

# ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

## CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 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 G. Knights  
Cllr R. Savage

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

### Public Questions

1. Mr Burton raised the question of the re-instatement of the C39 flint wall, damaged in flooding some years earlier. Mr Phillips had raised the matter at the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting, suggesting contact with the landowner. The Chairman had suggested the formation of a Committee to discuss terms and consider the feasibility of such a project, which she would inaugurate. As Portfolio Holder, Cllr Charlton would then be asked to chair the Committee and Cllrs Dumelow and Savage offered to serve on it. The matter would be formalised during the meeting.
2. Mr Phillips confirmed that he had spoken with the landowner after the Annual Assembly, who was still prepared to donate a 2ft strip of land if terms could be agreed. He suggested that the carriageway should be widened to avoid the new wall being demolished by vehicles, and pointed to two straight lengths within the current curve, which caused the most serious pinch points. He suggested that a County Highways officer was invited to attend the first meeting of the Committee to offer advice.
3. Mr Wilson expressed concern at coach passengers crossing from the Willows coach park into North Street. He had concluded that pedestrian controlled traffic signals were the best solution to alleviate the current risks. Cllr Charlton confirmed that ESCC had rejected that option when they agreed to move the pedestrians warning sign. Cllr Knights suggested that a zebra crossing would be a cheaper option. Cllr Savage expressed concern that a pelican crossing would cause a nuisance to local residents because of light and noise.
4. Mrs Gregory asked for clarification of LDF and the Clerk confirmed that the Local Development Framework (LDF) was replacing the District Council's Local Plan.

### 159.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

### 160.0 MINUTES

160.1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 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 Charlton, **seconded** by Cllr Byford and **agreed**. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

### 161.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Garvican reported that the latest meeting of the full Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March had considered Post Office closures. The Essex proposals did not involve the retention of existing offices, but their replacement where possible with facilities at existing County run sites (such as Libraries), but as the Post Office would not make accounts available, things remained less than clear. Existing Postmasters could not offer their expertise to new businesses without putting their redundancy packages at risk. Nonetheless, County Councillors approved a motion deploring the closure of Post Offices and doing everything possible to secure a change of Government policy.

He had raised the question of funding for the Old Coach Road with Lead Member Matthew Lock who had confirmed that Cycle England could only fund east – west projects but not things like the Berwick Way (north – south). The Old Coach Road was supported by Sustrans whereas the Berwick Way was not. Members were not able to comprehend the explanation.

Cllr Dumelow asked what progress was being made with the Traffic Regulation Order for the Old Coach Road, and Cllr Garvican explained that a report was being prepared for Lead Member consideration on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

The Clerk had received a letter from ESCC confirming that the Library in the War Memorial Hall Committee Room was being used less frequently with only 201 items issued in 2006/7. The volunteer team led by Mrs Bridges had indicated their desire to retire and the Library would close after Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May. The mobile library was gaining in popularity, and its fortnightly visits would continue. Members accepted the closure reluctantly, and asked that their thanks were passed to Mrs Bridges and her team for their dedicated service over many years.

## **162.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

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

## **163.0 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **163.1 Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership**

Mrs Sylvia Daw from the Tudor House had volunteered to chair the Dickensian Committee, and was forming her new team. The Partnership's AGM would be held at The Star Inn on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

### **163.2 Cuckmere Community Bus**

The Chairman reported that Cllr Charlton had been co-opted onto the Committee in recognition of her service to that organisation. The AGM had been held on 31<sup>st</sup> March, when all officers were re-elected, and a good trading year was reported.

### **163.3 Flood Forum**

A meeting was to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

### **163.4 Festival**

Cllr Savage reported that arrangements for the 2008 Festival were well in hand. One day would be dedicated to events aimed at children as an additional attraction.

### **163.5 Heartstart**

Cllr Dumelow reported that the number of calls had been lower in recent weeks. Recent donations were to be spent on the purchase of dummies for use by students, and a decision was to be made as to whether one full size dummy or four smaller ones were to be acquired. The Clerk had received a letter of thanks from the group for the donation of Village of the Year prize money for 2007.

### **163.6 Village Hall Committee**

Cllr Knights reported that a grant of £15,000 had been secured from Viridor Credits, and an EGM had agreed that this should be used to fund a new 22mm hardwood floor. A contractor had been selected offering a price of £17,000, which had been accepted, and work would be undertaken in early August to be completed before the 2008 Festival.

## **164.0 RIGHTS OF WAY & COUNTRYSIDE**

### **164.1 Condition of White Bridge**

The algae remained a problem because of Health and Safety considerations. ESCC had offered to contribute 10% towards the costs if the project went forward. The Chairman reported damage to the rail joints, which were rotting due to damp conditions.

#### 164.2 **Winton Street signposts**

Replacement of the way-posts was awaited.

#### 164.3 **Fencing in Cuckmere Road**

ESCC was having difficulty establishing whether or not the new fencing was outside the original line, and had asked if any photographs might be available showing the old fencing. If encroachment could be established, action would be taken.

#### 164.4 **Old Coach Road**

There was nothing further to report.

