

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20 September 2010 in the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr R Savage (in the Chair)
Cllr J Byford
Cllr J Dumelow
Cllr G Ellis
Cllr D Monteath-Wilson

In attendance: 29 Parishioners
S Smith – Parish Clerk

Public Questions

1. Ms Hall requested that the location of the new Notice Board within the Allotments be moved nearer the entrance next to the Doctors' Surgery. *Cllr Byford will make arrangements for it to be moved*
2. Mr Wilson noted the presence of stinging nettles in the turning circle near the URC Garden and questioned whether the area could be concreted. *Cllrs Savage and Monteath-Wilson will investigate the position.*
3. Ms Keen, on behalf of the Stoolball Club, was concerned about suggestions that the stoolball pitch might be moved as part of the refurbishment of the Play Area on the Recreation Ground. *Cllr Savage advised this would be debated in the meeting.*
4. Mr Knights enquired whether a vote would be taken on the proposals for the Recreation Ground during the meeting. *Cllr Savage said a vote would not be taken.*
5. Mr Wilson reminded everyone about the history of the Recreation Ground which was purchased in 1938. He further enquired how many village ratepayers were on the sub-committee. *Cllr Savage reiterated that at this stage the Cllrs would be debating proposals only.* Mr Wilson thought a village referendum would be appropriate.

The Meeting

570.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Charlton, together with County Cllr Bennett and District Cllr Watkins.

571.0 MINUTES

Unadopted Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 July 2010 had been circulated previously. Acceptance of the Minutes as a true record was **proposed** by Cllr Ellis, **seconded** by Cllr Dumelow and **agreed**.

572.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

No report, although County Cllr Bennett had advised he would be involved in the forthcoming Save Alfriston for Everyone meeting on 15 October.

573.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

The Clerk read a comprehensive report provided by District Cllr Watkins which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix One.

574.0 CAR and COACH PARKS and PUBLIC TRANSPORT – Cllr Ellis

574.1 Dene Car Park

Cllr Ellis apologised for the long delay in commissioning the posts, noting that only 12 of the 21 spaces had received the new posts which were being trialled. Whilst he recognised that this may be inconvenient to some users, it would be prudent to allow at least 3 months before the remaining posts are commissioned, to allow for any unforeseen problems to surface. Cllr Savage agreed with this suggestion. Cllr Ellis also noted that the lights were still causing problems, but that he would continue to pursue Wealden District Council to sort out the timing mechanism.

574.2 Willows Car Park

Nothing to report

574.3 Any other Car and Coach Park Matter

None

574.4 Any Public Transport matter

None

575.0 RIGHTS OF WAY and COUNTRYSIDE – Cllr Dumelow

575.1 Winton Street Bridleway

Nothing further to report – to be removed from the Agenda.

575.2 Any other Rights of Way matter

Cllr Dumelow advised the sign from North Street pointing to the South Downs Way has been replaced and the path cleared.

575.3 Any Countryside matter

Cllr Dumelow reported that the Tree Warden has removed a dead tree from the Recreation Ground. Dutch Elm Disease is currently a big problem and APC has been told East Sussex County Council have now run out of funds for this financial year to assist with combating the disease. In addition, certain Oak trees have fallen victim to 'Sudden Death' syndrome, so our Tree Warden will keep a watchful eye.

576.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS

576.1 Update re Village Traffic Matters

The Clerk reminded everyone that the next SAFE Meeting would be held on 15 October at Deans Place Hotel at which further details of the Public Realm Information and Advice Network (PRIAN) study (partially funded by APC) would be revealed

576.2 Strengthening Local Relationships Meeting Report

The Clerk confirmed that a meeting was held with ESCC officials on 17 September at which all aspects of highway management were discussed. It was noted that power to hand out notices to occupiers of properties where vegetation overhangs the highway or pavement will be devolved to APC (and other Parish Councils).

576.3 Forthcoming Local Road Closures

The Clerk read details of the 2 schemes which are due to commence on 27 September, details of which have previously been posted on the Notice Boards.

576.4 Lorry Watch / Police Enforcement

Sussex Police have advised that 6 letters have been sent in September so far. There have been 2 apologies and 1 case of delivering.

576.5 Any other Highway matter

None

577.0 FINANCE – The Clerk

577.1 Statement of Finances

The Clerk advised the summary of bank account balances as at 20 September 2010.

Precept Deposit account	26,971.30
Current account	5,865.78
Savings Account	5,484.27
Car Park Account	31,984.19
Total	<u>£70,305.54</u>

577.2 Invoices for Payment

The Clerk presented the following invoices for ratification which had been paid in August. Copies circulated to all Councillors.

• Wages – P Grosse	£241.96
• Wages – M Honisett	£262.24
• Wages – D Skertchly	£232.35
• Wages – S Smith	£806.41
• HMRC – Tax and NI	£346.37
• WDC – Litter Bins	£407.84
• Tansleys - Parish Plan	£276.00
• Rob Field – Allotment Maintenance	£180.00
• Richard Bartlett – Tye	£125.00
• Playsafety Limited – RoSPA Report	£81.08
• Action in Rural Sussex – Subscription	£50.00
• St Wilfred’s Hospice – Donation	£50.00
• Viking Direct – Stationery	£25.14
• S Smith – Reimb’ment of Costs re Car Park	<u>£9.80</u>
Total	<u>£3,094.19</u>

The Clerk also presented the following invoices for September payment. Copies circulated to all Councillors.

