

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15 March 2010 in the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr S Charlton (in the Chair)
Cllr J Byford
Cllr J Dumelow
Cllr G Ellis
Cllr D Monteath-Wilson
District Cllr A Watkins

In attendance: 17 Parishioners
D Meek – Acting Clerk

Public Questions

1. Mr Wilson thanked the Council for the prompt action in replacing the village bench in the Market Square.
2. Mr C Burden attended the re-launch of the village allotments, there appeared to be some confusion over the management of the event which was clarified by Cllr Byford, Mr I Thomas had offered to show people around the allotments and compile a list of interested parties. The plots are still being cleared and there has been no new plots allocated, once works have been completed the Council will decide on new plot sizes & allocations will be made in accordance with the existing waiting list applicants offered plots first with subsequent interested people offered any other free plots. Further report under Agenda Item 6 by Cllr Byford.
3. Mrs Dalglish requested an update on the vehicle signage for Sloe Lane. Cllr Charlton responded that the 'Cars Only' sign was in place. Although some van drivers appear to still be ignoring this.
4. Mr Phillips asked that as microphones were available for use that all Councillors use them to enable everyone to hear clearly during meetings.
5. Mrs Daw asked if the Council could consider the provision of a loading & unloading bay on the Tye for users of the Village Hall. This should help to prevent car owners from parking on the Tye whilst the gates were open for delivery vehicles unloading. Also whether there could be more barriers preventing car access to the Tye. Cllr Monteath-Wilson would respond under Agenda Item 8.
6. Mr Gulland asked if the Council had considered his letter regarding parking problems in and around the Tye. All Councillors would receive a copy of the letter and this would be added to the Agenda for the April Meeting.

Other Reports

- a) **ACVP** – Mr Phillips report would be circulated to Councillors on the Clerk's return
- b) **Flood Forum** – Next Meeting Monday 12th April 2010 at 7pm War Memorial Hall, Alfriston
- c) **Village Hall Report** – Cllr Monteath-Wilson reported that at the recent meeting the Main hall lighting & sound system had been reviewed and was found to be satisfactory by all Hall users. The preferential rate hiring system for Alfriston residents was reviewed to ensure that residents are actually in attendance. Whilst booking continued to be good due to the dire financial situation improvements to the hall and facilities are currently on hold.

Fundraising – new ideas to replace coffee mornings and table top sales were sought to increase revenue. Mr I Thomas had replaced Mr Weston on the Committee. Discussion and circulation of correspondence from Mr Gulland had taken place and concern expressed that more parking for the disabled and the elderly who use the Church and Hall was needed. The plastic matting adjacent to the path across the Tye would also be reviewed during April.

- d) **Festival Meeting** – Cllr Monteath-Wilson reported that Mr D King had now agreed to Chair this Committee.
- e) **Heartstart** – Cllr Dumelow reported that calls were already up last year. A recruitment drive for more volunteer responders was now under way and the recent Selmeston meeting was well attended and it was hoped that a second group of responders would now be formed there. The recent table top sale successfully boosted funds.
- f) **SAFE** – No report.

The Meeting

486.0 APOLOGIES for ABSENCE

486.1 Cllr R Savage, Cllr M Hogestijn, County Cllr N Bennett, Clerk S Smith

487.0 MINUTES

487.1 Unadopted Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 February 2010 had been circulated previously. Acceptance of the Minutes as a true record was **proposed** by Cllr Ellis, **seconded** by Cllr Dumelow and **agreed**.

488.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR – No report.

489.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

489.1 Cllr Watkins spoke regarding the question raised about publishing unadopted Council Minutes warning that this can result in several copies of incorrect minutes appearing and causes confusion as has recently happened on the WDC website. Council Tax Bills – the District Council receives just 2.7% of the Council Tax bill with the majority of 71% going to the County Council. South Downs National Park Authority – Mr C Peck, Councillor for East Dean Ward, for Wealden District Council has been appointed by WDC.