#### 164.5 **Mounting block**

The netting still needed to be finished off.

#### 164.6 **Stile on Pleasant Rise Farm**

Cllr Dumelow had met Simon McHugh concerning a stile at Pleasant Rise Farm that was in need of replacement. A kissing gate may be installed as an alternative.

#### 164.7 **Possible National Park**

The outcome of the Inquiry was not expected to be known for perhaps another 18 months.

#### 164.8 **Conserving the Elm population**

Updated figures on the local elm population were still awaited.

### 165.0 **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

#### 165.1 **Housing in Alfriston**

Cllr Knights reported that Wealden DC was still considering the alternative site for the allotments, which might be on land along Cuckmere Road and could also incorporate a small southern car park. Access was not ideal and East Sussex CC was undertaking a survey to ascertain whether or not improvements could be made.

#### 165.2 **Car parking at Surgery**

Cllr Knights had identified a third resident of long standing, who remembered the present allotments being created. It was agreed to approach all three possible witnesses to verify the situation.

Cllr Byford asked whether or not the proposed extension was still proceeding, and Cllr Knights would seek clarification. Nonetheless, it was agreed to proceed with registration of the allotment land, since this would be the best course of action, whatever happened in the future.

#### 165.3 **Parish Plan**

The Clerk reported that Cuckmere Valley PC's Parish Plan Co-ordinator had made a short presentation at their Annual Assembly. Cllr Knights would contact Mr Moores to discuss how matters might be taken forward together.

#### 165.4 **Parish website**

Cllr Knights apologised that a software problem had prevented the current Agenda being displayed, but he expected the situation to have been rectified within 24 hours.

### 166.0 **THE TYE**

#### 166.1 **Damage to surface of Tye**

Progress had been delayed whilst the material was delivered. It was now expected within a few days, and work would commence as soon as possible thereafter. Cllr Byford asked that the metal stakes were removed as they were unsightly, and Cllr Knights concurred. They were not suitable during summer months on the Tye. Cllr Savage reminded Members of the need to get the grassed area back into good condition. Cllr Knights contended that damage had been done by oil deliveries to the Church which had ceased two years previously. A discussion ensued about possible locking of the gate to prevent access to the Hall and Church. Cllr Knights **proposed** that the stakes were removed immediately. This was **seconded** by Cllr Byford and put to the vote. **For** the proposal 2, **against** the proposal 4. **Motion lost.** The stakes would remain in place until the area had recovered from the work about to be undertaken.

#### 165.2 **Damaged dog bin**

The bin had been replaced.

#### 165.3 **Litter bins on Tye**

Wealden DC had been requested to take action and no further complaints had been received.



## CUCKMERE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

P. Ayers – wages	193.52
Inland Revenue	<u>89.36</u>
	<u><b>282.88</b></u>

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

P. Ayers – wages	129.02
C. Burden – wages	222.52
D. Skertchly – wages	407.72
Inland Revenue	<u>224.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><b>983.26</b></u>

Payments were **approved** on the **proposal** of Cllr Byford, **seconded** by Cllr Dumelow.

### 168.2 Statement of Finances

Councillors examined the Statement of Bank Balances dated 20<sup>th</sup> April provided by the Clerk, and accepted them as follows:

	£
Precept deposit account	14,195.48
Current account	5,961.56
Savings account	5,484.27
Car Park Account	<u>15,217.18</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><b>40,858.49</b></u>

### 168.3 Annual Accounts

The Clerk had distributed copies of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return, together with the Internal Audit report. This had picked up an under-claim of £148.97 VAT from December 2007, which the Clerk would claim in the June quarter.

Otherwise, the Auditor had signed off the accounts. Members had no queries and **approved** the Annual Return for 2007/8 for signature on the **proposal** of Cllr Charlton, **seconded** by Cllr Savage.

### 168.4 Annual Governance statement

The Clerk took members through the nine questions in the Annual Governance statement, and explained them. Each was answered in the affirmative, and acceptance of the statement was **proposed** by Cllr Charlton, **seconded** by Cllr Savage. **All agreed.**

## 169.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS

### 169.1 Frog Firle Traffic Management scheme

Cllr Charlton had received a reply from Mr Cook concerning the Stage 4 audit report. She passed it to the Clerk for copying to other Members prior to discussion at the May meeting. The request for a warning sign for northbound traffic remained outstanding.

### 169.2 White lines in Winton Street

These had not yet been removed.

### 169.3 Monitoring of traffic volume

Cllr Charlton was in discussion with ESCC officers concerning this matter.

### 169.4 Structural survey

There was nothing further to report.

### 169.5 Lorrywatch

No date for the re-launch had yet been agreed.

### 169.6 No waiting signs

The remaining signs had now been removed.

### 169.7 Road markings at Star Lane/Weavers Lane/Kings Ride junction

These had not been repainted despite constituting a hazard.

### 169.8 Village Maintenance Team

The work requested in the 2008 programme had not yet been undertaken.

### 169.9 Sunken manhole

The utility company responsible was being approached by ESCC.

