

# 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> March 2005 in the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston, commencing at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Cllr G. Knights, Chairman, (in the Chair)  
Cllr Mrs J. Apps  
Cllr A. Banham  
Cllr Mrs S. Charlton  
Cllr A. Lloyd  
Cllr Ms D. Monteath-Wilson, Vice Chairman

**In attendance:** P. Ayers Clerk  
15 parishioners

### Public Questions

1. Mr Wilson remarked on damage to the Star Inn, and the risk assessment covering the High Street, and commented that other locations in the village had also suffered damage recently, including the demolition of a flint wall at the Bats Wing, and damage to another wall in North Street.
2. Mr Bergg asked about replacement kerbs at the foot of King's Ride and for a progress report on the Safety Audit at Frog Firle. Cllr Mrs Charlton would be reporting on both items during the meeting.
3. Mrs Dagleish enquired about the positioning of signs for the Frog Firle scheme, where accidents seemed to be occurring frequently. This, too, would be covered during the meeting. She also asked about progress with the signs requested for Sloe Lane, now that the planning application for White Lodge had been refused on change of use grounds.

### 327.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Kegg had apologised for absence due to holidays. His reason for absence was accepted by Councillors.

Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Shing.

### 328.0 MINUTES

328.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2005 had been published and circulated previously. They were taken as read, **accepted** as a true record on the **proposition** of Cllr Mrs Charlton, **seconded** by Cllr Lloyd, and signed by the Chairman.

### 329.0 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

In Cllr Shing's absence, the Clerk read his written report covering a further hold up on the Berwick Way, the Speed Management conference, Alfriston Road Safety Week, the County budget for 2005/6, Beddingham fly-over, progress towards a Traffic Regulation Order on the Old Coach Road, and proposals for managed re-alignment at Cuckmere Haven. A copy is appended in the Minute Book.

Members expressed their thanks to Cllr Shing for his regular reports, and hoped to hear what decision he had reached about the Division in which he might seek re-election in May.

### 330.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT CONCILLOR

In the absence of Cllr Whitehead, there was nothing to report.

### 331.0ALLOTMENTS

#### 331.1Renewals

Cllr Apps reported that four tenants in total had not renewed, but potentially there were sufficient people on the waiting list to fill all vacant plots, and she would now commence approaching those people.

#### 331.2Water supply

Cllr Apps would telephone to ensure that the supply was reconnected on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

#### 331.3Maintenance

All paths and edges would be cut and strimmed to improve the overall appearance of the garden, plot numbers would be renewed and all tenants would be encouraged to maintain their plots in a tidy condition. The Allotment competition would take place again, with thanks to Mr Archie Skinner, who had agreed to judge the allotments again in 2005.

### 332.0CAR and COACH PARKS

#### 332.1Dene Car Park spaces

The posts, chains and new padlocks had been delivered and awaited installation by Mr Trowell. The posts provided a 30° movement from the vertical to allow for low speed collision without permanent damage. Space holders had been advised of the changes, and introduction of a master key system, controlled by the portfolio holder and the Clerk.

#### 332.2Proposed revisions to the 'A' permit system

Cllr Lloyd hoped to complete development work on the new system over the Easter weekend and pass it to the Clerk for implementation. It was agreed that the Car Park Attendants would be asked to monitor the numbers of 'A' permits in use, so that those holders, as well as new applicants could be dealt with in the first instance. The Clerk would then deal with older permits with discretion, and a short transition period would be necessary to ensure a smooth transition to the annual replacement of permits.

#### 332.3Parking charges

Nothing further had been heard from Wealden DC, and the Clerk would seek their views before issuing renewal notices.

#### 332.4VAT on car parking charges

The Clerk had written to Custom and Excise electing for the voluntary disclosure system, and completed forms covering the last three years, which could result in the recovery of almost £7,000 to date if the Isle of Wight test case was successful. 75% of this sum would accrue to Wealden DC.

