

**MINUTES OF SELMESTON PARISH MEETING**  
**ALCISTON & SELMESTON VILLAGE HALL – WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

Edits after posting in blue

**RED TEXT INDICATES A PLANNED ACTION ARISING**

**Present:** Bryan Stevens (Chairman) (“BS”); Thea Buckthorp; Helen Shaw (“HS”); Valerie Shaw; Margaret Wilmott; Janie Jellings (“J”); Michael Weller (“MW”); Ruth Nares; Lewis Lewis-Grey (“LLG”); Laura Francis (“LF”); Simon Muggleton (“SM”); Margaret Hughes.

**In attendance:** Nick Bennett (ESCC) (“NB”); Alison Wilson (WDC) (“AW”).

1. **Apologies:** Matthew Jellings; David Quysner; Colin Horswell; Elliot Vaughn; Scott Brenman; Megan Smith; Chris Harris; Mairi Thomas; Andrew Thomas; Paul Kenner; Raina Thompson-Brody; Paul Birch; Hilary Stewart; Jan Matthews; Peter Matthews; James MacCleary (our new MP).
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024** 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:** Reported upon under agenda items below.
4. **Reports from other bodies:**
  - a. **ESCC:** NB reported that:
    - a. The Council continues to grapple with balancing its budget for this year and 2025/26, largely due to huge increases in spending needed to meet statutory obligations on Child and Adult Social Care. The Council’s demographic is such that more than 50% of its population receives some form of support.
    - b. The new Government is keen on the idea of devolution by creation of regional mayors. – Watch this space is the message.
  - b. **WDC:** AW reported that:
    - a. The Wealden Infrastructure Fund is open for applications until 2027. It may have relevance in connection with that part of the cricket ground which is not owned by Firle Estate. **AW to put HS in touch with contact at WDC.**
    - b. The Council’s updated Climate Change Strategy is in progress and there is a public meeting about it at Uckfield Civic Centre on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.
    - c. The draft Local Plan is on hold pending the new Government’s announcements on housing targets.
  - c. **MP:** No report. (Our new MP was unable to attend due to commitments at Westminster but will do so in future if possible).

**5. Other Reports**

- a. **Transport and roads:** CH provided a written report as follows:
  - a. 20 mph limit. Fulking Parish has established a village wide 20mph limit by way of a Traffic Regulation Order from WSCC. **CH to establish if ESCC can do similar on application.**

- b. RIS3 is still in progress (though overdue for finalisation) but the new government has confirmed that all previously proposed A27 schemes have been cancelled as representing poor value for money.
- c. The village entry sign on the Eastbound A27 has disappeared. **CH to investigate getting it replaced.** (Could also do with a Westbound sign).

**BS is planning the following:**

- a. A meeting with Tom Buckley (petrol station manager) to explore the idea of delivery lockers at the station.
- b. A meeting with Vanessa Rowlands (Chair of SDNPA) about improved access to the Park from north of the A27.

LF reminded the meeting that there's a link on the website for reporting potholes.

SM reported on the recent works to clear drains and dredge the "grips" which HS said has greatly reduced the risk of flooding at Coney Hall.

BS thanked SM for his persistence in dealing with this matter.

**b. Planning:**

- a. DQ had reported that there has been little activity beyond minor amendments to existing applications.
- b. BS read an email from **Colin H** about activities at Stonery which was gratefully received.
- c. MW voiced concerns on behalf of a neighbour not present about the Barley Mow's application for a festival licence. No further information available on which to comment so **MW to establish details of the application from the neighbour.**

**c. Village Hall:** HS reported as follows:

- a. Defibrillator replacement. – **HS is to meet with BS and DQ** to discuss fundraising sources which might include: Parish Meeting, Cricket Club, Barley Mow, Morrisons, Pricewatch, Alciston PM.
- b. Basic Lifesaving Training – Neil Creaton has offered to run a short course for those interested but first needs to obtain a trainer's certificate at a cost of circa £100. HS asked if the Parish might fund this. **BS to consider in conjunction with other spending commitments.**
- c. Village hall AV and lighting refurb. – A successful application to the National Lottery Community Fund means that the requisite fundraising target has been reached.

HS and her committee were thanked for their hard work in achieving the necessary funding.

LF circulated details of the Christmas Festive Afternoon to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**d. Footpaths and bridleways:** Nothing to report from AT.

**e. Tree Warden:** Position remains vacant.

**f. Treasurer:**

- a. LLG circulated the year to date financial statement.
- b. LLG would like to stand down from the treasurer's role after five years of service. The task is not onerous and there are relatively few transactions to account for. A couple of hours training would be enough for a handover if there is a willing volunteer in the parish. **BS to advertise the vacancy on the Whatsapp group.**

- c. Given the lack of spending on road related matters in the current year we may not (subject to outcome of defibrillator item) apply for a precept in 2025/26.
- d. Spending to tidy up the churchyard was mentioned but this is the responsibility of the church authorities and not the parish so it would be an inappropriate use of parish funds.
- e. Some spend may be needed to clean and maintain the war memorial and its surrounding area.

#### **6. AOB**

- a. JJ raised the matter of war memorial arrangements previously in place with the petrol station to provide free fuel for grass cutting and to clear litter. Are these still in place since the change of shop operator? **BS to ask Tom Buckley at planned meeting.**

**Proposed date of next meeting:** 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40.