### 169.10 Proposed closure of C39 Manse Corner

ESCC had been requested again to give good notice of any closure, but no date had yet been provided.

### **169.11 Berwick Way phase 2 – letter from Berwick Parish Council**

Members had read the correspondence circulated by the Clerk and agreed to write to ESCC in support of Berwick Parish Council.

### **169.12 Double yellow lines**

Cllr Charlton was endeavouring to have the narrow primrose white lines outside Steamer Trading repainted after roadworks had obliterated a section. Cars were trying to park there now that a further restaurant had opened, and despite the obvious hazards.

### **169.13 C39 flint wall**

The Clerk reminded Members of the discussion during Public Questions, when the establishment of a Committee had been mooted to examine and report back on the possible acquisition of land, funding for the construction of a new flint wall and re-instatement of kerbstones along C39 north of the village, where the old wall had been destroyed by floods. The formation of such a Committee was **proposed** by Cllr **Byford**, **seconded** by Cllr Ellis and **agreed unanimously**. Membership would comprise Cllr Charlton (Chairman), Cllr Dumelow and Cllr Savage.

### **169.14 'A' Boards**

Cllr Charlton had approved an 'A' Board request from Alfriston Art Club, which met the criteria laid down.

## **170.0 PARISH CLERK**

### **170.1 Amplification equipment**

Cllr Knights confirmed that the amplification system in the War Memorial Hall was in the process of being up-graded. He had ascertained that Alfriston Players would find the provision of microphones useful as well as the Parish Council. He recommended the purchase of 5 stand microphones at a price of £250. These items would be controlled, managed and kept secure by the Hall Manager, but individual groups would need to plug them in when required. Cllr Dumelow **proposed** the purchase of 5 stand microphones at a price not exceeding £250. This was **seconded** by Cllr Savage and **agreed unanimously**. Cllr Knights would acquire the microphones.

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

The entry had been submitted and the initial result was awaited.

### **170.3 Vacancy for Clerk**

Five applicants were to be interviewed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Alfriston PC and the Chairman of Cuckmere Valley PC over the coming weeks and the outcome should be known in time for consideration at the May meeting.

### **170.4 Village Directory 2008**

The Clerk confirmed that he would start work shortly on an update of the Village Directory for the current year.

### **170.5 Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

The Clerk would send a copy of the two documents described by the Emergency Planning Officer to each Member so that the formation of a working party to progress an Emergency Plan could be considered in May.

### **170.6 Carving from former Market Square horse chestnut tree**

Rev'd Fox-Wilson had completed the carving, and the Chairman showed two photographs of its intricate workmanship. She wanted the beautiful work to be on display for the public to look at and enjoy, and had approached the Church Wardens after the March meeting. Whilst agreeing in principle, they had expressed concerns about security. Rev'd Fox-Wilson had now confirmed that he could fix the carving to a wall securely, and the Church Wardens were referring the request to the Arch Deacon for consideration. She would wish to discuss a means of remunerating the carver for his workmanship, and would initially raise this informally with Councillors to gauge opinion.

### **170.7 Jubilee clock**

The correction to show BST had not yet been possible, because of difficulty gaining access to the property which housed the mechanism. Efforts were continuing.

## **171.0 PLANNING**

### **171.1 Planning Committee meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> March**

Members received Minutes from the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March (draft). They noted the Committee's decisions on applications as outlined below:

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 – *no objections*.

WD/2008/0319/F 6 The Laines, The Furlongs: erection of replacement garage at side – *no objections*.

#### **171.2Matters for consideration that evening**

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

WD/2008/0627/F 14, Kings Ride: erection of conservatory to rear of building and rebuilding of porch to side.

WD/2008/0784/F Cedar Cottage, The Broadway: erection of replacement dwelling with attached double garage.

#### **171.3Decisions notified**

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. *Granted with conditions*.

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. *Refused*.

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. *Refused*.

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

#### **171.4Local Development Framework – update**

There was nothing further to report.

### **172.0CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **172.1Training courses for Parish Councillors**

Cllr Savage was due to attend the course at East Dean the following day, and would report back to the May meeting.

#### **172.2Parish Guide**

Members had viewed the samples and asked that they were considered by the Alfriston & Cuckmere Valley Partnership before any decision was made. The documents were passed to a representative of ACVP.

#### **172.3Annual Report from Wealden District Police Commander**

The Clerk had circulated the annual report from Sussex Police commander Neil Honnor, and this was noted.

#### **172.4Street trading**

The Clerk had circulated correspondence from Wealden DC about street traders. Members agreed that no action was needed in a rural parish such as Alfriston.

#### **172.5Public toilets**

The Clerk had just received correspondence from Wealden DC to ascertain whether Parish Councils would be prepared to accept responsibility for public toilets. Members felt that much more information was needed before such a significant step could be agreed, and the Clerk would respond accordingly.

### **173.0DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Annual Meeting (and an ordinary meeting) of the Council would be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Hall, preceded by Public Questions from 7.15pm.

### **There were no Public Questions**

Signed: (Chairman)  
Date: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008.