#### 332.5Overhanging trees

The Tree Warden had provided a report recommending trimming work, and the removal of some trees in the coach park area. The Clerk would approach Wealden DC for their agreement to the work being undertaken, and would then arrange for contractors to undertake the work under the supervision of the Tree Warden. The work would be charged to the Car Park account.

### 333.0FINANCE

#### 333.1 Invoices for payment – March

The Clerk presented invoices for payment in March:

#### ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: admin and travel	£ 39.50
wages	297.37
Inland Revenue	130.28
British Telecom	64.13
Seaboard Energy – Pavilion	21.93
Dosh Software Ltd. – new payroll system for 2005/6	75.00
G. Knights – Chairman's allowance	<u>165.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>793.21</u></b>

#### CUCKMERE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

P. Ayers – wages	108.15
Inland Revenue	<u>47.38</u>
	<b><u>155.53</u></b>

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

P. Ayers – wages	97.87
J. Lumley – wages	341.76
W. Newman – wages	240.30
Inland Revenue	42.89
J B Architectural Ironmongery Ltd. – posts, etc., Dene	<u>3,443.95</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>4,166.77</u></b>

March payments were **approved unanimously** on the **proposal** of Cllr Lloyd, **seconded** by Cllr Banham.

### 333.2 Statement of Finances

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

	£
Precept deposit account	7,976.11
Current account	5,245.46
Savings account	4,958.21
Car Park Account	<u>1,001.89</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>19,181.67</u></b>

## 334.0 HIGHWAYS and TWITTENS

### 334.1 Damage to Star Inn

A photomontage to show the position of the proposed vertical beam had been received that day. Members did not feel that it showed the proposal sufficiently well for them to make a decision, and asked that a better plan was produced for consideration.

### 334.2 Risk analysis, High Street

The report had been considered at the SLR meeting. Most locations did not have a footpath of sufficient width to allow the installation of bollards without impeding the passage of wheelchairs, prams and pushchairs, which precluded the erection of more bollards. It had been agreed to reconsider bollards in the Market Square area once reconstruction work on the Smugglers Inn had been completed.

### 334.3 Street name signs

Signs for The Laines were in the programme for April. Cllr Mrs Charlton had attended a site meeting with Cllr Whitehead and Mr Kean where the design and location of two additional signs for Sloe Lane had been agreed. Those plans were **agreed unanimously** on the **proposal** of Cllr Mrs Charlton, **seconded** by Cllr Lloyd.

### 334.4 Frog Firle Traffic Management scheme

The ESCC officer had promised a response for this meeting, which had not arrived, and a further reminder would be necessary. The Clerk understood that the six month external audit of the new arrangements had been delivered to ESCC, making a number of comments similar to those already made by the Parish. The Clerk would press for details of any changes to be implemented.

The request for information about the cost of consultants working on the Tourism without Traffic project generally had elucidated that £83,447 had been spent.

### 334.5 C39 North Street (Flint Wall) – approach to County Council

The County Council response had been circulated and members expressed their disappointment that it too offered no immediate prospect of funding for the work. However, it did highlight the possibility of funding once a Local Transport Strategy had been prepared for the village in approximately two years time. From experience elsewhere, the Clerk agreed that this was the most likely source of funds, albeit some way off.

Members wished to raise the profile of the problem by encouraging local residents to supply pictures of accidents and incidents at this location to build up a dossier of evidence to present to ESCC, together with a log of events. The Clerk would make the request through Cuckmere News.

### 334.6 Speed Management conference

The Parish had not been represented at this event, but a copy of the conference notes had been acquired, and would be circulated for Members' information.

### **334.7 Alfriston Road Safety Week**

Cllr Mrs Charlton reported on a successful week, raising the profile of traffic and its attendant problems for children and young people. Parents were to be encouraged to 'Park and Stride' to the school, leaving their cars in the car parks to avoid the congestion in North Road at school times. The Play Group, too, would be consulted about a similar scheme to and from the War Memorial Hall.