• Wages – P Grosse	£205.66
• Wages – M Honisett	£262.04
• Wages – D Skertchly	£270.94
• Wages – S Smith	£806.41
• HMRC – Tax and NI	£356.37
• HMRC – VAT	£599.00
• Trowell Building Services re Car Park and Tye	£566.35
• James Coplestone – Tree Surgery	£425.00
• Viking Direct – Printer	£402.97
• BT – Telephone	£130.71
• Cale Briparc – Ticket Rolls	£126.55
• BT – Internet	£79.31
• Stredder Pearce – Glebeland Rent	<u>£50.00</u>
Total	<u>£4,281.31</u>

A proposal to accept the Finance Reports was **proposed** by Cllr Monteath-Wilson, **seconded** by Cllr Ellis and **agreed**.

577.3 Any other Finance matter

The Clerk suggested that a Finance Committee Meeting be held in late October / early November to consider, inter alia, Budgets for next year and asked Cllrs to think about any projects they wished to bring to APC for approval. Cllrs agreed with this proposal.

578.0 PLANNING

578.1 To receive Minutes from the Planning Committee meetings held since last Parish Meeting

- WD/2010/0873/F: The Star Inn, High Street, BN26 5TA – Enlarge existing doorway in public corridor from single door to double doors. Remove cupboard window and replace with single door. *No objections.*

- WD/2010/1375/F: Upper Flat, The Elms, West Street, BN26 5UY – Proposed rear dormer. *No objections.*
- WD/2010/1476/F: 4 Kings Ride, BN26 5XP - Extension, internal alteration and extended parking area. *No objections.*
- WD/2010/1603/F: Winton Street Farm Stables, Winton Street, BN26 5UH – New timber clad barn and stables. *Objections.*
- WD/2010/1616F and WD/2010/1617/LB: 1 Steamer Cottages, High Street, BN26 5TY – Return first floor and rear ground floor room back to residential use. Allow shop to use part of the garden (unchanged). *Objections.*
- WD/2010/1748/LB: The Star Inn, High Street, BN26 5TA – Installation of secondary internal acoustic glazing and air conditioning to the hotel restaurant. *No Objections.*

578.2 Matters for consideration by Planning Committee this evening (after meeting)

None

578.3 Decisions notified

- WD/2010/0873/F: The Star Inn, High Street, BN26 5TA – Enlarge existing doorway in public corridor from single door to double doors. Remove cupboard window and replace with single door. *Granted 31/8.*
- WD/2010/1375/F: Upper Flat, The Elms, West Street, BN26 5UY – Proposed rear dormer. *Granted 13/8.*
- WD/2010/1476/F: 4 Kings Ride, BN26 5XP - Extension, internal alteration and extended parking area. *Granted 17/8.*

578.4 Any other planning matter

The Clerk noted WDC had indicated that the introduction of full E (Electronic) Planning appraisal had been delayed until the New Year.

578.5 Premises Licence Variation Application WK/2010028028 – The Star Inn

The Clerk read the official notification from WDC confirming the outcome reported last month.

579.0 ALLOTMENTS and RECREATION GROUND – Cllr Byford

579.1 Any other Allotment matter

Cllr Byford's confirmed she would arrange for the Notice Board to be moved following the earlier Public Question.

579.2 Licence for Clubs Using the Pavilion

Following a site meeting, Cllrs have instructed the Clerk to submit the amended draft Licence to APC's solicitors to draw up a revised Licence.

579.3 Recreation Ground – Sub Committee update

Following a design drawn up by the sub committee Cllr Byford will arrange for the plans to be made available for public display, prior to the next APC Meeting, in view of the high public interest in the proposals.

579.4 Recreation Ground – RoSPA Report

Cllr Byford advised that the report contained no items that required immediate attention, although she noted that the site and equipment would benefit from being revamped and upgraded.

579.5 Any other Recreation Ground matter

Cllrs noted an increase in dog fouling and urged dog walkers users to use bins provided. Cllr Savage suggested that a Public Meeting be held so that all interested parties could view the proposals. After discussion, it was agreed that the URC Hall Committee be approached to see if they would host an exhibition to be put on by the sub-committee to display their proposals, prior to the next APC Meeting. In addition it was proposed that the October APC

Meeting be preceded by a Public Meeting stating at 6.00pm at which the proposals would be discussed. All present agreed. Cllr Byford advised that due to work commitments she would be unable to attend the October Meeting, although it was expected that a sub-committee member would be able to attend.

580.0 The TYE – Cllr Monteath-Wilson

580.1 AWMH and Parking

Cllr Monteath-Wilson asked Cllrs to revisit the 8 suggestions she had tabled at the April APC Meeting with a view to debating the issue next month.