490.0 PLANNING – Cllr Charlton

490.1 Minutes from Planning Committee meetings held since last Parish Meeting

- WD/2010/0163/F: The Rails, BN26 5TX - Two-storey extension, conservatory and front porch. *No objections.*

490.2 Matters for consideration by Planning Committee after the Meeting

- WD/2010/0269/F: Cedar Cottage, The Broadway, BN26 5XH – Erection of replacement dwelling with attached garage.

490.3 Decisions Notified

- WD/2009/2606/O: Land at Riverbank, River Lane BN26 5SX – Outline planning permission for 2/3 bedroom chalet style house in separate garden area (owned by the applicant) adjacent to existing dwelling also owned by applicant. *Refused.*

490.4 Any other Planning matter

None.

491.0 ALLOTMENTS and RECREATION GROUND – Cllr Byford

491.1 Allotment Clearance

This has gone very well and has now given us the opportunity to create more plots and return to use the ones that have been allowed to go fallow.

491.2 Any other Allotment matter

Renewals for plots should have gone out by now but this was delayed until the clearance work was complete, it is hoped this will be arranged by the Clerk before Easter. Cllr Byford will be contacting current plot holders who appear to have done very little in the previous year to ask if they would prefer to have a smaller plot or relinquish their plots. The existing

contracts will also be reviewed and the new ones will require holders to keep the plots up to a standard so they do not impact negatively on neighbouring plots.

The Pre-School group did a tremendous job on Saturday 13 March of providing information, seeds and plants for swapping and a wonderful enthusiasm towards getting everyone involved in the wonderful facilities that we are fortunate enough to have in this village. They provided a platform for the re-launching of the allotments, the start of a public debate for improvements to the Playground, Recreation Grounds and Allotments in general.

A meeting will be held to assess the site and plan allotment sizes. Thanks to Ian Thomas for his help and enthusiasm and time on Saturday in showing people around the allotments.

Response to the Public Questions earlier in the meeting:- The people who showed interested in plots on Saturday I will not be allocated plots until we have accommodated those on the current waiting list. No plots have been allocated yet and will be done on size preference – it may not be possible to give people plots in particular areas and we are planning on renumbering each plot with a letter as the current system is confusing and unclear. This may mean some plots continue to have their old numbers as well as the new letters until everyone is au fait with the new system.

491.3 Licence for Clubs Using the Pavilion

The Clerk has been dealing with this and it will be carried forward to the April Meeting. Cllr Ellis invited Cllrs to the next meeting of the Cricket Club to be held on Tuesday 23 March 2010 in the Smugglers Inn at 7.30pm as they had some of the answers necessary to help the Council with the Club's Licence.

491.4 Recreation Ground – Play Area/Fencing

We had a very productive meeting with the Development officers of Wealden Council on Friday, who are very enthusiastic and constructive in their advice about proposed improvements to the playground area and they have suggested that we approach three of their preferred suppliers for a quote to get an idea of what sort of grant applications we could be pursuing. They also supported the wish to provide further facilities that will appeal to all ages - young and old alike and be of a more naturalistic and environmental feel. They were also keen on the development being geared towards the Queens Diamond Jubilee. Cllr Ellis suggested that a plan be drawn up showing the existing layout and facilities. Cllr Dumelow has this in hand.

490.5 Any other Recreation Ground matter

Mr Trowell would be asked to place the second dog bin near to the western perimeter fence in the vicinity of the playground. A suggestion was made and agreed that the existing dog bin adjacent to the Surgery be moved closer to the Playground area and the new one at the North corner of the Recreation Ground. This was agreed by all.

Cllr Dumelow has been asked if she may be able to provide the Parish Council with an Ordnance Survey map so we can draw out the area in agreement with the council and other interested parties to ensure clarity and understanding of any proposed new developments. The cost of this would be approximately £50. A cheaper option would now be researched by the Clerk; if unsuccessful we will get back to her as this is urgently needed for both the project and APC.

Finally, congratulations to the Playground sub committee on their hard work in getting together a most enjoyable day last Saturday and to Mr Trowell for sorting out the water and electricity in the Pavilion.

