

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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

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

In attendance: P. Ayers Clerk
19 parishioners

Public Questions

1. Mrs Sherstone raised further questions and sought assurances about parking on the Tye. The Chairman stated that Members would review their policy before the September meeting, where the matter would be aired again.
2. Mr Wilson asked for a street sign for the Market Square, which would be appreciated. Mrs Sherstone pointed out that the sign needed most – Rope Walk – had not been included in the list. Cllr Mrs Charlton had already taken this up with Wealden DC.
3. Mr Levett raised a query about the village website describing itself as official. Cllr Lloyd confirmed that the site had the approval of the Parish Council following consideration of alternative proposals, and was, to that extent, official. He would arrange to metatag the site to elevate its position on the search engines. He would discuss the situation with Mr Levett outside the meeting to reach an acceptable conclusion.

220.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Banham had apologised for absence as he was on holiday. His reason for absence was accepted by those present. County Councillor Shing apologised because he was at another meeting, and District Councillor Whitehead was on holiday.

221.0 MINUTES

221.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2004 had been published and circulated previously. Cllr Keggs had not been present, as shown on the draft Minutes, but these had been corrected for the official Minutes. There were no other corrections and the Minutes were taken as read, **accepted** as a true record on the **proposition** of Cllr Monteath-Wilson, **seconded** by Cllr Lloyd, and signed by the Chairman.

222.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

222.1A written report had been received from Cllr Shing, from which the Clerk read the highlights. The full text would be circulated for information. The report covered the approval of a Traffic Regulation Order for the Old Coach Road, and the Inspector's Report from the Waste Local Plan. Other matters covered were not relevant to the Parish.

223.0 ALLOTMENTS

223.1 Cllr Apps thanked Cllr Banham for all his hard work with the allotments and reported that just two half plots remained unlet. She had spoken with all tenants and arranged for the contractor to cut the grass on the allotments. He would be strimming the vacant plots. Mr Skinner was busy judging the allotment competition, and the result would be announced during the October meeting. Some trees around the allotments needed trimming, and she would arrange for that work to be undertaken at the appropriate time.

224.0 CAR and COACH PARKS

224.1 Cycle racks

There were no new cycle racks yet, but the information board had now been mounted on the side of the Attendants' Hut in the Willows Car Park, and would be brought into use as soon as sufficient keys had been obtained.

224.2 Dene Car Park spaces

There had still been no response from Wealden DC to the request for them to replace the posts and chains in the Dene Car Park despite a reminder. Cllr Lloyd was following up on those tenants who had not yet paid for their spaces, and spaces would be offered to those on the waiting list. An advertisement would be placed in the next edition of Cuckmere News for those wishing to secure a space in the future.

Cllr Mrs Charlton had followed up on the review of car parks and an Inspector was due to visit in the coming week to consider repainting of white lines and a full clean up.

224.3 Taxi/disabled parking

Cllr Lloyd and Cllr Kegg had discussed the two spaces opposite to the entrance to the Wingrove, and signs were now on order.

224.4 Rates of pay

Wealden had advised the comparable rates of pay, and Cllr Lloyd **proposed** that the hourly rate was increased to £5.34 with effect from 1st April 2004. This was **seconded** by Cllr Mrs Charlton, and **agreed** unanimously. The Clerk would seek details of the pay scale, so that future increments could be applied automatically.

224.5 Car parking in Wealden

A consultation document had been produced seeking views on charging for car parking in Wealden's main towns. Cllr Lloyd would review the document and comment as necessary. The document would be placed on the village website for others to view.

224.6 Review of public toilet facilities

Cllr Lloyd reported that Wealden had announced a review of the 15 public toilet facilities currently provided within the District, costing £169,000 a year to maintain. The Council wished to consult about passing control to Parish Councils or private companies, as provision of toilets was not compulsory. Members expressed the wish to see both facilities maintained and looked forward to the consultation exercise. They would consider the terms of any agreement to assume responsibility for the facilities before deciding whether or not to agree. The Clerk would look out the original Agreement covering the construction of the Willows car and coach park to ascertain whether that laid any obligation upon Wealden to provide toilet facilities.

