

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18 January 2010 in the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr R Savage (in the Chair)
Cllr J Byford
Cllr J Dumelow
Cllr G Ellis
District Cllr A Watkins

In attendance: 13 Parishioners
Stephen Smith – Clerk

Public Questions

1. Mrs Phillips requested the provision of more specific road closure signs, indicating that the village shops were accessible, rather than the current 'road closed' as this had had a detrimental effect on trade during the recent floods / snow. Cllr Savage will take up this matter with ESCC at the next scheduled APC / ESCC Highways meeting in March.
2. Mr Wilson suggested that a letter be sent to David Lewis by APC on behalf of the villagers, thanking him for his efforts in assisting drivers who had got into difficulties during the recent bad weather. Cllr Savage added his thanks to David Lewis for his very public spirited actions. The Clerk will send an appropriate letter.

The Meeting

453.0 APOLOGIES for ABSENCE

453.1 The Clerk had received apologies from Cllr Charlton, Cllr Hogestijn, Cllr Monteath-Wilson and County Cllr Bennett.

454.0 MINUTES

454.1 Unadopted Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 November 2009 had been circulated previously. Acceptance of the Minutes as a true record was **proposed** by Cllr Byford, **seconded** by Cllr Ellis and **agreed**.

455.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

455.1 In Cllr Bennett's absence the Clerk read his report which noted that he would be attending a meeting with APC and SAFE on 25 January. He also noted that Waste Management Strategy Consultation has been extended to 25 January and hoped that APC would be represented at a public meeting in Hailsham on 23 January.

456.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

456.1 Cllr Watkins noted the following points

- WDC work has been disrupted due to the recent bad weather, with both Crowborough and Hailsham offices being closed early on a number of days. Refuse collections were also disrupted.

- The recent Planning Application for Highway Cottage in Winton Street has been withdrawn.
- The Planning meeting for the White House and Riverbank will be held this evening.
- WDC is currently reviewing its methods of reviewing Planning Applications, both in terms of electronic communications with Parish Councils and the possible introduction of charges for pre application discussions.
- The ESCC and Brighton and Hove Waste and Minerals Development Strategy Consultation is nearing its close and Cllr Watkins urged APC to voice their opinions, especially concerning land raise and discharge into the Cuckmere River.
- The WDC Road Safety Working Party reported its findings earlier today.
- Other matters outstanding from earlier reports are being progressed.

Cllr Savage reiterated APC's objection to the principle of discharge of waste into the Cuckmere River. Cllr Savage also asked District Cllr Watkins to pursue WDC Cleansing Dept over a missed weekly collection when there were no problems either with access to their depot or to the village.

457.0 RIGHTS OF WAY and COUNTRYSIDE – Cllr Dumelow

457.1 Any Rights of Way matter

Cllr Dumelow noted that a fallen tree on the old Newhaven Road had not yet been removed by ESCC.

457.2 Condition of Fence between the Spots and Glebeland

This item remains outstanding despite further reminders being sent to the agents of the Diocesan authorities.

457.3 South Downs National Park – Parish Council Representation

The Clerk outlined the current situation. Since the last APC meeting the Council's nomination for John West, Chairman of Long Man PC had been submitted to the Sussex Association of Local Councils (SALC) which is co-ordinating the election of Parish Council representatives on the South Downs National Park Authority. The Chairman and the Clerk had attended a hustings in Lewes at which all nominees had been invited to make personal statements in support of their candidacies. At that time it became apparent that there was confusion as to the eligibility of certain of the candidates and all present were notified that a revised list of candidates, their CVs and ballot papers would be sent to Parish Clerks the next day. In the event, bad weather prevented this from happening and the Clerk had only received the papers on Friday 15 January. Regrettably a further email was received by the Clerk this afternoon advising that 1 of the 8 candidates shown on the ballot paper was found to be ineligible. The Clerk circulated the CVs and asked Councillors to make their choices as a decision had to be made during the meeting to enable the APC vote to be valid. Cllr Savage gave a brief resume of the hustings, together with his views on the merits of the candidates. Cllrs present expressed their concern over the lack of time available to make their decision and the Clerk apologised for not circulating the CVs prior to the meeting as he had only received them the previous working day. To enable a decision to be made, it was decided that the meeting would reconvene, after the Planning meeting, to enable a decision to be made.

