parish Plan presentations	175.00
British Telecom	73.95
South East Water Ltd – allotment and pavilion supply	66.32
EDF Energy Ltd	<u>36.71</u>
TOTAL	<u>2,000.38</u>

CUCKMERE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

P. Ayers – wages	113.34
C. Burden – wages	246.88
D. Skertchly – wages	523.41
Inland Revenue	<u>320.90</u>
TOTAL	<u>1,204.53</u>

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

591.2 Statement of Finances

Councillors examined the Statement of Bank Balances on 18th June provided by the Clerk, and accepted them as follows:

	£
Precept deposit account	19,553.00
Current account	3,666.15
Savings account	5,116.85
Car Park Account	<u>10,518.83</u>
TOTAL	<u>38,854.83</u>

592.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS

592.1 Double yellow lines - remedial work

Councillors asked that thanks were conveyed to the County officers responsible for an excellent final outcome to this long-running saga.

592.2 Directional signs to Tye and Churches

The Clerk would expedite on Cllr Kegg's return.

592.3 'A' Boards

There was nothing to report.

592.4 Paviers

The County Council had approached Cllr Mrs Charlton with a supply of new paviers, with a proposal to relay the entire pavements throughout the High Street, North Street and West Street (both approximately to the Dene Car Park). Urgent confirmation had been sought for the work to be undertaken in autumn. The anticipated life of the new paviers was 30 years, and Cllr Mrs Charlton had a sample if members wished to view it. Councillors expressed individual views and were inclined to accept the offer [*but see Public Question 3 below*].

592.5 Potholes

Preparatory work had been undertaken in Weavers Lane and Kings Ride, and final completion was expected shortly.

593.0 OUTSIDE BODIES

593.1 Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership

The next meeting was to be held on the following day.

593.2 Charter 600 celebrations

The Chairman had already recorded the Council's congratulations and thanks to the Organising Committee for a magnificent effort. Mrs Sarah Lloyd had made a float on behalf of the Parish Council, and Cllr Apps had carried it during the procession. Both were thanked for their participation.

593.3 Flood Forum

Unconfirmed reports had been received about walls collapsing, but it was thought these were incorrect. The Catchment Flood Management Plan had attracted considerable interest, both for and against. Cllr Lloyd reported that his understanding was that the Plan may alleviate flooding in Alfriston, protecting rather than endangering the village, and on that basis, no action would be taken.

593.4 Wealden District Association of Local Councils

The Clerk had reported on a proposal to group Parishes in clusters. Another rural parish in the same proposed cluster had sought views from its neighbours. Members agreed that Alfriston had more in common with the rural parishes within the proposed cluster, and suggested a meeting of those Parishes to exchange views.

594.0 PARISH CLERK

594.1 Parish Notice-board

Cllr. Kegg had not yet re-located the second board. The Clerk would remind him as soon as possible. Cllr Lloyd required a key to the Parish Plan notice-board.

594.2 South East Plan

Cllr Lloyd had reviewed the document and concluded that it was written in such general terms that there was nothing upon which the Parish needed to comment.

594.3 Representation on Outside Bodies – Flood Forum

Cllr Lloyd agreed to become the representative on this body with Mr Cookman attending when possible. Cllr Monteath-Wilson was thanked for her recent work in this role.

595.0 PARISH PLAN

595.1 Progress report

Reports were due back from the various sub-groups on the following day.

596.0 CORRESPONDENCE

596.1 HOPE (Affordable Housing) Project update

Wealden DC had asked for more time to consider some ideas put forward recently. Members accepted the situation, but stressed the need for a quick resolution.

596.2 Defibrillation machine

With the Council's contribution agreed, there were sufficient funds to purchase a unit. Training had already been undertaken and the team was now operational. Mr Burden was thanked for his efforts.

596.3 Post Towns –proposal to delete Polegate from Alfriston addresses

The Clerk's enquiry had now been referred to Sunderland, but had still not been answered.

596.4 Recycling in Alfriston

The Clerk had circulated the reply from Wealden indicating that they still had no plans to implement kerbside recycling in rural areas, although they planned to run a pilot scheme in the north of the District. It was agreed to invite the officer responsible to attend a future meeting to explain the new scheme to Councillors.

596.5 Transport for Police Community Support Officer

The Clerk had circulated a letter seeking parish assistance in the provision of transport for Community Support Officers. Members retorted that they would prefer to have a detailed breakdown of the value of the Parish's contribution to police costs through the Council Tax, compared to the value of policing received, and asked the Clerk to respond accordingly seeking a detailed reply. It was also recalled, that the village now receives a much reduced service since the removal of our dedicated seasonal traffic warden, and are now being asked to pay yet more for less!

596.6 The Local Channel

A further approach had been received concerning a web-site, but no advantage could be seen in taking up the offer.

597.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 17th July 2006 at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Hall, preceded by Public Questions from 7.15pm.

Public Questions

1. Mr Wilson pointed out that the arguments about flooding had been rehearsed previously, without positive resolution.
2. Mrs Gregory reminded the meeting that Alfriston had already featured in the Peter Sellars film 'Waltz of the Toreadors'
3. Mr Phillips expressed serious concern at the proposal to replace the entire brick pavements in the village with paviers. He considered that this would urbanise the village, since much of the High Street's charm came from the fact that the pavements were not uniform in colour or texture. Mrs Phillips added that there was clearly a need for partial replacement to avoid trip accidents, but wholesale renewal was not justified, and the surplus money could then be put towards replacing the North Street flint wall. Members agreed that a dialogue with ESCC was needed, together with a period to canvass local views, and a decision would be deferred until the July meeting.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: 17th July 2006.