

# ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

## CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Philip Ayers

Tel/Fax: 01323 870212

E-mail: [candpayers@mistral.co.uk](mailto:candpayers@mistral.co.uk)

The Old Rectory,  
Litlington,  
POLEGATE,  
East Sussex,  
BN26 5RB.

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008 in the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston, commencing at 7.30pm.

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

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

### Public Questions

1. Mrs Hogestijn enquired about the possible provision of a stone seat on the glebeland of the Tye. She was directed to the Church for approval and advised to consult with Wealden DC about the possible need for Conservation Area consent.
2. Mr Hurwood asked what progress there had been with the provision of strengthening mesh for the Tye. This would be addressed during the meeting.
3. Further complaints were made about the decorated shop on High Street, although the extent of the decorations had reduced. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had exhausted their enquiries with Wealden DC and established that no planning regulations were being breached. There was nothing further the Parish Council could do. She suggested that any complaints were taken up individually with the shop owner. Cllr Mrs Charlton understood that one further set of decorations were proposed lasting until the end of the Festival.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chairman presented Proficiency Certificates to three new Heartstart Responders who had completed their training successfully. She congratulated Sarah Keith, Mandi Kegg and Jane Green on their achievements, which brought the total of Responders to 9 plus 2 buddies. One further recruit was possible.

### 143.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Knights had tendered apologies for absence. His reason was stated in the attendance book. Members accepted the reason. *[updating note: District Cllr Whitehead had telephoned to tender his apologies during the meeting, having been delayed elsewhere.]*

### 144.0 MINUTES

144.1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2008 had been published and circulated previously. They were taken as read. There were no amendments and acceptance as a true record was **proposed** by Cllr Savage, **seconded** by Cllr Dumelow and **agreed**. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

### 145.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Garvican reported that a meeting of the Transport & Environment Scrutiny Committee was to be held the following day, and a full Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March at which notice of two motions had been given. The first deplored to loss of lottery funding to a wide range of good causes in favour of the Olympic Games and the second sought to offer assistance to Post Offices threatened with closure in the same way as Essex was proceeding.

Cllr Garvican had attended the SLR meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March and was following up progress with the Traffic Regulation Order on the Old Coach Road, and the Berwick Way.

#### **146.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

In Cllr Whitehead's absence, there was nothing to report.

#### **147.0 PLANNING**

##### **147.1 Planning Committee meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> February**

Members received Minutes from the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February (draft). They noted the Committee's decisions on applications as outlined below:

WD/2008/0214/F Winton Street Farm Stables and Cottage, Winton Street: refurbishment and extensions to both residential properties, demolition of two stable blocks and a rear lobby together with appropriate landscaping and enhancement of existing courtyard – *no objections*.

WD/2008/0218/F Highway Cottage, Winton Street: demolition of a modern rear extension and a modern detached garage building to the side of the property. Replace with a traditional brick built and oak frame single storey extension to provide sitting room, second bedroom and garage – *the only objection was the height of the roof over the garage and proposed bedroom 2 which seems to be out of keeping with the rest of the building works*.

WD/2008/0219/LB Highway Cottage, Winton Street: demolition of a modern rear extension and a modern detached garage building to the side of the property. Replace with a traditional brick built and oak frame single storey extension to provide sitting room, second bedroom and garage – *the only objection was the height of the roof over the garage and proposed bedroom 2 which seems to be out of keeping with the rest of the building works*.

WD/2008/0273/F Palin House, 6, Kings Ride: proposed conversion of roof void to form a games room and bedroom, including the insertion of three dormer windows to the rear roof slope – *no objection*.

WD/2007/3681/F Quakers, River Lane: loft conversion to include 3 no. pitched roof dormers to front elevation and 1 no. flat roof dormer to rear elevation. Also to replace tile hanging to front, rear and east elevations (revised plans retaining chimneys) – *no objection*.

##### **147.2 Matters for consideration that evening**

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

WD/2008/0257/LB Tuckvar, West Street: installation of 3 no. evacuated tube collectors on the rear roof for provision of solar heated water piped through loft into head of airing cupboard existing and into new coil tank.

WD/2008/0319/F 6, The Laines, The Furlongs: erection of replacement garage at side.