457.4 Any Countryside matter

None

457.5 Any report from Tree Warden

None.

458.0 The TYE

458.1 Parking Spaces

Nothing to report.

458.2 Parking on the Tye

The Clerk confirmed that he had received one response to date to his recent letters to user groups requesting their co-operation in not parking on the Tye.

458.3 Condition of Tenaxed Area

Cllr Savage noted that there had been less damage to the grass this year.

458.4 Comforts and Joys wagon rides

To be carried forward to next month in the absence of Cllr Monteath-Wilson.

458.5 Any other matter relating to the Tye

None

459.0 CAR and COACH PARKS and PUBLIC TRANSPORT – Cllr Ellis

459.1 Condition of Posts in Dene Car Park

The Clerk advised that he had been able to secure in reduction in price of the agreed type to £56.00 + VAT per post, although there was a waiting list of at least 3 months, pending importation, which Cllrs accepted.

459.2 Extension to Willows Car Park

Nothing to report.

459.3 Any other Car and Coach Park Matter

The Clerk expected the advert for the vacancy for a weekend car park attendant to appear in the March Cuckmere News. This would coincide with the Friday Ad advert. The opportunity will be taken to also investigate the feasibility of appointing a relief attendant to cover holidays and sickness.

459.4 Any Public Transport matter

None.

460.0 ALLOTMENTS and RECREATION GROUND – Cllr Byford

460.1 Allotment Renewals / Waiting List / Clearance

Cllr Savage advised that delays had occurred with the tendering process for the allotment clearance due to the recent bad weather, but the first appointment had been made today. Cllr Byford stressed that she wanted to ensure that the refurbishment would be carried out sympathetically, to those plot holders who took the trouble to keep their plot well maintained.

460.2 Allotment Competition

This will be delayed until next month; the Clerk had contacted the invitees to this effect.

460.3 Any other Allotment matter

A Notice Board is in the process of being commissioned.

460.4 Licence for Clubs using Pavilion

The Clerk is in communication with APC's solicitors regarding a final draft.

460.5 Recreation Ground – Play Area / Fencing

a. Cllr Byford advised the sub group formed to pursue improvements had already held its first meeting

b. The provision of a second dog litter bin on the recreation ground to curb the dog fouling problem was discussed. A proposal to purchase another bin was **proposed** by Cllr Byford, **seconded** by Cllr Ellis and **agreed**.

460.6 Any other Recreation Ground matter

None

461.0 FINANCE – The Clerk

461.1 Statement of Finances

The Clerk advised the summary of bank account balances as at 18 January 2010

Precept Deposit account	21,564.95
Current account	4,662.08
Savings Account	5,484.27
Car Park Account	<u>31,134.75</u>
Total	<u>£62,846.05</u>

461.2 Invoices for Payment

The Clerk presented the following cheques for payment

a. December 2009

- £ 205.28 – Wages – M Honisett
- £ 188.91 – Wages – D Skertchly
- £ 719.81 – Wages – S Smith
- £ 334.37 – HMRC – Tax and NI
- £ 370.37 – Alfriston Cricket Club
- £ 252.00 – Colin Burden
- £ 185.14 – Viking Direct – Stationery
- £ 117.99 – BT Telephone
- £ 77.62 – BT Internet
- £ 25.00 – Stephen Smith (Reimbursement of Costs – Admin)
- £9,411.61 – Wealden District Council – Car Park Return 2009/2010 Q1

- £1,783.00 – HMRC - VAT
- £ 972.65 – Cale Briparc – Balance of Replacement Machine
- £ 120.75 – Cale Briparc – Ticket Rolls

Total **£14,764.50**

b. January 2010

- £226.29 – Wages – M Honisett
- £169.51 – Wages – D Skertchly
- £720.01 – Wages – S Smith
- £418.97 – HMRC – Tax and NI
- £460.00 – Mazars – External Audit
- £385.19 – Wealden District Council – Litter Bins
- £130.07 – Wealden District Council – Dog Bins
- £109.25 – Trowell Building Co – Jubilee Clock
- £ 74.35 – EDF Energy – Sports Pavilion
- £ 27.09 – EDF Energy – Jubilee Clock

Total **£2,720.73**

A proposal to accept the Finance Report was **proposed** by Cllr Byford, **seconded** by Cllr Dumelow and **agreed**.