### **334.8 SLR Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

Cllr Mrs Charlton and Cllr Apps had attended this meeting with the Clerk, and had thanked the ESCC officers who had turned out on one of the worst days of snowfall for sometime. Cllr Mrs Charlton read the notes of the proceedings (mostly covered above), which would be distributed to all Councillors for information.

The next meeting had been arranged for Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September, in the War Memorial Hall, commencing at 0900 hrs, and Members were asked to book the date in their diaries.

### **334.9 Zig-zag lines, North Road opposite school**

The hazard caused by cars parking opposite the school entrance had been raised, and a scheme of zig-zag lines drawn up to discourage parents parking in that area. This had raised some concerns for local presidents, and the School authorities were discussing these with East Sussex CC.

### **334.10 Kings Ride kerbs**

The small sett kerbs at the foot of Kings Ride had become displaced again. ESCC wished to meet on site to agree whether the kerbs should simply be replaced or a longer 'countryside' kerbs used instead.

### **334.11 Sloe Lane GIS system**

The Clerk reported that the Ambulance Service had telephoned, and agreed to place a note on each individual property file in Sloe Lane to indicate that vehicles should access them via West Street. The Police had passed the correspondence to the Divisional Commander for attention, and the Fire Service had acknowledged the letter.

## **335.0 OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **335.1 A.D.A.P.T.T.**

Cllr Mrs Charlton reported that 37 applications had been received in response to the membership drive.

### **335.2 Police Liaison**

Members were concerned that CSO Lane had not been seen in the village recently, leaving the undertaking of regular local visits unfulfilled. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme seemed to be performing better following Cllr Monteath-Wilson's intervention with the Police.

### **335.3 Village Hall Committee**

A meeting had taken place, but there was nothing to report.

### **335.4 Charter 600 celebrations**

Cllr Mrs Charlton confirmed that the ad hoc committee was meeting regularly and the plans were taking shape.

## **336.0 PARISH CLERK**

### **336.1 Parish Plans**

Members had considered the responses received, the majority of which were supportive. Each Member gave their opinion, and the Chairman felt that the Plan should be led from within the Parish with support from the Parish Council. There was general agreement that there was a lot of work involved, but that there seemed to have been long-term benefit to those Parishes that had produced a Plan. There seemed to be a strategic value to the Plan when issues such as affordable housing or contentious planning applications came forward. The Chairman **proposed** that the preparation of a Parish Plan was accepted in principle and should be communicated to local residents through the Minutes and Cuckmere News to encourage someone to come forward to take the lead. Progress would be reviewed after the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting in May. Cllr Lloyd **seconded** the proposal, which was **agreed**.

### **336.2 Standing Orders**

The Chairman would arrange a meeting with Cllr Banham and the Clerk to draw up revised Standing Orders, and would aim to have these completed in a couple of months.

### **336.3 Refuse collections**

Cllr Lloyd had arranged for a Saturday collection in areas of the village, especially West Street, which had not been provided with a refuse collection for two consecutive weeks during the bad weather. Wealden DC had been thanked for making this special arrangement.

### **336.4 Doorstep recycling**

The Clerk had researched this question from the February meeting and ascertained that Wealden had no current plans to extend the scheme to the rural areas on cost grounds.

### **336.5 Clerks' seminar**

Wealden's annual seminar was to take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, and the Clerk would endeavour to attend.

### **336.6 Councillors' training course**

Details of weekend training opportunities at Dunford House, Midhurst had been published, and the Clerk asked Members to advise him of any dates they wished to attend.

### **336.7 Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting**

Nothing had yet been heard from the Police in response to the Clerk's invitation, but Wealden's Planning Dept would be represented by Patrick Coffee.

## **337.0 PLANNING**

### **337.1 Matters for consideration this evening**

WD/05/0405/F Rosemary Cottage, High Street: erection of fire resistant non-combustible fire break partition within loft space to separate Rosemary Cottage from Candle Cottage.