##### **147.3 Decisions notified**

WD/2007/1871/F Pleasant Rise, Pleasant Rise Farm: extensions at ground and first floor forming new kitchen and attached annex for family member. *Granted with conditions*.

WD/2007/2990/LB 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. *Granted with conditions*.

WD/2007/3681/F Quakers, River Lane: loft conversion to include 3 no. pitched roof dormers to front elevation and 1 no. flat roof dormer to rear elevation. Also to replace tile hanging to front, rear and east elevations. *Refused*.

WD/2007/3739/F Little Appin, The Broadway: change of fenestration to approved garage. *Granted with conditions*.

WD/2008/0008/F Tuckvar, West Street: extension of modern garage. *Granted with conditions*.

WD/2008/0059/F The Stables, Pleasant Rise Farm, Cuckmere Road: demolition of existing facilities and construction of new building. *Granted with conditions*.

##### **147.4 Local Development Framework – update**

There was nothing further to report.

#### **147.5 Local List**

There was nothing further to report, and the item would be removed from the Agenda.

#### **147.6 Progress with appeals**

Nothing further had been heard.

#### **147.7 Liquor licence application**

An application for a new licence had been lodged by the new owners of the English Wine Centre.

### **148.0 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

#### **148.1 Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership**

The new map and brochure had been unavoidably delayed at the printers, but would be available before Easter.

#### **148.2 Cuckmere Flood Forum**

The Parish Council's position had been communicated to Cuckmere Valley Parish Council and contact from their Chairman was awaited.

#### **148.3 Festival**

Cllr Savage reported that the distribution of funds this year was expected to adopt the pattern from last year with the addition of Selmeston Village Hall, who had been most helpful.

He had received a request from the Festival Chairman to undertake some light pruning to allow the fairground access to the glebeland.

The Clerk had received a request for permission to use the Tye for events during the Festival.

These were:

- To use the Tye and its amenities from Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August inclusive for fund-raising and other activities relating to the Festival.
- To use the Recreation Ground on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August for a Car Boot sale and for car parking for the Festival Fair, and for car parking on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August (dependent upon Cricket Club fixtures).
- To put advertising banners at either end of the village for a week prior to and during the Festival period and to put bunting along the High Street during that time.
- To place an A board in the Square and on the Tye near the Mine during the period of the Festival to advertise the day's events (accepting the licence agreement terms).
- To display collectors' cars on the Tye on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August.
- To close the Tye road, as last year, from the evening of Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August until the evening of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August.

All requests were **approved** on the **proposal** of Cllr Savage, **seconded** by Cllr Byford.

#### **148.4 Heartstart**

Cllr Dumelow expressed the group's thanks for agreeing to donate the contents of the Mine again during 2008/9. Cllr Byford asked whether other groups could be made aware that this money was available to good causes in future years. The Clerk would promote that fact in an edition of *Cuckmere News* early in 2009.

#### **148.5 Village Hall Committee**

The application to Viridor Credits for funding towards repairing the roof leak and a new floor would be considered at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

### **149.0 RIGHTS OF WAY & COUNTRYSIDE**

#### **149.1 Condition of White Bridge**

The South Downs Joint Committee were unable to deal with the algae, and had suggested referring the matter to ESCC, which Cllr Dumelow would do.

#### **149.2 Winton Street signposts**

The way-posts would be replaced for the third time as they were a legal requirement, but it was clear that they were being removed deliberately.

#### **149.3 Fencing in Cuckmere Road**

The fencing appeared to be outside the original line and would be referred to ESCC for possible replacement.

#### **149.4 Old Coach Road**

There had been a site visit and a report had been prepared for ESCC Lead Member decision shortly.

#### **149.5 Mounting block**

The blocks had been re-instated, although wire netting was needed to finish off.

#### **149.6 Possible National Park**

The re-convened Inquiry was still hearing further evidence.

#### **149.7 Conserving the Elm population**

A request for funding would be deferred until the next annual round of s.137 payments were considered in October. In the meantime, Cllr Dumelow would seek updated figures on the local elm population.

### **150.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Cllr Knights had provided a verbal report to the Clerk.

#### **150.1 Housing in Alfriston**

A meeting had been held on 27<sup>th</sup> February. Wealden had undertaken to completely review their proposals for Alfriston and report within 30 days. That report would be brought to the April meeting of the Parish Council.