461.3 Budget and Precept Calculations 2010- 2011

The Clerk circulated the final Budget and Precept Calculations which had previously been approved by the Finance Committee, showing an increase in Precept of £445.00 to £28,460.00 which is a rise of 1.97%. A decision was taken to discuss further when the meeting reconvened, to allow those Councillors not on the Finance Committee to further consider the figures.

461.4 External Audit 2008-2009

This has now been finalised.

461.5 Any other Finance matter

None

462.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS

462.1 Traffic Experiment

The Clerk advised that the detailed report from ESCC following the Traffic Experiment has not yet been received.

462.2 Lorry Watch / Police Enforcement

The Clerk reported that he had been advised that 2 lorries were recently found to be overweight; the driver of one of them had been arrested. Cllr Charlton reported that the Police conducted a campaign to enforce weight limits on 5 November, based at the lay by close to Berwick Court Farm, the results of which are awaited.

462.3 Any other Highway matter

None.

463.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING

463.1 Parish Plan Implementation

To be carried forward to February in the absence of Cllr Hogestijn

463.2 Future of United Reformed Church and Hall

Nothing to report.

463.3 Any other Strategic Planning matter

None.

464.0 PLANNING

In the absence of Cllr Charlton the Clerk advised the following

464.1 Minutes from Planning Committee meetings held since last Parish Meeting

- WD/2009/2380/F: Highway Cottage, Winton Street BN26 5UJ – Proposed replacement extension and garage and re-siting of oil tank. *No objections.*
- WD/2009/2381/LB: Highway Cottage, Winton Street BN26 5UJ – Proposed replacement extension and garage and re-siting of oil tank. *No objections.*

464.2 Matters for consideration by Planning Committee after the Meeting

- WD/2009/2544/F: Quince Cottage, Sloe Lane, BN26 5UT – Erection of single storey garden room extension and formation of one car parking space within the curtilage.
- WD/2009/2545/LB: Quince Cottage, Sloe Lane, BN26 5UT – Erection of single storey garden room extension and formation of one car parking space within the curtilage.
- WD/2009/2561/O: The White House, West Street – Outline application for construction of two new detached house with detached garages
- 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.

464.3 Decisions Notified

- WD/2009/1931/F: Merebank, Seaford Road, BN26 5TP – Demolition of cattery buildings. Replacement with agricultural building on one of these foundations. Erection of polytunnel adjacent to site. Revert from use of land for cattery business to smallholding. *Refused 16/11/09*
- WD/2009/2098/LB: Rose Cottage, North Street, Alfriston BN26 5UQ – Replacement railings etc to front boundary together with associated repairs to walls and frontage. *Granted 26/11/09*
- WD/2009/2380/F: Highway Cottage, Winton Street BN26 5UJ – Proposed replacement extension and garage and re-siting of oil tank. *Withdrawn 8/1*
- WD/2009/2381/LB: Highway Cottage, Winton Street BN26 5UJ – Proposed replacement extension and garage and re-siting of oil tank. *Withdrawn 8/1*

464.3 Any other Planning matter

- WD/2008/2180/MEA: Up to 520 dwellings at Honey Farm Polegate.
Refused 17/12/09

465.0 PARISH CLERK

465.1 Jubilee Clock

The Clerk reported that remedial work to minimise the sound of the mechanism is complete.

465.2 Notice Board refurbishment

Work has now started on the refurbishment of all the Notice Boards

465.3 Car Park Attendant vacancy

Already covered in Minute 459.3 above.

