

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th November 2007 in the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr D. Monteath-Wilson, Chairman, in the Chair
Cllr J. Byford
Cllr J. Dumelow
Cllr G. Ellis
Cllr G. Knights
Cllr R. Savage

In attendance: 9 parishioners
P. Ayers Clerk

Public Questions

1. Mr Wilson complained about an increase in parking near the Pumping Station, which made access to the URC Hall car park difficult. It was suggested that a local group may be the cause, and an informal approach would be tried first.
2. Mr Wilson also commented that the 'No Exit' sign into West Street from the Dene car park needed replacement rather than just cleaning.
3. Mr Phillips complained of a particular car, with a disabled sticker, which was parking for several hours a day in the Market Square, which he felt was an abuse of the concession, and may indicate that the driver was working locally. Cllr Mrs Charlton would be asked to investigate and attempt a resolution.
4. Mr Salmon commented on rusting cars on land adjacent to the Willows coach park. An approach would be made to the landowner to point out Wealden's free disposal scheme for disused vehicles.

94.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mrs Charlton had tendered apologies for absence for reasons noted in the attendance register. Her reason for absence was accepted by Members.

95.0 MINUTES

95.1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th October 2007 had been published and circulated previously. They were taken as read. Acceptance as a true record was **proposed** by Cllr Knights, **seconded** by Cllr Dumelow and **agreed**. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

96.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

In the absence of Cllr Garvican, there was nothing to report.

97.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

In the absence of Cllr Whitehead, there was nothing to report.

98.0 FINANCE

98.1 Invoices for payment – November

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk:	admin and travel	£
	wages	41.69
		351.25

Inland Revenue	159.71
Valuation Office Agency – valuation of allotment plot	517.00
R.W. Green – tree work on Recreation ground and Play Area	458.25
P J Skips – allotment clearance	261.00
South East Water – allotment supply	225.99
Wealden DC – dog bin emptying to September	123.73
EDF Energy – pavilion supply	54.76
BNC Signs – No parking sign	30.00
C.P.R.E. – membership subscription	27.00
TOTAL	<u>2,250.38</u>

CUCKMERE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

P. Ayers – wages	125.04
Inland Revenue	56.83
	<u>181.87</u>

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

P. Ayers – wages	119.06
C. Burden – wages	198.88
D. Skertchly – wages	198.66
Inland Revenue	166.12
Wealden DC – car park takings to September	11,448.55
TOTAL	<u>12,012.21</u>

98.2 Discretionary payments

The Clerk had received one further request during the month from Mediation +. No amount was specified. He would circulate details for consideration. £15 remained unallocated from the budget.

98.3 Statement of Finances

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

	£
Precept deposit account	31,755.14
Current account	14,464.09
Savings account	5,279.59
Car Park Account	14,272.85
TOTAL	<u>65,771.67</u>

98.4 Budget plans for 2008/9

The Chairman asked Members for details of projects they wished to put forward for consideration by the Finance Committee for possible implementation in 2008/9.

Cllr Ellis sought new litter bins for the Willows car park at an estimated cost of £1,000.

Cllr Byford sought a free standing notice board for the allotments at a cost of £665, plus benches for the Recreation Ground at £600 per bench. She also sought to commission a study by structural engineers into the impact of traffic on buildings in the High Street. The Chairman asked that the matter was raised initially with Cllr Mrs Charlton, as the portfolio holder responsible.

Cllr Savage sought to replace both the double and single gates in the turning circle on the Tye road. He estimated the cost at £700. An allowance would also need to be made for the re-instatement of the Tye once the pilot scheme had proved itself.

The Clerk would distribute copies of the 2007/8 budget to all Members.

He would e-mail members of the Finance Committee with dates for their meeting in early January. The budget had to be agreed at the January meeting in order to get the precept request to Wealden DC by early February.

98.5 Account at BuilderCenter

The Clerk was opening an account at the Seaford branch of BuilderCenter to purchase materials to be used on the Pavilion refurbishment. He asked whether Members felt that any particular security measures were needed. Cllr Savage suggested that there was no need, since delivery notes would be received for each individual delivery building up to a monthly account. This was accepted.

99.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS

99.1 Report from SLR Meeting – 28th September

Revised Minutes had now been approved.

99.2 Policy statement on paviers

The document was still awaited.

99.3 Repairs to paviers in High Street

Cllr Mrs Charlton had referred the team to Mr Phillips for detailed advice.

99.4 Waiting restrictions

The Clerk led Members through his report and a general discussion ensued. It was agreed that perhaps over zealous enforcement had drawn matters to a head at one particular time, but that generally the present situation seemed satisfactory. The continuing absence of local enforcement powers troubled all Members and would be drawn to Cllr Whitehead's attention. The single yellow lines also caused a degree of confusion as they applied all week, but parked vehicles did act as an evening traffic calming measure whereas illegal daytime parking caused congestion. It was agreed to leave the situation as it was until local enforcement powers could be obtained, when the matter would be revisited.