WD/05/0409/F Follers Manor, Seaford Road: demolition of existing outbuildings with replacement outbuildings in vernacular style on site of existing vegetable garden.

WD.05.0496/F The Carhouse, Dukes Green: single storey rear extension to provide sitting room.

WD/05/0518/F Sadler House, High Street: erection of single storey timber framed conservatory.

### **337.2 Decisions notified**

WD/04/3096/F and 3097/LB Smugglers Inn, Market Cross: change of external wall materials, re-instatement of damaged structure, re-exposure of original window in north elevation and removal of inserted ceiling in ground floor bar to expose original joists.

*Granted with conditions.*

WD/04/3139/F White Lodge Country House Hotel, Sloe Lane: change of use and extension to provide 13 dwellings with associated parking. *It was understood from the Wealden website that this application had been refused. Formal confirmation was awaited.*

WD/04/3180 Tile Barn Cottage, Frog Firle: replacement of existing pre-cast concrete garage with old style timber frame cart shed. *Granted.*

### **337.3 Enforcement action**

Wealden's discussions with the Agent acting for Pleasant Rise Farm were still on-going.

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## **171 338.0 PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

### **338.1 Bus stop sign in Market Square**

The re-tendering result was still delayed.

## **339.0 RECREATION GROUND**

### **339.1 Cricket Pavilion**

A meeting scheduled with the Cricket Club in February had been cancelled at the Club's request. It was understood that the plans for extension / refurbishment had still not been received.

Cllr Banham would discuss the condition of the toilets with the club to ascertain whether or not they had been left dirty. Arrangements would need to be made for a thorough clean prior to the new season commencing.

Cllr Lloyd had obtained details of the Landfill Tax credit scheme from Viridor Credits. Up to 90% of costs could be met under this scheme, which might also provide benefits for other bodies in the village. He would pass details of the scheme to possible beneficiaries, including the Churches. The lowest estimated cost of the refurbishment work was in the region of £30,000, but Cllr Lloyd suggested that it would be better to be rather more ambitious at this stage given the potential value of the credit scheme.

### **339.2 Annual Playground Inspection**

Return of the rocking horse was still awaited, but other equipment was now back in place. Most of the work had been undertaken, with odd items still to be completed. Cllr Apps had specified the new swing seats and chains to be ordered, and the Clerk would now make the arrangements.

The whole area was to be cut and tidied, and Cllr Apps was monitoring the number of dogs in the play area. Members commented on the growing tendency for dogs to be walked on the Recreation Ground rather than the range of public rights of way throughout the area. The Clerk would place a note in Cuckmere News.

The safety surface was showing signs of shrinkage, and Cllr Apps was uncertain whether or not this could be repaired.

### **339.3 Goal mouth**

This had been erected. Cllr Banham was dealing with a query raised by a North Road resident. He had considered the siting carefully, and whilst no location was ideal, the site selected was considered best, as it was 30 yards from North Road properties. He would monitor the situation and if a problem became evident, he would consider either moving the goal mouth, or fencing the site.

## **340.0 RIGHTS OF WAY & COUNTRYSIDE**

### **340.1 Winton Fields footpath**

The Clerk was asked to raise the question of funding with the Conservation Board, with a view to replacing the stiles with gates before the summer season if possible.

### **340.2 New powers for Parish Councils**

Cllr Monteath-Wilson reminded Members that the new powers proposed by ODPM would cover dog fouling. The subject was to be considered once Members had read the documents already circulated.

### **340.3 Proposed South Downs National Park**

It was understood that the Inspector's report had gone to the Deputy Prime Minister, and a decision was expected by the end of 2005.

### **340.4 Trees on Haven Road**

The Tree Warden had reported that two trees might be dangerous. The Clerk would take the matter up with the Conservation Board.