#### **150.2 Car parking at Surgery**

As the area was unregistered land, Cllr Knights recommended that steps were taken to register the entire allotment site. If no deeds could be found, this could still be done on production of signed affidavits from two long-term residents. The solicitor would be instructed to proceed accordingly.

#### **150.3 Parish Plan**

Cllr Knights had established that Brighton University would no longer be able to assist with the production and analysis of the questionnaire. Funding from Action in rural Sussex was also no longer available. He would approach the Parish Plan co-ordinator for Cuckmere Valley Parish so that they could devise a less formal joint venture.

#### **150.4 Parish website**

More events were now on display and the request should appear in the forthcoming edition of *Cuckmere News*.

### **151.0 THE TYE**

#### **151.1 Damage to surface of Tye**

Cllr Savage had obtained estimates for the installation of plastic webbing along both sides of the path leading from the Mine to the Church and along to the War Memorial Hall entrance, together with a larger section 2m x 3m outside The Old School House to act as a turning area at the far end. There was some discussion of the merits of that part of the proposal. Cllr Savage **proposed** acceptance of a price of £1,997 + VAT from Trowell Building Co. This was within the budget approved at the January meeting. This proposal was **seconded** by Cllr Dumelow and **agreed unanimously**. The work would be undertaken before the growing season got under way.

#### **151.2 Parking for Community Responders**

The sign had been erected.

#### **151.3 Damaged dog bin**

Cllr Savage asked that the dog bin near the Mine was replaced with a new green bin, as the present one was damaged beyond repair. The Clerk would ask Wealden to do so.

#### **151.4 Litter bins on Tye**

The litter bins adjacent to the kitchens of the Wingrove were full and overflowing with much litter on the Tye. The Clerk would ask Wealden DC to take prompt action.

#### **151.5 Encroachment of foliage**

Cllr Savage expressed his pleasure at the standard of work achieved and asked that a letter of thanks was sent to the contractor. The Clerk would write accordingly.

### **152.0 ALLOTMENTS and RECREATION GROUND**

#### **152.1 Boundary fence replacement**

The work had been completed.

#### **152.2 Allotment rents – 2008**

Cllr Byford confirmed that three half plots were currently unused, and the Clerk would place an advert in the next edition of *Cuckmere News*.

### 152.3 Pavilion refurbishment

The Clerk reported that monitoring of the project had shown that an over-spend was now likely if the Pavilion was to be finished to a useable state in time for the summer season. He was working with Cricket Club representatives to quantify the over-spend, which appeared to be within the range of £3,000 - £6,000. This had been caused by a change in Building Inspector resulting in the need for additional work on footings before approval was given, and a change in roof design to allow adequate height at the door to the toilets. He would report again at the April meeting, but provided that the over-spend did not escalate, he considered that it was manageable. He would be working hard to contain the over-spend to the minimum possible commensurate with completion of the Pavilion to a useable state. A contractor had been engaged to dig the trench for the new water supply, and work was due to commence on 19<sup>th</sup> March. South East Water had been paid, so their connection could then take place.

### 152.4 Licence for Cricket Club

The Clerk awaited comments from the Cricket Club before the draft lease could be drawn up.

### 152.5 Annual Playground inspection

The logs remained to be replaced, but all other work had been completed.

## 153.0 COACH and CAR PARKS and PUBLIC TRANSPORT

### 153.1 Litter bin replacement

Mr Trowell would undertake the work early in the new financial year.

### 153.2 Chained off spaces

The new sign was in place, and tickets were now being issued to offenders.

### 153.3 Security of chained off spaces

The Clerk would include a reminder of the need to lock empty spaces when renewals went out at the end of March.

### 153.4 Entry to and exit from Dene car park

An item would appear in the forthcoming edition of *Cuckmere News*. The Chairman reported that there had been a breakdown in communication with the editor, co-inciding with the departure of Rev'd Fox-Wilson. An electronic error had now been detected, and the backlog of news from the Parish Council should appear in the next edition.

### 153.5 VAT on parking charges

The Clerk had provided copies of all his correspondence to Wealden DC, and was now awaiting their advice before responding to HM Revenue & Customs.