99.5 Cones in High Street

Cllr Byford **proposed** that the cones were removed from the High Street with immediate effect. This was **seconded** by Cllr Dumelow. Cllr Knights spoke against the motion, as he considered the cones a necessary evil. The matter was put to the vote and **carried** by 4 votes to 1. The Clerk would advise the car park attendants at the earliest opportunity.

99.6 Frog Firlle Traffic Management scheme

The Clerk reported that Mr Cook was arranging for the stage 4 audit to be undertaken. Some local residents had expressed satisfaction with the scheme, but there was general agreement that visibility was poor and could be improved if the southbound stop line and sign were moved further north. Members agreed to press for a full Stage 4 review of the scheme.

99.7 Sloe Lane horseshoe

The owner of the offending vehicle seemed to have moved away, but the situation would still be monitored.

99.8 White lines in Winton Street

The Clerk had written to ESCC requesting the removal of the white lines.

99.9 Monitoring of traffic volume

The equipment could be in place within 7 – 10 days at a cost of £330. Members queried the value of an exercise that only measured volume, since there was little that the Parish could do to prevent it. It was therefore agreed to defer the matter to the January meeting to take advice from Cllr Mrs Charlton, as portfolio holder.

99.10 Liaison with Selborne (Letter in 'The Times')

The Clerk had made contact with Selborne Parish Council and received an acknowledgement. In the absence of any further reply, he would follow up before the January meeting.

99.11 Road closure – Dickensian Fayre

The road closure order had been approved.

99.12 Request for Morris Dancing – 26th and 27th July 2008

The Clerk had received a request from the Bagman to the 322nd Meeting of the Morris Ring, seeking permission to dance in the Square on Saturday 26th July from 1.00pm for 30 minutes and on the Tye on Sunday 27th July from 12.00pm for 90 minutes. They also requested permission to park cars at the top end of the Recreation Ground on the Sunday and to parade from North Road through West Street and the High Street on their way to Church for a parade. They were in touch with the Police and other authorities. Cllr Ellis remarked about the possibility of a cricket match on the Sunday, but understood that the fixture list had not yet been compiled. There were no other observations, and the Clerk would reply accordingly, with a note of caution about parking space.

100.0 PARISH CLERK

100.1 Amplification equipment

A survey was being undertaken later in the week, following which quotations would be obtained.

100.2 Village of the Year competition

The Clerk had not received any further suggestions, and Members agreed that Cllr Mrs Charlton should determine how the prize money should be spent.

101.0 PLANNING

101.1 Planning Committee meetings – 26th October and 9th November

Members received Minutes from the meetings on 26th October and 9th November (draft).

They noted the Committee's decisions on applications as outlined below:

WD/2007/2989/F Alfriston Village Stores, Market Square: to create an external door where there is currently a window (that had previously been a door) at the rear of the shop to allow access to existing storage building. To remove a timber stud wall and timber staircase from shop ground floor to shop first floor that was built around 1939 that has height restriction problems. To add a staircase in the shop's original staircase position (pre 1939) within the centre of the shop between ground floor and first floor. To raise the existing railings surrounding the first floor staircase opening for safety.

No objection.

WD/2007/2920/F 1 & 2 Wingrove, High Street: change of use from C3 to C1. *Objection.*

There is a need to retain smaller residential properties in the village. The Committee also understands that there is a covenant on this 1960s development, restricting use of these cottages to residential use only.

WD/2007/3067/LB Cross House, Market Square: insertion of A 3 conservation style roof lights to rear (east) roof. *No objection.*

WD/2007/3190/F Peelers, West Street: rear conservatory. *No objection.*

101.2 Matters for consideration that evening

The Planning Committee would meet immediately after the Council Meeting to consider the following application:

WD/2007/3246/F Deans Place Hotel, Seaford Road: creation of two new smoking shelters for the use of guests.

101.3 Decisions notified

WD/2007/1872/F Mill View, Pleasant Rise Farm: dormer roof extension forming new bathroom and balcony over front entrance door. *Granted with conditions.*

WD/2007/2335/LB Cross House, Market Square: low key internal alterations. *Granted with conditions.*

WD/2007/2484/F 1, Waterloo Square: construction of new hardwood conservatory to rear elevation to form a dining room. *Refused.*

WD/2007/2546/LBR Well Cottage, Winton Street: to regularise previous unauthorised work. *Granted with conditions.*

WD/2007/2704/LB Star Inn, High Street: affix plaque to building of historic interest. *Granted with conditions.*

WD/2007/2705/LB Steamer Cottages, High Street: affix plaque to building of historic interest. *Granted with conditions.*