### **340.5 Horse chestnut in Market Square**

The tree was of a considerable age, and the Tree Warden recommended that a core sample was taken to ascertain its health. He also suggested the collection of conkers from the tree to grow in the Tree Nursery as potential replacements in due course. This course of action was **proposed** by Cllr Monteath-Wilson, **seconded** by Cllr Knights and **agreed unanimously**.

### **340.6 Trees in Saffron Gardens**

The Tree Warden was to be asked to look at these trees, with a view to the replacement of damaged stock.

### **340.7 Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group**

The group had traditionally run courses for farmers and landowners, and was now starting courses in stewardship.

### **340.8 Society of Sussex Downsmen**

An Extraordinary General Meeting was to be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, and Cllr Monteath-Wilson could provide details to any Member interested in attending.

### **340.9 CROW legislation**

There was a proposal for a new circular path to the south west of Kings Ride, which was covered by this legislation. Cllr Monteath-Wilson requested the purchase of an Explorer map of the area, which defined areas subject to the CROW legislation.

## **341.0 THE TYE**

### **341.1 Tye Road parking**

The refuse collection had taken place satisfactorily for the last month.

### **341.2 Flower garden**

The Chairman was anxious that the garden was tidied before the summer season, and in the absence of Cllr Kegg would pursue direct with the Horticultural Society and Mr W. Barnard.

### **342.0 TOURISM**

#### **342.1 Village of the Year competition**

Cllr Mrs Charlton remarked on the untidy approach to the village from both ends. The Chairman would speak with the landowner about the flint wall to the north, and Cllr Mrs Charlton would seek the assistance of the landowner of the property at the south end. Calor had approached her about an entry in a book they were producing about the competition over the years. She would deal with this personally.

#### **342.2 Gas lamp**

New mantles were needed. The Clerk would deal.

### **343.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **343.1 HOPE (Affordable Housing) Project update**

A response had been received from Wealden DC clarifying the ability of the Parish Council to veto any proposal. Whilst those exact words were not used, Members considered it to be as strong an acceptance of the Parish powers as was likely to be given.

The search for alternative allotment sites was still taking place. Members felt that the current uncertainty could not be allowed to continue indefinitely, and that the whole situation should be reviewed in two months by which time a timescale was needed from Wealden DC.

#### **343.2 New terms and conditions for Clerks**

These would be considered by Members at the April meeting.

#### **343.3 Amenity Society request for meeting**

Suggested dates had been put forward, but Members preferred a Wednesday evening, and the Clerk would put forward either 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **343.4 Burial Ground Survey**

The Home Office was seeking details of all current and closed burial grounds in England, and the Clerk asked whether or not Members were aware of any in the Parish. There were no responses. The Church authorities were being approached separately.

#### **343.5 Request for permission to use Tye**

The Clerk had received a request from Alfriston School PTFA for permission to use the Tye in connection with their annual fete on Bank Holiday Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. The War Memorial Hall would also be used. An undertaking had been given to ensure that the Tye was cleared and left in a tidy condition after the Fete. Members approved the request.

### **344.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2005 at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Hall, preceded by Public Questions from 7.15pm.

### **Public Questions**

1. Mrs Dalgleish asked for the Council's views about the proposed incinerator at Newhaven. Members considered it to be the least worst option, and better than the possibility of new landfill or land raise sites elsewhere in the area. It ensured that waste was recycled, and would provide energy to the National Grid. The Waste Local Plan had gone against the officers' recommendations, and concern was expressed about taking waste from elsewhere in the country or from France. It was pointed out that the waste contractor had no obligation to use whatever site was approved under the Plan.
2. Mr Dalgleish asked whether notes would be taken of the meeting with the Amenity Society. It was confirmed that they would.
3. Mrs Phillips wondered whether it might be sensible for the Planning Committee to meet on a different day, in view of the length of the main meeting. Members preferred to maintain the present arrangements, as it gave the best opportunity for members of the public to attend the meetings.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2005.