

# ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

## CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Stephen Smith

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## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 15 September 2008 in the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston, commencing at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Cllr D Monteath-Wilson, Chairman, in the Chair  
Cllr J Byford (arrived 2015 hrs)  
Cllr S Charlton  
Cllr J Dumelow  
Cllr G Ellis  
Cllr G Knights  
Cllr R Savage

**In attendance:** County Councillor J Garvican (arrived 1935 hrs)  
16 Parishoners  
S Smith Clerk

### Public Questions

1 Mr Wilson reported that a manure heap situated at Winton Street stables had now become significantly enlarged by the addition of a large quantity of hardcore etc, to the detriment of the view afforded to people arriving in the village from the A27, which he felt had now become an eyesore.

2 Mr Wilson observed that a tall tree near to Abbeyfield was in dangerous state.

3 Mr Wilson also observed that the area adjacent to the Doctor's Surgery was in need of attention.

4 Mr Wilson pointed out that a fence between the Spots and the Glebeland had collapsed.

In response to Mr Wilson's questions the Chairman and Cllr Dumelow advised that they were aware of the position on all the matters raised and that they would be further investigated.

### 229.0 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Cllr Montheath-Wilson formally welcomed Stephen Smith, to his first Parish Council Meeting as Clerk.

### 230.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Byford had previously advised she would be delayed owing to work commitments, although she hoped to attend later. In the event of her non attendance, she had offered her apologies and provided the Clerk with a brief report to deliver.

### 231.0 MINUTES

231.1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 July 2008 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 Charlton, **seconded** by Cllr Savage and **agreed**.

### 232.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

There was no report in view of the pending election for a District Councillor.

### 233.0 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

233.1 The Clerk reported that Richard Bartlett has accepted the appointment of Tree Warden.

## **234.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Garvican advised that he had little to report as August is traditionally a quiet month for local government and this year was no exception. A Scrutiny Meeting for Transport and the Environment was due to be held on 17 September but at this time there was nothing on the Agenda of relevance to this Parish. Cllr Matthew Lock would attend that meeting and follow up with the Parish Council should the matter of the Old Coach Road be aired, although it was not on the Agenda. Cllr Garvican enquired whether there was any other business which affected him directly, but there was not.

The Chairman relayed the dissatisfaction expressed by Councillors of the apparent lack of visits by the PCS). Cllr Garvican said he would investigate. The Chairman thanked Cllr Garvican for his report and he left to attend another meeting.

## **235.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING**

### **235.1 Housing in Alfriston**

Cllr Knights confirmed that the highway assessment of the impact of a proposal of 8/10 houses near to the entrance to Pleasant Rise Farm was favourable, although planning did not support. Cllr Knights suggested that it should now be possible to link this debate about affordable housing with that of a possible Southern Car Park, together with funding options (which would be sought from Wealden District Council). Both Cllr Knights and the Chairman stressed that villagers would be consulted before any firm decisions were made.

### **235.2 Draft Homelessness Strategy**

Cllr Knights will attend the Sussex Rural Affordable Housing Conference in Hassocks on 25 September and report thereafter.

### **235.3 Registration of allotment land**

The Clerk Reported that the Registration is proceeding following the return of questionnaires.

### **235.4 Parish Plan**

Cllr Knights reported that he is awaiting confirmation from the University Brighton that they will assist in the formulation of a questionnaire and that it was not now likely that it would be issued in September.

### **235.5 Parish website**

Cllr Knights advised there are no outstanding issues with the village website.

### **235.6 Emergency Planning Conference**

Cllr Knights will represent the Parish Council at the conference which will be held on 28 October 2008 at Little Horsted.

### **236.6 Collection of Garden Waste**

Cllr Knights outlined his ideas to make a garden and green waste collection service available to the village to avoid the necessity of villagers having to travel substantial distances to dispose of their waste, with consequent detrimental environment effects. Councillors expressed their opinions about possible sites and the effect of vehicle movements and funding, but the consensus was that the idea should be taken forward, with the Clerk and Cllr Knights to formulate an approach to Wealden District Council to establish their position.

## **237.0 THE TYE**

### **237.1 Damage to surface of Tye**

Cllr Savage reported that strengthening to the surface by the provision of plastic webbing had been successful and had withstood the substantial additional footfall associated with the Festival. A small amount of the supporting netting remained visible and further work was required.

### **237.2 New Memorial Benches**

Cllr Savage was in the process of formulating a policy statement.