### 153.6 White lines in Dene car park

Wealden DC would undertake the re-lining when weather conditions were suitable.

## 154.0 FINANCE

### 154.1 Invoices for payment – March

The Clerk presented invoices for payment in March:

#### ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

	£
Clerk: admin and travel	41.69
wages	351.25
Inland Revenue	159.71
Wolseley UK Ltd – materials for Pavilion refurbishment	3,265.81
Wenban-Smith Ltd – materials for Pavilion refurbishment	1,483.81
Ken Slade Ltd. – work on Pavilion refurbishment	1,050.00
Mr S. Clay – work on Pavilion refurbishment	910.00
D. Monteath-Wilson – Chairman's allowance	165.00
British Telecom – phone account	70.35
Trowell Building Co – replacement of boundary fencing to allotments	536.97
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>8,034.59</u></b>

#### CUCKMERE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

P. Ayers – wages	119.06
C. Burden – wages	248.27
D. Skertchly – wages	189.50
Inland Revenue	178.00
Wealden DC – quarterly car park return	5,307.03
Cale Briparc – ticket machine contract renewal (annual)	647.07
Trowell Building Co – provision and installation of seats in coach park	<u>627.45</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>7,316.38</u></b>

Payments were **approved** on the **proposal** of Cllr Byford, **seconded** by Cllr Savage. As Chairman, Cllr Monteath-Wilson refrained from voting.

### 154.2 Statement of Finances

Councillors examined the Statement of Bank Balances dated 16<sup>th</sup> March provided by the Clerk, and accepted them as follows:

	£
Precept deposit account	13,403.67
Current account	15,822.81
Savings account	5,279.59
Car Park Account	<u>12,286.30</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>46,792.37</u></b>

The Clerk confirmed that the grass cutting charges had still not been invoiced by the contractor, and these would take a substantial part of the remaining balances, when an invoice was eventually received.

## 155.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS

### 155.1 SLR Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> March

Cllr Mrs Charlton reported on the outcomes from the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

- ESCC seemed supportive of the new statement on brick paviors and would enforce it with contractors.
- A stage 4 audit of the Frog Firlle traffic management scheme had concluded that it was acceptable. Councillors had asked that consideration was given to the provision of a warning sign for northbound traffic. This would be considered at the April meeting.
- The ESCC officer responsible claimed not to have received a written request from the Clerk for removal of the white lines. The Clerk produced a copy of his letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 2007, and would pursue this with Mr Johnson.
- ESCC representatives drew attention to the difficulty they faced in ensuring that contractors applied the correct primrose narrow white lines. Parish Council representatives were dismayed by the negative response and asked Cllr Garvican to pursue matters on their behalf. The matter would be placed on the Agenda for the April meeting.
- ESCC representatives suggested the establishment of a self-help monitoring group to monitor HGVs passing through. Parish representatives pointed to the success of Lorrywatch, which seemed to do the same thing, without the need to involve ESCC.
- A structural survey of properties was deemed too expensive. Members felt that this needed further discussion. It was understood that money had been made available for a structural survey of Pevensey Castle and the Clerk was asked to contact Pevensey Parish Council for advice. Members felt that one property should be selected and used as a test case to establish the need. More general concern was expressed about subsidence in sections of the High Street and the cost implications this could have on property owners in that area if the drains collapsed under the weight of traffic. Cllr Mrs Charlton would also approach officers at ESCC for further advice.
- The remaining no waiting sign would be removed by ESCC. The rusty pole at the top of Church Twytten would be repainted by the Village Maintenance Team.
- C39 North Street at Manse Corner would be rebuilt, but the work would involve closure and diversion via Winton Street. Parish representatives requested plenty of notice, good signage and assistance from the Police to prevent HGVs meeting in Winton

Street and blocking traffic flow, since this could affect any emergency vehicles needing to use the road.

- ESCC representatives accepted that the white lines at the junction of Weavers Lane and Star Lane had not been repainted despite their contractor advising that the work had been done (and paid for accordingly).
- The poor communication from the Highways Agency in connection with the closure of A27 in February was discussed. ESCC had assumed that the Highways Agency would advise local councils, but lessons could be learned for the future.
- ESCC was investigating why the trench at Drusillas roundabout had still not been filled in.
- Cllr Lock, the Lead Member, favoured decriminalisation of parking provided the whole District wanted it, and the scheme became self-funding quickly. It was felt that some of Wealden's towns would not be in favour of the move, but possibly the Parish might ascertain views across the District.