492.0 RIGHTS OF WAY and COUNTRYSIDE – Cllr Dumelow

492.1 Any Rights of Way matter

a. Fly tipping has occurred at the Red Bridge. The Matter has been reported and will be cleared shortly

b. A request regarding the cleaning of the White Bridge had been received. This is the responsibility of ESCC who have indicated they currently do not have the money or resources to comply.

492.2 Condition of Fence between the Spots and Glebeland

The Clerk had received a reply from the Agents of the Diocese stating that they believe this to be the PC's responsibility. The lease will be re-checked to ascertain liability.

492.3 South Downs National Park – Parish Council Representation

Josephine Carr from Willingdon and Jevington PC & Neville Harrison from Southease Parish Meeting now been appointed.

492.4 Any Countryside matter – None.

492.5 Any report from Tree Warden

No report. However the Chestnut Tree cutting was now doing well and placed on the Agenda in April for the PC to decide where and when the cutting should be planted.

493.0 The TYE - Cllr Monteath-Wilson

493.1 Parking On the Tye

Further to the Public Questions raised earlier at the Meeting this would be an Agenda Item in April.

493.2 Parking Spaces

More spaces were considered necessary for disabled and elderly to park close to the Church and Village Halls. Car Park Spaces would shortly be re-signed.

493.3 Condition of Tenaxed Area

The area is continuing to be monitored and it is hoped that once the grass season. Further update at the April Meeting.

493.4 Any other matter relating to the Tye

With regard to the open letter received from Mr Gulland, no response had been received from other village societies and the Council would discuss further at the April Meeting.

494.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING – Cllr Hogestijn

Carried forward to April meeting.

495.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS – Cllr Charlton

495.1 Report on March Strengthening Local Relationships Meeting with ESCC

The meeting held on Friday 12th March between APC & ESCC resulted in the following items.

- a). Mr I Johnson, ESCC would forward comments from Mr C Clarke, ESCC to all Councillors.
- b). APC requested that no bore holes should be carried out in the High Street.
- c). A request for a Summer Survey similar to the one undertaken in November should be carried out to reflect a truer picture of the traffic problems.
- d). Mr Johnson informed the meeting that permanent traffic lights would cost in the region of £50-100,000 dependant on complexity and location.
- e). The 20mph scheme had now been shelved until further surveys could take place. Mr Johnson requested that the Clerk requests this in writing on behalf of the PC.
- f). Mr A Brooke, ESCC, suggested that a liaison officer be appointed to monitor the road condition of the C39 in light of recent closures due to snow, ice and flooding. This would ensure that the road conditions are monitored both more regularly and accurately. APC to appoint and inform ESCC accordingly. APC would also be supplied with new signage to state that the village is open for business as usual. These would be marked as the property of APC, to prevent unnecessary accusations of Councillors moving/stealing road signs.
- g). Mr Johnson stated that the order for the right turn only for coaches leaving the Willows Car Park would be proceeded in March and should be in place within six months.
- h). WDC are responsible for the Sand & Grit Bins within the car parks and ESCC are responsible for those on the Highways. The Clerk would contact WDC requesting that the Dene Car Park be re-filled, that the Willows Car Park and the URC Church car park be given Grit Bins. After discussion this was amended as the URC already has a bin which just needs to be re-filled.
- i). SLOW signs on the roads have been requested and will be completed shortly.
- j). Potholes – ESCC have been inundated with requests, these are being prioritised by depth with those most likely to cause danger to vehicles first. However please do continue to report problems directly to ESCC either by telephone or email.
- k). SAFE update – Mrs C Adcock suggested that a meeting be held with SAFE, ESCC and the Amenities Society. TBA.

l). A possibility of renewing the '6'6" narrow road' signage at the beginning of the high pavement in North Street, which used to be in place was discussed and brought to the attention of ESCC, this would be further investigated.

m). ESCC were asked when the resurfacing of North Street was likely to take place as a Quantity Surveyor had assessed the road during 2009. ESCC will check.

Next Meeting Friday 17th September 2010 at 9am in the War Memorial Hall

495.2 Lorry Watch / Police Enforcement

Still actively in place with a reduction in recent weeks of lorries over the 7.5t limit.

