

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

4th September 2019

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

39 Present

Councillors K Stevens (Chairman), E Ashley, D Kehl, C Paterson and W Reid.

County Councillor B Bentley, District Councillor R Cade, A Stevens (Clerk) and twelve members of the public were also in attendance.

40 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor P Doodles.

41 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd July 2019.

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 3rd July 2019, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

42 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

All matters arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

43 Disclosures of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest on any items on this agenda nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

44 Reports from the County Councillor on matters from the County Council affecting this Parish.

County Councillor Bentley said;

- The September Cabinet meeting has been cancelled.
- The MP, Huw Merriman, is lobbying for better funding for schools.
- The Wartling Road has now almost completely been resurfaced.
- He will ask what is happening about the Battle Road.

Councillor Kehl said the work on the Wartling Road should be finished between the 14th and the 16th September.

45 Report from the District Councillor on matters from the County Council affecting this Parish.

District Councillor Doodles sent a written report which said;

'Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend this meeting. When we return I will contact Keith and Alison for a catch up on the details of any actions I may need to take following your discussions.

The ward Cllr Ray Cade and I represent on Wealden covers six parishes, three of them hold their meetings on the same day of the month which makes attendance at all meetings impossible. I'd like to emphasise that Ray and I, even if we both cannot attend all meetings, work closely together, updating each other on parish issues. We are both well informed and engaged!

Waste

The change over to the new contractor, Biffa, went fairly smoothly. There are a few problems with the distribution of garden waste bins but they are being resolved.

The Government has outlined national standards on what to recycle. I am pleased to be able to report that Wealden already meets the proposals.

We are preparing for a separate food waste collection and are awaiting details of how a deposit return scheme will work.

Climate Change

Following Council approving the Climate Change Emergency Resolution officers have been working on three strands;

1. What we as a Council do.
2. What we can encourage our communities to do.
3. What we need to lobby Government to do.

Economic Development and Tourism

A business workshop is planned for 20th November, 'Improving Efficiencies'. Our workshops are well supported by small businesses as they offer an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and for networking.

Drive to Digital

Since its inception 'Drive to Digital' has saved £895,000.

Wealden is continuing to work to bring more services on line. The latest evaluation is something called 'chat box'. This is similar to Amazon's 'Alexa' whereby customers of the council will be presented with a human sounding voice that will answer initial questions on straightforward topics, thus freeing up humans to answer more complicated enquiries. Hopefully this will reduce time when phoning the council.

Rural Road Safety

Ray and I do hope you will be able to attend the Rural Roads Safety Meeting I have arranged for 3rd October at 2pm in Hooe Village Hall. All six parishes in the Herstmonceux and Pevensey levels have been invited to bring as many councillors as they wish to discuss the problems we are all experiencing. Huw Merriman, MP, is a Member of the Transport Select Committee so our views will be fed straight back to Government. This meeting is designed to work with and support other initiatives parishes have running so it should provide a platform for an exchange of ideas. I am aware there are residents who also have an interest in this problem, they, too, are welcome to attend. It would be useful to have a

rough idea of the number of attendees as I have been asked to provide cakes and would hate to disappoint.

Wealden Local Plan – Inspector’s Report

At the time of writing the Inspector’s findings are expected imminently but not, as yet, received. I am sure Keith and Alison will be able to update the Council at the meeting if the report has been made public by that time.’

District Councillor Cade;

- Encouraged everyone to attend the Road Safety Meeting mentioned in Pam’s report which he said originated from the recent fatal accident in Wartling.
- Said Wealden is currently reviewing its Emergency Plan and is to design a template to help parishes identify dangers which are specific to their area.
- Also said Wealden is to draft a Climate Change Strategy.
- The Planning Inspector’s findings on the Local Plan have been deferred until the end of September.

46 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from the public on this occasion.

The meeting was then re-opened.