225.0 FINANCE

225.1 VAT Inspection

The revised 50% invoice to the Cricket Club had been paid in full, and all other queries about the VAT inspection had been resolved. The Clerk would write to Customs and Excise confirming that they would not be pursuing the request for a review any further.

225.2 Invoices for payment – July

The Clerk presented invoices for payment in July:

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL	£
Clerk: admin and travel	27.00
wages	290.32
Inland Revenue	124.80
H.M. Customs & Excise	842.49
Viking Direct	219.35
Seeboard – Clock	<u>6.22</u>
TOTAL	<u>1,510.18</u>

CUCKMERE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

P. Ayers – wages	105.57
Inland Revenue	<u>45.38</u>
	<u>150.95</u>

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

P. Ayers – wages	91.95
J. Lumley – wages	435.05
W. Newman – wages	270.00
Inland Revenue	<u>44.47</u>
TOTAL	<u>841.47</u>

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

225.3 Statement of Finances

Councillors examined the Statement of bank balances on 19th July provided by the Clerk, and accepted them as follows:

	£
Precept deposit account	7,525.47
Current account	3,096.34
Savings account	4,813.42
Car Park Account	<u>7,035.74</u>
TOTAL	<u>22,470.97</u>

225.4 Banking arrangements

Alliance and Leicester had sent a circular letter drawing attention to the fact that the existing account arrangements did not maximise interest. In practice, changing arrangements would make very little difference to the Council, in view of the modest amounts held. Accordingly, members agreed to maintain the present arrangements.

225.5 Purchase of computer

The Clerk would still not pursue this item until the cash situation allowed.

225.6 Wealden Capital Grants

Wealden's Capital Grants scheme would be open again for the 2005/6 financial year, and Councils were asked to submit proposals for consideration. Members would consider possible items for inclusion and raise them at the September meeting.

226.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS

226.1 Damage to Star Inn

Cllr Mrs Charlton produced the ESCC proposal to extend the kerb and tighten the radius at Star Corner to prevent further damage. Members had no comments.

226.2 White Court, Kings Ride

A brochure of bollard designs had been obtained, and would be discussed with a residents' representative before any decision was made.

226.3 New kerbs on West Hill and High and Over

The matter would be placed on the Agenda for the next SLR meeting in September.

226.4 Grass verge cutting

The Clerk had still to produce the definitive guide to areas for which the Parish Council was responsible under agreement with the County. Mr Pocock would be cutting the high path north of the village as part of the Parish's responsibility. The high path south of the village was also in need of cutting, and ESCC would be asked to deal.

226.5 Street name signs

Some complaints needed to be resolved and further signs were still awaited. Councillors expressed disappointment as the siting for every sign had been agreed between the Parish and Wealden District early in 2003, and seemed to have been ignored. The Clerk would examine the files before writing to Wealden to put the Council's concerns on record.

226.6 SLR Meeting – 8th September

Items for the Agenda were discussed and would include the new kerbs, verge cutting responsibilities, the North Street flint wall and possible widening, bollards, the Berwick Way extension and Drusillas roundabout. Any additional items should be notified to the Clerk before the end of August. The meeting would take place in the War Memorial Hall on Wednesday 8th September, commencing at 9.30am.

226.7 White lines

The white lines outside Abbeyfield in North Road needed repainting. Cllr Mrs Charlton would make arrangements.

226.8 Benches in Market Square

Both benches were being re-secured for safety.

226.9 Road closure for 600th Anniversary celebrations

The Parish had been asked to comment on the request for a closure order for the High Street on Saturday 27th May 2006. Cllr Lloyd pointed out that 3 separate bus services used the High Street on several occasions each Saturday, and arrangements would need to be made to accommodate those services, perhaps with a stop at the west end of Star Lane. Those observations would be made to Wealden, and to the applicant, so that appropriate arrangements could be made.

227.0 OUTSIDE BODIES

227.1 A.D.A.P.T.T.

The new brochure had been issued and copies were available.