495.3 Proposal for Parish Assembly Traffic Meeting – Tuesday 26 May 2010

Date agreed, Venue TBA

495.4 Any other Highway matter

A Police Panel Meeting is to be held on 1st April at the Berwick Inn, Berwick at 7pm.

All Welcome.

496.0 CAR and COACH PARKS and PUBLIC TRANSPORT – Cllr Ellis

496.1 Condition of Posts in Dene Car Park

No change – awaiting delivery of the new posts.

496.2 Extension to Willows Car Park

A WDC officer would be visiting the site shortly regarding the provision of electricity to both the toilets and the attendants booth.

496.3 Any other Car and Coach Park Matter

None.

496.4 Any Public Transport matter

ESCC have put out to tender the provision of bus services in the area. The 126 is the only one relevant in this tender and it is proposed that the service should continue with only minor changes likely to take place in July 2010.

497.0 FINANCE – Cllr Charlton

497.1 Statement of Finances

The Finance report was distributed to all Councillors.

Cllr Byford suggested that the Clerk obtain further information on the provision of the telephone and internet services to reduce costs to the PC, with TalkTalk offering a very competitive contract for all calls.

Precept Deposit account	24,080.96
Current account	20,316.05
Savings Account	5,484.27
Car Park Account	18,494.95
Total	<u>£68,376.23</u>

497.2 Invoices for Payment

Cllr Charlton presented the cheques for payment in March 2010. Copies circulated to all Councillors.

• Wages – M Honisett	£212.95
• Wages – D Skertchly	£174.36
• Wages – S Smith	£720.01
• HMRC – Tax and NI	£1,107.32
• Wealden DC – Car Park	£11,975.96
• Cale Briparc – Service Contract	£694.01
• BT – Telephone	£124.20
• BT – Internet	£ 79.32
• D Meek – Secretarial Services	£ 50.00
• Samuel & Son – Printing Charges	£ 46.04
Total	<u>£ 14,483.82</u>

A proposal to accept the Finance Report was **proposed** by Cllr Monteath-Wilson, **seconded** by Cllr Ellis. **Agreed.**

497.3 Any other Finance matter - None

498.0 PARISH CLERK

498.1 Publication of Minutes – carried forward to April Meeting.

498.2 Notice Board refurbishment

Dene Car Park now reinstated. Village Stores should be completed shortly.

498.3 Car Park Attendant vacancy

Applications have been received and would be reviewed after the closing date of 31 March.

498.4 Proposed Comforts & Joys Donation

Councillors were delighted to be offered the donation for the beautification of the village. A reply had been sent to Mr N Robbins by the Clerk and further discussion as to the best use of the funding would take place.

498.5 Any Other matter

The Festival Committee had requested permission for special use of the Tye and the Recreation ground between Saturday 21 August & Monday 30 August. Cllr Charlton proposed that permission was given. **Agreed.** All in Favour.

499.0 Reports from Outside Bodies

None.

500.0 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

500.1 Any Correspondence Received

Chanctonbury Ring Morris Dancers requested permission to dance on 23 May 2010 in the Market Square between 11.30 & 12 noon and on the Tye adjacent to the War Memorial Hall between 12 & 12.30 and between 2.30 & 3pm. **Agreed.** Clerk to reply.

500.0 DATE of NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 19 April 2010 at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Hall, preceded by Public Questions from 7.15pm.

The Parish Assembly Meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 May 2010 at 7.30pm in the War memorial hall, The Tye, Alfriston.

The Meeting was then closed at 8.26pm; however, the following further Public questions / opinions were taken / noted.

- Mrs Gregory - Requested that the full addresses of Planning Applications be shown on the Agendas and Minutes.
- Mr Burden – Was there going to be further provision of seats on the Recreation Ground. Cllr Byford responded that this would form part of the Recreation Ground Plan.
- Mr Burden reported that the 5 bar gate leading in to the picnic area was in need of repair, also the 'private road sign & the No Parking sign. Mr Trowell has been instructed to proceed.
- Mr Phillips – Thanked all the Councillors who had used the microphones.
- Mrs Phillips asked if the Litlington Finger Post sign could be repaired. Cllr Charlton responded that this was in hand under village maintenance.