47 Reports

a) Planning – The following planning application has been withdrawn;

WD/2019/0731/F - The Horseshoe Inn, Comphurst Lane, Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RU - Demolition of the existing Horseshoe Inn and provision of a mixed use development consisting of a new public house/restaurant/function facility with ancillary staff accommodation, village green, public car parking and 9 no. dwellings, together with associated accesses, car parking, amenity space, landscaping and bin/cycle storage.

b) Environment North

There was nothing new to report from Environment North this occasion.

c) Footpaths

There was nothing new to report on footpaths on this occasion.

d) Environment South

Councillors previously received a report that a tree has fallen down in Wood Lane. Councillor Reid confirmed that it has now been removed.

e) Highways

Councillors asked the Clerk to report the state of the following verges to Highways for safety reasons;

- The Wartling Road/Boreham Lane junction.
- The Boreham Hill/A271 junction.
- Boreham Lane.

f) Police

Councillor Stevens attended a recent Road Safety Meeting where it was reported that the Police is;

- Employing more PCSOs.
- Supporting Speedwatch even more.

Councillor Ashley asked if there are any restrictions on the width of vehicles. Wartling Parish Council understands that there is a standard width of 2.9m and anything over that is classed as a wide load and is subject to special conditions. It was noted that traffic on the Wartling Road often looks wider than it is because the Wartling Road is particularly narrow.

g) Communication

Councillor Reid has kindly taken over the editing of the Parish Council's website and he has added some more photos to it.

He asked councillors if they would like to add their contact details to the website. Councillors who would like to were asked to send their contact details direct to him.

h) Speedwatch

The Parish Council carried out three Speedwatch Sessions in August, 6 vehicles exceeded the speed limit, three drivers were sent letters.

Councillors also noted;

- There have been 87 sessions and 453 vehicles have been reported since its start date in 2013.
- EDWARD (European Day Without A Road Death) Day this year is on 26th September.
- There are plans to carry out an official speed check in Boreham Street. Councillor Stevens will try and find out when it is.
- In East Sussex, Speedwatch Teams recorded 2878 vehicles in August 2019. The maximum speed recorded in a 30mph area was 73mph. 86 vehicles had no MOT, 100 had no tax and 13 had Statutory Off Road Notices.
- Driver error and not looking are reported to be the major causes of accidents.
- Operation Dragonfly recently made 83 arrests. A good proportion of those, which happened in the daytime, were because the drivers were under the influence of Class A drugs, Class B drugs, prescription drugs or alcohol. The increase in the number of prescriptions being delivered straight to patients means they may be overlooking their Doctor's previous advice not to drive.

i) Trees

This was covered under 'Environment South'.

48 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

49 Regulations for clay pigeon shooting

Following a request from Councillor Ashley, the Clerk asked Wealden's Environmental Health Licensing Officer if there are any regulations on clay pigeon shooting and received the following reply;

'Clay pigeon shooting is not a matter which falls under the remit of the District Council, other than it might require planning permission regarding the use of the land if it is occurring on a regular basis or more than 28 days per year.

It is within my knowledge that it is a criminal offence to discharge any firearm within 50 feet (approx. 15m) of the centre of any highway but as you will see from the following article that does not apply to footpaths;

<https://www.countrydeerstalking.co.uk/blog/highways-bridleways-footpaths-shooting-legislation.html>

I have had a quick search on the internet and have not found any regulations concerning the licensing of clay pigeon shooting, the following article from West Mercia Police gives some guidelines as to the safety requirements of a site, but does not mention any requirement for licensing of the site:

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/41101/Guidance-on-conducting-a-Clay-Pigeon-Shoot>

Finally, the following document discusses the control of noise from such events;

<https://www.cieh.org/media/1236/clay-target-shooting-guidance-on-the-control-of-noise.pdf>

I would suggest that if you have any safety concerns regarding the shoot then these should, in the first instance, be relayed to the police.

If there are issues concerning noise then please contact the Council's Pollution Team at pollution@rother.gov.uk to register any complaint. It is likely that those affected would then be required to complete diary sheets.'

50 Questions from Parish Councillors

There were no questions from any of the Parish Councillors on this occasion.

51 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2019/1265/LB - Preston Farm, Boreham Hill, Boreham Street, BN27 4SF - Structural repairs to basements in order to preserve and safeguard the existing listed property – Wartling Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as it meets the Listed Building Requirements.

WD/2019/1070/F - St Mary Magdalene's Church, Wartling Hill, Wartling, BN27 1RY - Recovering of bell turret in oak weatherboarding and broached spire in oak shakes – Wartling Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8.05pm.