227.2 Tourism without Traffic – Alfriston Group

A meeting to consolidate views had been held on 12th July and a further meeting was planned for September.

227.3 Village Hall Committee

The meeting on 24th June heard that the Hall remained viable, the accounts were approved and expenditure in the coming year would concentrate on re-surfacing the floor.

228.0 PARISH CLERK

228.1 Parish Plans

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

228.2 Community Support Officers

Members felt that the presence of Community Support Officers in Alfriston on the morning after damage was caused to the Smugglers' Inn would have been helpful, and the Clerk would write to Inspector Brown accordingly.

The Wealden District Association of Local Councils had circulated a proposed Local Support Policy from the Sussex Police Community Safety Team, which needed comments back by 13th August. Cllr Lloyd would co-ordinate these once the document had been circulated to all members.

228.3 Community Warden

The Clerk outlined the possible broadening of the duties undertaken by the weekday parking attendant to cover some of the tasks foreseen for the Community Warden. Cllr Lloyd and the Clerk would discuss the proposal with the attendant, and with Wealden DC. Any change would take effect as the current six-month contract was renewed.

229.0 PLANNING

229.1 Matters already considered by the Planning Committee

WD/04/1245/LB Steamer Trading, High Street: extension to rear of property to form small office and kitchen. *No objection.*

229.2 Decisions notified

WD/04/0735/F Down Laine, The Broadway: two-storey extension and alterations to form new dwelling. Erection of single storey extension to existing dwelling house. *Granted.*

WD/04/0777/F Boundary View, North Road: Detached Garage. *Granted.*

WD/04/1039/JF Greyholm, Cuckmere Road: single storey extension allowing enlargement of kitchen, replacement shower room plus lobby. *Granted.*

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. *Granted.*

229.3 Update on previous applications

WD/03/2291/LD 'The Chalet', Pleasant Rise Farm: certificate of lawful use or development. The location of this dwelling had been ascertained as part of the pavilion at the Tennis Club. The Clerk would query whether the correct period for certified lawful use was 4 or 10 years in these circumstances.

WD/02/2435/F 8, The Broadway: pitched roof front and rear extensions, pitched roof to existing flat roof porch, replacement window on front elevation – amended design and fenestration. *Objection: The proposed extension would be inharmonious with the existing dwelling and too close to its boundary. This could lead to loss of light and privacy to the neighbour.* This application was to be considered on 22nd July with a recommendation for approval. The Council had been invited to speak in support of its objection. It was agreed not to do so.

229.4 Enforcement action

The Clerk reported on action being taken by Wealden DC at Pleasant Rise Farm and a course of action was agreed.

230.0 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

230.1 Re-tendering of local bus services

Cllr Lloyd reported that the re-tendering exercise was under way, but any revised services would now be introduced in January 2005.

230.2 Bus stop sign in Market Square

Information on the old style bus stop sign attached to Mr Hicks shop was out of date. Enquiries would be made about responsibility for updating it, whilst retaining its old style.

231.0 RECREATION GROUND

231.1 Annual Playground Inspection

Cllr Apps had assumed responsibility for the play area. The inspection report was due by the end of July, and if it were not received, the Clerk would make enquiries.

231.2 Bench repairs

Mr Trowell had taken two benches from the Recreation Ground for repair.

231.3 Overhanging branches

Cllr Apps would arrange for branches overhanging the play area to be cut back.

231.4 Damage to see-saw

Cllr Apps had noticed a minor chip on the seesaw, which she would sand smooth.

232.0 RIGHTS OF WAY & COUNTRYSIDE

232.1 Black Poplars on riverbank

The Environment Agency had still not responded, despite a reminder to Mr Hutchinson. The Clerk would speak with him.

232.2 Haven Road

The Conservation Board had confirmed that they were now satisfied with work carried out in Haven Road.

233.3 Parking at the Spots Pumping Station

The letter to be placed under the windscreens of offending vehicles had now been cleared by Southern Water and Cllr Monteath-Wilson had a supply.