WD/2007/2706/LB The Olde Smugglers Inn, Market Square: affix plaque to building of historic interest. *Granted with conditions.*

WD/2007/2707/LB Village Stores and Post Office, Market Square: affix plaque to building of historic interest. *Granted with conditions.*

WD/2007/2708/LB Stones (site of glove factory), Market Square: affix plaque to building of historic interest. *Granted with conditions.*

WD/2007/2709/LB The Old Farmhouse, High Street: affix plaque to building of historic interest. *Granted with conditions.*

WD/2007/2710/LB United Reformed Church, Chapel Twyten: affix plaque to building of historic interest. *Granted with conditions.*

WD/2007/2711/LB Deans Place Hotel, Whiteway: affix plaque to building of historic interest. *Granted with conditions.*

WD/2007/2745/F Little Stow, The Furlongs: two storey extension to side and partial front incorporating garage. *Granted with conditions.*

WD/2007/2815/F Pailin House, 6, Kings Ride: erection of conservatory at rear. *Refused.*

101.4 Local Development Framework – update

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

101.5 Wealden Design Guide

Cllr Mrs Charlton had completed a questionnaire about Wealden's Design Guide, which she felt was an excellent publication.

101.6 Local List

The Historical Society was considering the matter later in November.

101.7 Liquor licence application – Alfriston Youth Hostel

No objection had been raised to this application.

101.8 Planning training

Cllr Dumelow was attending an ad hoc session arranged by Wealden DC and hosted at Arlington.

102.0 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

102.1 Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership

The Clerk reported that ACVP members had been recommended to support option 3b of the strategy for the Cuckmere estuary, because of the likely effects of climate change.

The Partnership had interviewed a number of coach drivers who had suggested that the bottleneck on C39 adjacent to Fossil Cottage might be alleviated by slight widening at that point. The Partnership felt this was an avenue worth pursuing if it reduced the volume of coach traffic assign through the village centre.

Work had commenced on the 2008 brochure, and the print run would be increased to 30,000 provided that funding was obtained.

102.2 Cuckmere Community Bus

Cllr Ellis reported that a new service 26 had been introduced on Sundays every two hours between Seaford, Alfriston and Eastbourne via the DGH, funded for 5 years by ESCC. One bus was now running on pure plant oil. The area of operation was being extended to Westham and Pevensey in the New Year. CCB was now a registered charity.

102.3 Cuckmere Flood Forum

Cllr Knights reported that a meeting was being held that evening, attended by Mr Hurwood and (for the last time) by Mr Cookman. A report would be made to the January meeting.

The Council had pressed for the re-instatement of the briefing meeting on the draft Management Strategy and further details were awaited.

102.4 Festival

Cllr Savage reported a record distribution of £14,000 proceeds, much to everyone's satisfaction.

102.5 Heartstart

Cllr Dumelow reported that there had been 94 calls during 2007 with 10 in the last month. They hoped to trial a revised flashing light system in the near future.

102.6 Village Hall Committee

Cllr Knights confirmed that sound and lighting survey was being undertaken later in the week. An application was being made to Viridor Credits for funding towards repairing the roof leak.

103.0 RIGHTS OF WAY & COUNTRYSIDE

103.1 Condition of White Bridge

Nothing to report.

103.2 Parking in River Lane

Cllr Dumelow was in touch with ESCC's Rights of Way officer about parking problems and possible solutions.

103.3 Parish Paths event – 4th December

Cllr Dumelow was attending this ESCC training event.

103.4 Lions' Half Marathon – 1st June 2008

A request had been received from the Newhaven, Peacehaven and Seaford Lions Club to set up a check point beside White Bridge on the occasion of their half marathon on 1st June 2008. The event had taken place successfully and without problems for many years, and the club had undertaken to clear any litter away after the event. The request was approved.

103.5 Bleeding canker

The Tree Warden had advised that all five affected horse chestnut trees were on private property, and no further action could be taken.

103.6 Debris in Upper Kings Ride

The Chairman thanked Cllr Dumelow and her husband for personally clearing the debris that had been dumped. Responsibility for such clearance remained with Wealden DC.

104.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING

104.1 Housing in Alfriston

Cllr Knights reported that contact had now been established and a meeting was to be arranged on a date to be agreed in January.

104.2 Car parking at Surgery

Cllr Knights had ascertained from Dr Adcock that the allotments probably were statutory allotments, and therefore a lengthy process had to be undertaken to expunge any of them. A short term licence was probably still possible, until the possible re-use of the entire site for affordable housing had been determined. Solicitors had been briefed, and Cllr Knights hoped to be in a position to proceed after one further conversation with Dr Adcock.

104.3 Parish Plan

Cllr Knights had met Mr Lloyd again and hoped that assistance could still be obtained from Brighton University in the production of a questionnaire. He was still in discussion about funding for the analysis of the questionnaire.