### **237.3 Garden adjacent to United Reform Church**

Cllr Savage that he and a parishioner have now cleared the garden and the parishioner will keep it in order in future. The item was removed from the Agenda.

### **237.4 Concrete Posts**

The Clerk advised that posts continued to be replaced strengthened ones as required at a cost of £30.00 each by Mr Trowell. The item was removed from the Agenda.

### **238.5 Other Tye Matters**

#### **A) Tree Felling Work**

An invoice for £120.00 had been received in respect of tree felling work that needed to be undertaken prior to the Festival; it will be split evenly between the Parish Council and the Festival Committee. The Festival Committee Treasurer will pass the invoice to the Clerk.

#### **B) Stone Bench on Glebeland**

Cllr Knights expressed his concerns over the recent erection of the bench, especially with regard to the scale of the footings and paviors. Cllr Savage advised that the footings had to be substantial to support the weight of the bench and that the stone was compatible with that used in the church. The Plans will be revisited at the October meeting.

### **239.0 COACH and CAR PARKS and PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

#### **239.1 Litter Bin Replacement**

Cllr Ellis reported that litter bins had now been replaced in the car parks.

#### **239.2 VAT on Parking Fes**

The Clerk advised that following advice from HMRC, the Parish Council are unable to reclaim VAT payable on parking fees, which is in line with current practice. The Chairman therefore reluctantly removed the item from the Agenda.

#### **239.3 Car Park Markings**

The white lines and entry and exit markings to The Dene car park had not yet been repainted and Cllr Ellis and the Clerk will follow up with Wealden District Council.

#### **239.4 Lamp Standards in the Dene Car Park**

The lighting is now correctly timed, so this item was removed from the Agenda.

#### **239.5 Charges for Parking**

We still await a response from Wealden District Council about possible changes to the tariff.

#### **239.6 Other Coach and Car Park Matters**

A) Cllr Ellis reported that the wooden fence adjacent to the picnic area in The Willows car park has now been reinforced.

B) Cllr Ellis advised that the bus timetables displayed in the Market Square are to be moved to the wall of Tricorn Hats, following representations.

#### **239.7 Revised Bus Service Timetables**

Revised timetables for bus services 125 and 126 have now come into operation and timetables have been posted locally. The item is removed from the Agenda.

### **240.0 FINANCE**

#### **240.1 Invoices for payment – August and September**

The Clerk, whilst unable to provide a fully itemised schedule, advised that invoices in the region of £5,000 had been submitted for payment and detailed items from a manual list he had produced. A fully itemised list will be provided for the October meeting.

#### **240.2 Statement of Finances**

The Clerk advised that the balances held with the Council's bankers on 15 September amounted to £35,198.15.

#### **240.3 External Audit 2008**

The external auditors have now completed their Audit, which is unqualified and an invoice for £493.50 has been received for their work done.

#### **240.4 Revision to Bank Mandate**

The Clerk reported, with regret, that the change of signature Mandate, submitted to the Council's bankers last month had not been actioned. No satisfactory reason had yet been provided to him or the Chairman as to the reasons for the delay had yet been provided and he will continue to pursue.

#### **240.5 Any other Finance Matter**

None.

## **241.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS**

### **241.1 Matters arising from SLR Meeting**

The Minutes had not yet been received.

### **241.2 Proposed closure of C39 – Manse Corner**

Details of the closure on 13 October have now been circulated and posted on the Notice Boards

### **241.3 Sunken Manhole – High Street**

Cllr Charlton is pursuing ESCC for the works to be done

### **241.4 Double Yellow Lines**

Cllr Charlton reported that she has been advised that the double yellow lines outside Steamer Trading will be reinstated in the next 7 days

### **241.5 C39 Flint Wall**

The Parish Council have now received a valuation of the land on which it is proposed to reconstruct the flint wall and the Clerk will now obtain initial estimates for the cost of the proposed work

### **241.6 Pedestrian Crossing at Willows exit**

Still nothing to report, pending SLR Meeting

### **241.7 Drainage Problem – Deans Road / Broadway / West Street**

Cllr Charlton reported that she has been advised that ESCC will carry out the necessary work in October.

### **241.8 Rope walk anti social behaviour**

Nothing has been reported for 3 months so the item will be removed from the Agenda.

### **241.9 Illegal Parking**

The Chairman reported that whilst there had been some visits from the Police, these had tailed off in recent weeks and also requested that our County Councillor investigates this apparent lack of support. The Clerk will speak to our local contact to express the Parish Council's concerns.