233.4 Parking of motor vehicles on River Lane

East Sussex had confirmed that the part of River Lane that was a public highway was covered by a Parking Order, and had also clarified that parking on the part that was a bridleway would need the permission of the owner, since motor vehicles were not otherwise allowed on bridleways. The Clerk would seek that clarification in writing.

233.5 Memorial Bench, Kings Ride

The Clerk had not received any objection from the Conservation Board by the deadline set, and would contact the potential donors again to set things in motion.

233.6 Winton Fields footpath

The new stiles were very high, especially on the approach to the village. There was also some dangerous wire needing attention, and the Clerk would contact the Conservation Board.

233.7 Cutting of vegetation

Work had now commenced, with a new contractor appointed. Footpath 15 still needed attention.

233.8Overhanging trees in Weavers Lane

Work was still understood to be in hand.

234.0THE TYE

234.1 Mine

Money had now been recovered from the Mine, but a new padlock was required, which Cllr Kegg would obtain. Some repainting work was necessary and sign writing might be needed too. Cllr Kegg would liaise with the Clerk to get the work done.

234.2 Parking on the Tye

The situation had improved and the new signs were thought to have helped considerably to reduce the number of visitors' cars present, thus making the situation easier for local residents and hall users. Members had undertaken to review their overall policy in time for the September meeting.

Signs to identify the disabled spaces had been ordered in the same style as that adopted for other signs on the Tye.

234.3 Events using the Tye

The recent Flower Festival had thrown up the need for a policy to cover the type of activity that would be granted permission to use the Tye, and those that would not. Members would consider this prior to the September meeting also.

234.4 Manhole cover on footpath to the Spots

The Clerk would contact Southern Water to follow up on the complaint in May that the large manhole cover on the footpath was slippery when wet.

234.5 Moles

A minor problem remained, but humane trapping was being undertaken to eradicate the problem.

235.0 TOURISM

235.1 Leaflet displays

The displays were now in place (see Minute 224.1 above).

236.0 CORRESPONDENCE

236.1 Housing Needs Survey

The report from Action in rural Sussex was still awaited.

236.2 Pigeons on Star Inn

The owners of the Star had seen a demonstration of an animated scarer in use in Seaford, and would like to undertake a trial locally. Councillors agreed, although the question of funding would remain until after the demonstration had taken place.

236.3 Councillors address list

No amendments had been notified, and the Clerk would go ahead with production of the new edition.

236.4 Police presence during Festival

The Council had been approached concerning the need for a Police presence during the Festival in the light of certain difficulties last year. The Chairman would approach the Festival Chairman, and if necessary, the Council would write to the Police seeking a much-increased presence throughout the period of the Festival to prevent the possibility of a disturbance. It was agreed that the Chairman could agree to pay for the Police presence if that became essential.

236.5 Wealden DC Licensing procedure

Wealden had written asking for comments on the procedures they expected to adopt, when liquor licensing passed into Council control in 2005. Cllr Lloyd would review the document and comment as necessary.

236.6 Smugglers' Inn

Councillors extended their sympathy to the owners of the Smugglers' Inn following the recent damage. The owner's daughter had taken a number of photographs, which would be put on the village website, and the address would also be publicised in Cuckmere News.

A local resident had written suggesting the launch of an appeal for funds to undertake an archaeological survey, but members felt that as Wealden DC were doing an architectural survey as part of the restoration project, that may cover a lot of the same ground. If, having

seen that, further survey work was agreed to be desirable, then funding through an appeal might be appropriate.

237.0DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 20th September 2004 at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Hall, preceded by Public Questions from 7.15pm.

Public Questions

1. The footpath from The Furlongs to the Doctor's surgery needed pruning.
2. Mr Trowell had trimmed the overhanging trees in the play area.
3. Mr Trowell had also removed a bench from the Tye, which was in urgent need of repair.
4. In view of the concern being expressed about the positioning of the new street name signs, a suggestion was made that a finger post be placed in the Market Square with signs pointing out each street leading off it.
5. A request was made that, if there were to be changes to bus times next year, these were advertised in the village before they took effect.
6. An alternative bird-scaring device suggested was a plastic falcon.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: 20th September 2004.