

**MINUTES OF SELMESTON PARISH MEETING
ALCISTON & SELMESTON VILLAGE HALL – WEDNESDAY 29th MAY 2024**

Present: Bryan Stevens (Chairman) (“BS”); Thea Buckthorp; Graham Shaw; Helen Shaw (“HS”); Valerie Shaw; Jeremy Shaw; Andrew Thomas; Margaret Wilmott; Chris Harris (“CH”); Janie Jellings; Michael Weller; David Quysner.

In attendance: Nick Bennett (ESCC) (“NB”); Alison Wilson (WDC) (“AW”); Maria Caulfield, M.P. (MC).

1. **Apologies:** Colin Buckthorp; Matthew Jellings; Laura Francis; Lewis Lewis-Grey (LLG).
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2023** had been circulated by email and posted on the website and notice board. They were duly approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters arising:** None were reported upon.
4. **Reports from other bodies:**
 - a. **ESCC:** NB reported that reserves are being spent to balance the 2024/24 budget and that on present estimates they will not be able to fully fund commitments in 2025/26, reserves having been fully expended.
 - b. **WDC:** AW reported that:
 - a. The public consultation period on the draft Wealden Local Plan was now closed.
 - b. There is discussion about creating ‘new towns’ and Halland and Laughton.
 - c. A feasibility study is to be undertaken on the creation of a cycle path along the route of the former railway line between Lewes and Uckfield.
 - c. **MP:** MC commented as follows:
 - a. Cycle/foot path - Some improvements to be made - clearer signing of junctions on the path itself following close misses at Alciston (CH commented this work appears to have been done now).
 - b. RIS 3 process still continues - “funds have been allocated” and the statutory consultation will be the next stage, once the preferred options are determined (but is in process). MC confirmed prior village feedback is still relevant and will be considered.
 - c. A27 is unlikely to be dualled completely between Lewes and Polegate due to excessive cost - most likely option would be partial dualling (Lewes to Beddingham).
 - d. Two more years left of Flexibus funding (village commented on the success of the scheme).
 - e. New surgical unit at Eastbourne Hospital to be completed soon.

5. Other Reports

a. **Transport and roads:** CH summarised committee activity as follows:

- a. 20 mph limit. Alciston has introduced bin stickers rather than a change to the actual limit. Contacted Fulking parish council to find out about their change to 20mph - awaiting response.
- b. Installation of Amazon lockers (or other providers) still being explored as a way of reducing delivery traffic. Meeting raised a question about the location of and parking required for lockers.
- c. Brief explanation of Quiet Lanes initiative. Aimed at protecting vulnerable road users, not a traffic calming measure per se. Could be appropriate for Langtye Lane though.
- d. RIS3 discussed earlier under MC update.
- e. ESCC £52m fund for road maintenance available. Some resurfacing works have already taken place on A27.
- f. Brief explanation of the ongoing initiative for the creation of a crossing for village safe access to shared cycle/pedestrian path and SDNP. SDNP grant application which has been made. No response expected until October 2024. (MC offered to provide a contact for the team responsible for the shared path).
- g. Access opposite road junction has been improved path cleared and gravelled now.

b. **Planning:** BS read an email from Tom Buckley (GM at Petrol Station) about plans for improvement of the site. BS to meet him.

c. **Village Hall:** HS explained the need to replace the defibrillator which is becoming out of date (although still fully functional). Funding options might include - Separate fundraising initiative? Parish contribution? Garage install a replacement device?

d. **Footpaths and bridleways:** No material update.

e. **Tree Warden:** Position remains vacant. BS to contact Milton Street warden for possible leads.

f. **Treasurer:** In LLG's absence BS reported on his behalf that:

- a. The precept of £800 for 2024/25 has been received.
- b. The 2023/24 internal audit report has been signed off (no issues).
- c. The 2023/24 Annual Governance and Accountability Return has been completed for signature by BS as Chairman and filing by LLG.

(The 2023/24 Financial Statement will be circulated with the minutes of this meeting).

5. **AOB:** Barley Mow – BS reported that new operators are not yet in place.

6. **Date of next meeting:** 27th November 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30.