The next meeting would take place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September, commencing at 0900hrs in the Committee Room of the War Memorial Hall.

Items would be reported under their individual heading again from next month.

#### **155.2 Sunken manhole**

Cllr Mrs Charlton had received reports of a sunken manhole outside Twytten House, which she would pass on for urgent attention, as it was causing a serious splash hazard.

#### **155.3 Lorrywatch**

Cllr Mrs Charlton was in touch with Sussex Police and looking to re-launch Lorrywatch in the spring. Members complained of a 40T Dutch wagon causing great difficulty in the village earlier in the day. It had been reported to the Police. Cllr Byford also complained of a coach which passed through the village regularly. She would pass details to Cllr Mrs Charlton.

### **156.0 PARISH CLERK**

#### **156.1 Amplification equipment**

Cllr Knights had received prices for two possible systems. Individual microphones could be purchased at a price of £10 each plus £8 for a tripod stand. Three or four might suffice for meetings giving a possible cost of £72. As an alternative, better quality microphones, capable of use by singers and bands might cost £50 each. Two or three should cover the needs of the Parish Council, giving an outlay of upto £150. A decision was deferred until April so that Cllr Knights could explain the alternatives in more detail, and a discussion could take place with the War Memorial Hall Committee about reciprocal use of equipment.

#### **156.2 Village of the Year competition 2007**

The Clerk had written to both Alfriston Pre School and Heartstart. Pre School had confirmed their bid for funding to provide a portable sink for toddlers to wash their hands in after taking part in activities. Some funding towards this item had already been received. Heartstart also confirmed their wish to be considered and proposed putting the money towards the purchase of a full body dummy, which would be used to demonstrate first aid skills to a variety of local organisations.

Cllr Mrs Charlton re-affirmed her wish to see the money given to Heartstart, and **proposed** that course of action. This was **seconded** by Cllr Ellis and **approved** by 3 votes to 1 with one abstention.

#### **156.3 Village of the Year competition 2008**

The entry was in hand.

#### **156.4 Vacancy for Clerk**

One firm expression of interest had been received, and it was understood that their may be a second. The vacancy would be advertised in the forthcoming edition of *Cuckmere News* asking for any other interest to be expressed within one month. On that basis, applicants should be known by the end of April.

### **157.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **157.1 Training courses for Parish Councillors**

The Clerk provided details of training courses within East Sussex for new Parish Councillors on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> September at Sedlescombe. East Dean Parish Council was also offering a training day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April at a cost of £45, and Cllr Savage expressed interest in attending. The Clerk would make further enquiries.

### **157.2 Parish Guide**

The Clerk had been approached by an organisation specialising in the publication of town and village guides, at no cost to the Council. He would circulate samples of their work for consideration at the April meeting.

### **157.3 Carving from old Horse Chestnut tree**

The Chairman had met Rev'd Frank Fox-Wilson recently, who had confirmed that his carving using wood from the Horse Chestnut tree formerly in Market Square was now complete. She asked Members to consider a suitable place for the carving to be placed on permanent display and also how to pay for the item. Members suggested that the Gallery in St Andrews Church might be a suitable place, and the Chairman would make informal enquiries of the Church Wardens before discussing the matter further.

### **157.4 Minerals LDF**

Correspondence had been received from ESCC and Brighton & Hove City Council concerning their joint Minerals LDF. A website could be used to access the document.

## **158.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

### **Public Questions**

1. Mr Burden reported that the base of the Market Cross had been damaged by a passing vehicle. Cllr Mrs Charlton confirmed that she had already asked ESCC to repair the damage.
2. Mr Phillips asked that the area of wall at Steamer Trading where a No Waiting sign had been removed was made good. Cllr Mrs Charlton would ask the Village Maintenance Team to deal with the matter.
3. Mr Hurwood commented that he had viewed the Minerals LDF on behalf of the Amenity Society and had found it a most difficult document to comprehend. He asked that the Parish Council view the document, and if they agreed, write in response indicating the difficulty in simply understanding the text. The Clerk would deal accordingly.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008.