### **241.10 Reinstatement of traffic cones in High Street**

Cllr Charlton advised that following representations she requested a reinstatement of traffic cones between Diana Antiques and The Star. The matter was debated and Cllr Charlton **proposed** a reinstatement of cones between Diana Antiques and the Star, but that they were not to be put out until the yellow lines are reinstated. This was **seconded** by Cllr Ellis. A vote was taken and **agreed** as the majority of Councillors were in favour with one abstention.

### **241.11 Monitoring Traffic Volumes**

Cllr Charlton advised that ESCC have indicated that they will pursue cost sharing on a proposed survey.

### **241.12 Lorry Watch**

This initiative is continuing

### **241.13 Overgrown Land – Kings Ride**

Cllr Charlton advised that the land had now been strimmed and that this item should be removed from the Agenda

### **241.14 Any other Highway matter**

- A) Dickensian Evening – It was disclosed that a planned Road Closure Order which had previously been granted would not now be enacted as the Dickensian Committee have reported to the Parish Council there would be no Dickensian Evening on which Councillor Charlton will report.
- B) Frog Firle – the recent initiative to move the give way markings to allow better visibility has not yet been enacted.
- C) Cllr Savage reported a large pot hole had appeared near to Frog Firle.
- D) Cllr Dumelow advised that the drains in The Furlongs had been cleaned in early September.
- E) Cllr Byford advised that the various temporary traffic lights which had been put in place over the preceding two months had had no effect on traffic flows.

## **242.0 ALLOTMENTS and RECREATION GROUND**

### **242.1 Allotment Availability**

Cllr Byford that all allotments were taken with only a couple of people on the waiting list.

### **242.2 Re-letting of Plot 22**

Cllr Byford advised that this had stalled as there appeared to be no one available with a rotovator (necessary to enable to plot to be worked). Cllr Dumelow suggested a local contractor who would now be approached to assist.

### **242.3 Any other Allotment matter**

Cllr Byford will shortly arrange for a skip to be hired to assist in the disposal of seasonal waste.

### **242.4 Pavilion – Progress Report**

The Clerk reported he had written to the Council's solicitors to obtain their views on certain amendments to the proposed Lease

### **242.5 Licence for Clubs using Pavilion**

There has been no progress as it is tied in with 242.4 above

### **242.6 Rating assessment – Pavilion**

The Council and Cricket Club are awaiting the results of an appeal for a reduction in rates made to the Valuation Office.

### **242.7 Playground Inspection Report – 2008**

Nothing to report at present

### **242.8 Fencing – Recreation Ground**

This has now been completed

### **242.9 Any other Recreation Ground matter**

It was noted that the outside of the Sports pavilion has now been painted.

## **243.0 PARISH CLERK**

### **243.1 Amplification equipment**

The new amplification has been installed, but is still subject to teething problems which is hoped will be rectified by next month.

### **243.2 Carving from Old Chestnut Tree**

The Clerk has obtained a quote to add the carving to the Council's insurance policy for £66.67pa. Whilst a vote was taken to accept the quote **proposed** by Cllr Byford and **seconded** by Cllr Dumelow and **agreed**, it was further agreed that the matter would be placed in abeyance pending an approach by the Chairman to the Church authorities to ascertain whether it could be more cheaply insured by the church on their policy (despite it being a non religious icon) with reimbursement from the Parish Council.

### **243.3 Training**

The Clerk reported that a Legal and Finance Course is to be held in Farnham in November at which the Council's solicitors will be making a presentation. As the cost is less than £100 he will seek a booking.

### **242.3 Any other matter**

None

## **243.0 PLANNING**

### **243.1 Planning Meeting Minutes**

Councillors received the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 12 and 26 August 2008. They noted the Committees decisions as below.

WD/2008/1903/F: 8 The Broadway – Conservatory extension to the rear and provision of pitched roof to front of garage – *no objections*

WD/2008/1996/F and WD/2008/1969/LB: Moonrakers Restaurant – Provision of WC accommodation accessible from within restaurant building – *no objections*

WD/2008/2025/F: 6 Kings Ride – Conservatory at rear (approval already granted at appeal for a slightly smaller conservatory) – *no objections*

WD/2008/2041/F: Bramble Cottage, Weavers Lane – proposed two storey extension.