105.0 THE TYE

105.1 Damage to surface of Tye

Cllr Savage expected the 2m long trial section of his selected plastic webbing to be installed before Christmas. Once evaluated, he hoped to proceed with full re-instatement next year.

105.2 Replacement of fence posts on Tye

The posts had been fabricated and a start on installation should be made before Christmas.

105.3 Parking for Community Responders

The signage had just been received and passed to Mr Trowell for erection.

105.4 Encroachment of foliage

Work was expected to start in the near future. A flail would not be used.

105.5 Charity Commission – annual update

The Clerk had received a request for the annual update. He confirmed that the Trustees would continue to be the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Tye portfolio holder. The Chairman would sign the return on completion.

106.0 ALLOTMENTS and RECREATION GROUND

106.1 Overhanging beech tree

The work had now been completed.

106.2 Allotment notice board

Cllr Byford had requested funding for a glazed notice board in Minute 98.4 above.

106.3 Allotment holders' social gathering

Nothing to report.

106.4 Boundary fence

The fence could be replaced for £457 + VAT, including £84 for new posts, £297 for new netting and £76 for shrub clearance. Cllr Ellis suggested that it would be prudent to undertake the work after completion of work on the Pavilion. Cllr Byford **proposed** that £457 was spent on renewal of the fence and posts. This was **seconded** by Cllr Dumelow and **agreed unanimously**.

106.5 Allotment rents – 2008

Cllr Byford recommended retaining the current charges for 2008 to encourage allotment holders, but would review the rates again for 2009.

106.6 New tenants

Cllr Byford was meeting three new tenants shortly. One half plot was currently not taken.

106.7 Pavilion refurbishment

Work was due to commence that week and last for 8 – 10 weeks. Members reviewed security of materials on site and of the Pavilion itself and declared themselves satisfied. Cllr Byford pointed out that in order to start drawing on the funding from Viridor Credits, a payment to them of 10% of the total was needed. Cllr Ellis **proposed** that a payment of upto £2,300 was authorised representing the 10% third party funding required. This was **seconded** by Cllr Knights and **agreed unanimously**.

106.8 Licence for Cricket Club

The Clerk had instructed a solicitor who had raised some queries, which the Clerk was in the process of answering with assistance from Cllr Ellis.

106.9 Damaged seats on Recreation Ground

The Women's Institute was considering the cost of providing a replacement bench for the one now beyond repair.

106.10 Annual Playground inspection

Mr Trowell was approximately half way through the work.

106.11 Bikeathon – 28th November

Cllr Byford had agreed that the school could use the Recreation Ground for this event.

107.0 COACH and CAR PARKS and PUBLIC TRANSPORT

107.1 Dene space posts

Cllr Ellis reported that all of the new posts had now been received. He recommended that they were powder-coated bright yellow to make them more visible and reduce damage. The cost would be £90 in total. This was agreed.

107.2 Clearance by Probation Service

The car park attendant had reported that the team visited on Sunday and did a reasonable job considering the poor weather conditions.

107.3 Dene Car Park exit posts

The work had not started yet.

107.4 Bench in Willows coach park

All materials were now to hand, and paving slabs would be laid under the benches.

107.5 Litter bin replacement

Cllr Ellis had bid for funding for the work in Minute 98.4 above.

107.6 Parking charges for coaches

Cllr Ellis had surveyed 15 coach firms using the Willows and received 6 replies. There was no support for the use of season tickets. Generally, the operators had found the facilities provided adequate. There was some support for a ban on coaches passing through the village with entry only from the north.

107.7 Chained off spaces

Cllr Byford had received complaints that spaces where posts were missing had occasionally been occupied by visitors. She enquired why it had not been possible to issue parking tickets. The Clerk confirmed that there was no signage warning people that they should not park in the chained off spaces. He had arranged for Wealden DC to manufacture a new sign, and once in place, wrongful use of the spaces could be penalised.

107.8 Entry to and exit from Dene car park

Cllr Byford complained of cars entering the Dene car park from North Street. She suggested that this raised significant safety issues. As most of the offenders were local people, the Clerk would seek their co-operation by an entry in *Cuckmere News*.

108.0 CORRESPONDENCE

108.1 Emergency Planning in the Community

The date for the Annual Assembly had been fixed for Monday 7th April 2008, and Wealden DC's Emergency Planning Officer had been invited to address that gathering.

108.2 District/Parish conference – Little Horsted, 21st November 2007

Cllr Monteath-Wilson and Cllr Ellis would be attending the conference on Wednesday.

109.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 21st January 2008 at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Hall, preceded by Public Questions from 7.15pm.

Public Questions

There were none.

Signed: _____ (Chairman)

Date: 21st January 2008 2007.