580.2 Any other matter relating to the Tye

- a. A request had been received to allow a bouncy castle to be used on the Glebeland / Tye in connection with a booking at the War Memorial Hall. Cllrs agreed that this request be refused in line with the present policy of not allowing such items to be used for private functions.
- b. Cllr Monteath-Wilson confirmed that Parking Tickets were being issued for offences in the Tye Road. Users were reminded that the double primrose lines and designated Disabled Bays were so marked for good reason.
- c. Cllr Monteath-Wilson advised that she had spoken to Rev Fox-Wilson about refurbishment of the lion figurehead situated outside the Star Inn and had obtained 2 estimates, one a basic service at £180 and a full repaint at £350. All Cllrs agreed instructions are given for the repaint.
- d. Cllr Monteath-Wilson will request Mr Trowell to check the reinforced netting for any hazards which might be revealed following prolonged use.

581.0 PARISH CLERK

581.1 Kerbside Recycling

The Clerk drew attention to the advent of the WDC Caddy Scheme and confirmed that he had posted copies of the flyer detailing the changes and of the forthcoming local presentations by WDC staff (which had been delivered to all properties) on the Notice Boards.

581.2 Proposed Comforts and Joys Donation

To be discussed under Clerk's Correspondence

581.3 South Downs Map

The Clerk revealed the map to Cllrs. All agreed in its present format it had a limited application. Cllr Monteath-Wilson agreed to investigate further possibilities for its use.

581.4 Any other matter

None

582.0 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

- a. **Heartstart** – Cllr Dumelow advised that 130 calls have been made since the beginning of the year. On 14 October in the War Memorial Hall, Heartstart will be promoting SAVEALIFE.
- b. **Sussex Police** – The Clerk read a report detailing forthcoming changes in local personnel with effect from Monday 27 September. PCSO Katie Newton is moving to Hailsham and is being replaced by PCSO Kelly Levers and PC Liz Keenan DK125 will hand over responsibility for Alfriston to WPC Jackie Baldwin-Charles DB050.
- c. **SAFE** – The Clerk read a report confirming the date of the next public meeting will be held on Friday 15 October at Deans Place Hotel at 7.00pm.
- d. **Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Partnership**
The Clerk read a report from Mr Phillips advising that Dickensian Evening will return on Saturday 4 December 2010. ACVP also thanked the hard-working members of the Comforts and Joys Committee who had kept the December celebrations afloat, making considerable money for good causes during a time of economic hardship.

583.0 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

583.1 Any Correspondence Received

- a. The Clerk had received several pieces of correspondence in connection with the re-establishment of Dickensian Evening. Cllr Savage outlined the background to the process and the steps taken so far to bring about an event in December. It appeared that one of the

underlying problems facing the old committee comprising of village traders was the stipulation by ESCC that Public Liability insurance of £10M be held by the organisers. Accordingly it had been suggested that APC might be able to arrange the cover required. The Clerk advised that cover currently stood at £5M, but that he had approached the APC insurers to establish if cover could be extended. The response had been favourable, however, there was a stipulation that the event would need to be considered an APC event, which could be achieved if APC established a sub-committee, to run the event, with strict guidelines set down as to the procedural and financial guidelines. Following a debate, a **proposal** by Cllr Monteath-Wilson, **seconded** by Cllr Dumelow that "APC supports the forthcoming Dickensian Evening via the establishment of a sub-committee, subject to the provision of adequate insurance cover for the event" was **agreed** by Councillors. A sub-committee will accordingly be convened before the next Meeting, when it will be ratified. In view of the reinstatement of the Dickensian Evening, further discussion on the proposed Comforts and Joys donation, as well as the future of the Jubilee Clock was carried over to next month.

584.0 DATE of NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 18 October 2010 at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Hall, preceded by a Public Meeting at 6.00pm about the future of the Play Area of the Recreation Ground and Public Questions from 7.15pm

Public Questions / Observations

- Mr Phillips gave further detail on the £10M insurance requirement.
- Ms Meek requested Cllrs keep residents informed of proposals re Tye Road and parking.
- Mr Burden requested clarification on the status of the Tye Road and advised someone had recently slipped on the area adjacent to the Tenaxed area on the Tye. *Cllr Monteath-Wilson confirmed that APC was responsible for parking enforcement on the Tye Road. Cllr Savage advised the state of the Tenaxed area will be reviewed.*
- Mr Harmer voiced his concerns about dog fouling around the Play Area on the Recreation Ground.
- Ms Keen expressed her concerns over possible resiting of the Stoolball pitch.
- Ms Stidston voiced her concerns over dog fouling on the Tye. *Cllr Savage reminded everyone that within the last year APC had provided another dog bin for Tye users.*
- Professor Reynolds noted that the village where he previously lived had experienced a benefit when the local play area had been fenced.
- Mr Lewis (although stressing he was not an Alfriston resident) expressed his concerns about illegal parking in Winton Street. *Cllr Savage advised this had already been taken up with ESCC.*
- Mr Phillips was concerned about the diminishing ESCC contribution to Dutch Elm Disease.
- Professor Reynolds thanked APC for their support for the restoration of Dickensian Evening. *Cllr Savage replied thanking Mrs Reynolds for her part in bringing back the event.*