Demolition of existing UPVC windows and doors – *no objections*. *However, with regard to the proposed 1.8 metre wall and gate, this was on the plan and Design and Access*

*Statement (2.2) but was not discussed as it was not included on the above application (needs a further planning application).*

#### **243.2 Matters for consideration by Planning Committee on the evening**

None

#### **242.3 Decisions Notified**

None since last Parish Council Meeting

#### **242.4 Enforcement Action**

None to be taken

#### **242.5 Local Development Framework**

Nothing further to report

#### **242.6 Liquor Licence Applications**

None

### **243.0 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

#### **243.1 Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership**

Due to a technical error, the Report submitted to the Parish Council was not available to be read out, however, the Clerk was provided with a copy letter which he read out to the effect that the Dickensian Evening Committee had decided not to proceed with the evening event, preferring to hold daytime events. As a result, the Road Closure Order application would not be effected for the evening event. It was noted that further details would be provided shortly by the AVCP.

#### **242.2 Cuckmere Community Bus**

The Meeting was being held at the same time as this Meeting.

#### **242.3 Cuckmere Flood Forum**

The Meeting was being held this evening. Mr J Hurwood would be attending on behalf of the Parish Council and the Amenity Society and would report back.

#### **242.4 Festival**

Cllr Savage reported that the Festival had been very successful. The Chairman confirmed the Parish Council's appreciation of all the hard work that had been put into running the event and thanked the Committee for their valued contribution to the community.

#### **242.5 Heartstart**

Cllr Dumelow reported that Heartstart had been operating for 3 years and that so far this year had received 60 calls. She was also please to report that Colin Burden had been nominated for an award as Best Co-Coordinator of the year, although he was not ultimately the winner of the competition.

#### **242.6 Safer Wealden Partnership**

Nothing to Report.

#### **242.7 Village Hall Committee**

Cllr Knights advised that a new floor costing £18,000 had now been installed, with the aid of a £15,000 Grant from Viridor. With the news that the landfill site at Beddingham is to have a life extension of a further 18 months, it is likely that a further £10,000 bid will be made for funds in the near future.

#### **242.8 Wealden District Association of Local Councils**

Nothing to report at present.

### **243.0 RIGHTS OF WAY & COUNTRYSIDE**

#### **243.1 Condition of White Bridge**

Cllr Dumelow reported the condition as satisfactory at present.

#### **243.2 Any other Rights of Way matter**

None at present.

#### **243.3 Possible Bleeding Canker**

Two had been identified on the Recreation Ground which would be taken down and ground out.

#### **243.4 Any other Countryside matter**

None at present.

#### **243.5 South Downs Campaign**

There is still no news on the implementation of the Management Plan.

#### **243.6 South Downs National Park**

There is still no news on possible boundary changes.

#### **244.7 Conserving the Elm population**

The updated figures on the local elm population had still not been received.

#### **244.8 Appointment of Tree Warden**

As noted in 233.1 above, Richard Bartlett has now been appointed Tree Warden.

#### **244.9 Report from Tree Warden**

Richard Bartlett has identified work costing in the region of £240.00 which needs to be undertaken in the North Road area. The Clerk will seek guidance from SALC, given a potential conflict of interest with his business as a tree surgeon, prior to authorisation being given to do the work.

### **244.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **244.1 Wealden Police Commander's Messages**

The Clerk reported that whilst these had been received, there was nothing of specific local note.

#### **244.2 Public Conveniences**

The Clerk advised the meeting that a survey had been received from Wealden District Council requesting the Parish Council's views on its service provision, together with the costs associated therein. Whilst the deadline for submission was that evening, the Clerk had obtained a short extension from WDC. The document was circulated among Councillors who were concerned at the prescriptiveness of the content and the Clerk was instructed to delay making a formal response until Councillors had been able to study the survey in depth.

#### **244.3 Richard Green**

The Clerk was pleased to advise that his predecessor had written to Richard Green, formally thanking him for his contribution to the village.

#### **244.4 Pavement Trading / ESCC**

The Clerk confirmed that he contacted ESCC to request their advice as to whether there had been any infringement of pavement trading laws by The Singing Kettle.

#### **245.5 Village School**

The Chairman took the opportunity to congratulate the Village School on its centenary, although noted that unfortunately the Parish Council had only heard of the event as it took place and therefore was not able to offer earlier support.

### **245.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 20 October 2008 at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Hall, preceded by Public Questions from 7.15pm.

### **Public Questions**

None

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: 20 October 2008.