465.4 Any other matter

None

466.0 Reports from Outside Bodies

466.1 Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership

The Clerk read a report advising that the Comforts and Joys Weekend had been very successful, thanking the Parish Council for allowing access to the Tye for the Wagon and Horses rides. Some businesses and organisations did particularly well. The winner of the best dressed window as judged by Norman Baker MP was Tricorn with Tudor House Restaurant named as runner up.

466.2 Cuckmere Community Bus

Nothing to report

466.3 Cuckmere Flood Forum

Nothing further to report.

466.4 Festival

No report. Cllr Savage noted their Committee is still seeking a new Chairman.

466.5 Heartstart

Cllr Dumelow reported there had been 178 calls during 2009, with 11 calls so far this year. The new 4 x 4 vehicle had proved its operational worth during the recent snow and ice.

466.6 SAFE

The Clerk read a report from the Chair of SAFE thanking everyone for their support during the recently completed Traffic Experiment especially the local volunteers, Sussex Police and

ESCC staff members, noting that as a result of the accurate empirical data collected, a true (rather than a perceived) picture of traffic movements had been obtained. The detailed reports which will be produced are eagerly awaited. Dr Goodfield praised villagers, not only for their support for the last 19 months, but also for taking time to fill in the questionnaires which have helped to give a view of residents views on traffic issues. There will shortly be a meeting between the SAFE Committee and APC Councillors, to discuss ways of moving forward. Dr Goodfield paid tribute to the support received from County Cllr Bennett, District Cllr Watkins and Norman Baker MP.

466.7 Sussex Police

An apology for absence had been received by the Clerk who read a short report noting that crime in the village remained very low, with one reported incident of theft in December, for which an arrest had been made.

466.8 War Memorial Hall Committee

No report.

466.9 Wealden District Association of Local Councils

No report, the January meeting has been postponed.

466.10 Any other Outside reports

None.

467.0 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

467.1 Any Correspondence Received

A letter has been received from Norman Baker MP indicating his support for local initiatives being taken with the Environment Agency to alleviate local flooding.

468.0 DATE of NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 15 February 2010 at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Hall, preceded by Public Questions from 7.15pm.

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

- Mrs Salmon suggested that further seats could be made available for users of the recreation ground, possibly moving some benches from the Tye. Cllrs Savage and Byford will take this forward. Mrs Phillips expressed concerns surrounding the design of certain of the seats and suggested APC might consider an element of standardisation. Mrs Peacock supported a limited transfer of some seats to the recreation ground.
- Mr Burden questioned the legality of the current road closure signs; Cllr Savage understood them to be advisory.
- Ms Clarke expressed concern that recent timetable changes to local bus services meant that a late Monday to Friday afternoon bus from Lewes now terminated at Firle rather than continuing to Alfriston. This will be looked into by Councillors.
- Mrs Daw wondered whether APC and the village had investigated marking the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year. She also asked for an update on the activities of the WDC Dog Warden, as there had been an increase in dog fouling. Cllr Savage advised that APC had previously lobbied WDC for increased patrols and asked District Cllr Watkins for assistance in this regard.
- Mrs Peacock expressed concerns about sewage discharge into the Cuckmere near the White Bridge. This will be looked into by Councillors.
- Mr Phillips congratulated the Chairman for unfailingly using his hand held microphone throughout the meeting.

Following the Planning Committee the Meeting reconvened to consider the following resolutions:

1. The Precept increase of £445.00 to £28460.00 was **proposed** by Cllr Dumelow, **seconded** by Cllr Ellis and **agreed**.
2. All Cllrs present voted that 1 of the 2 APC postal votes for the election of a Parish Council representative on the South Downs National Park Authority should be in support of Cllr John West (Long Man PC). Cllrs Savage, Ellis and Dumelow supported Cllr Jacqueline Rowland (Kingston PC); Cllr Byford supported Cllr Josephine Carr (Willingdon & Jevington PC). The Clerk will therefore submit the Ballot paper in favour of Cllrs West and Rowland.