

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

6th March 2019

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

65 Present

Councillors K Stevens (Chairman), R Lawrence, D Kehl, C Paterson and W Reid.

County Councillor B Bentley, District Councillor P Doodes, A Stevens (Clerk) and eleven members of the public were also in attendance.

66 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received from any Parish Councillors.

67 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 9th January 2019, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

68 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

All matters arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

69 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.

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

County Councillor B Bentley said;

- The County Council has set its budget for 2019-2020. The ESCC precept will increase by 2.99% and the Police precept will increase by £24.
- Reports stating the County Council is cancelling its Meals on Wheels service are wrong. The County Council stopped the service three years ago, it is the subsidy which was introduced to help residents transfer to private companies that has now stopped.
- The County Council was to stop providing its English as a Second Language Service because the Secondary Schools were no longer going to buy into it. The schools have now changed their minds and the service will continue.
- Fake Sanex pills are being sold to school children in Sussex. They are being sold as a relaxant but are laced with seriously hard painkillers which can kill and lead to much harder drugs.
- Wartling Road will be closed for nine days from 12th March so the County Council can carry out much needed road repairs. Councillor Bentley agreed to ask if no through road signs can be put in place to divert traffic away from Boreham Lane because there is not enough room for vehicles to turn round there.

- Pevensey Library which is currently stocked being used as a store for Bookends (the Library Shop), is set to re-open in the Spring.

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

District Councillor Doodes said;

- Biffa will take over the new Waste Contract from 1st July. The new contractors will use staff who know the roads well so they avoid the problems experienced by Keir. The new contract will cost more, because Eastbourne is no longer involved, so residents are being asked to pay an additional £50 a year if they want their garden waste removed. They will need to register but can opt in at any time during the year.
- The new crematorium at Horam is set to open at the end of March. The crematorium has been built to provide Wealden with another revenue source. Wealden has bought Vicarage Field in Hailsham for the same reason.
- The amount of fly tipping has increased at Horsewalk in Hooe. The Environment Agency needs lifting equipment to take away the rubbish in the river but hopes to be able to get the equipment soon and then it will be able to remove it.
- Speeding vehicles and vehicles damaging verges continue to be issues in rural areas. Both issues have been taken up with the MP.
- The District Council Elections are being held on 2nd May 2019. The number of District Councillors has reduced from 55 to 45. Herstmonceux, Pevensey, Westham and Wartling will form one ward which will be served by two District Councillors.
- Wealden District Council is to stop accepting cheques as a form of payment from the end of March.

72 Questions from Members of the Public

Residents asked;

- if anything can be done about speeding in Boreham Street because it is taking residents at least five minutes to get out of the driveways. The Parish Council understands that a monitoring device is to be fitted shortly which will record traffic speeds. Enforcement continues to remain a problem though.
- If there is an update following a recent collision in Boreham Street. The driver of one of the vehicles (a high sided HGV) stated that one of the contributing factors was the overhanging trees. The Clerk said she will ask Highways for an update.

The meeting was then re-opened.

73 Reports

a) Planning – The Wealden Local Plan has been submitted to the Planning Inspector. Wealden is now waiting for her to set a date for the Hearing.

b) Environment North

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

c) Footpaths

The Parish Council asked Rights of Way to investigate the footpath at Rockland Place. Rights of Way can find no instances where the fence actually encroaches on or obstructs the official line of path, so they feel there are no issues from that

perspective. They feel the new timber kissing gates located on the path in the north-west corner and at the eastern end of the field appear to make access along the path itself a lot easier than was perhaps previously the case.

They have also had a look at the number of the previously open points of access into the woods coming off the 1066 route which have now been blocked off by the new fence but because none of them are recorded Rights of Way, they do not fall under their jurisdiction.

d) Environment South

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

e) Highways

Councillor Stevens said the verges at Boreham Lane are still a mess because it was not designed to take the volume of traffic it now does but, unfortunately, it is the same in lanes all over the County and the County Council is not repairing them. He also said that when the ditches were cleared it created another problem because the mud was piled at the side of the ditches and walkers cannot get off the road quickly.

f) Police

There have previously been reports of a suspicious blue van in the area but it is now thought the van has moved on.

Two more cars have come off the Wartling Road.

g) Communication

Messages continue to be sent out via Wartling Web Master of which the Wartling Road closure notice was one example.

Most houses in the Parish now receive broadband speed of at least 2MB which ESCC considers to be acceptable.

h) Speedwatch

The Parish Council carried out three Speedwatch Sessions in January, 9 offenders were caught as a result.

i) Trees

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

74 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

Councillor Stevens attended two meetings with Sussex Police. A new radar device was fitted in a green traffic light at a junction in the County and 3000 drivers were recorded driving over the lights in excess of 30mph.

75 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Stevens announced the Parish Council Elections are also taking place on the 2nd May. He thanked everyone for their support over the past four years and encouraged the existing councillors to stand for re-election and the residents to stand for election.

76 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2018/2732/LB - The Cottage, Boreham Lane, Boreham Street, Wartling BN27 4SL
Schedule of Works (A summary of the works to be undertaken and is to be read in conjunction with the whole application); damp proofing works and re-plaster to majority of ground floor. Replacement of fibreboard ceilings with plasterboard. Repair of lath and plaster ceilings. Repair/replacement of damp, split and loose floorboards. Upgrading of electrical installation – Wartling Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as it meets the listed Buildings Requirements.

WD/2019/0351/F - Northfield Cottage, Boreham Hill, Boreham Street, BN27 4SF -
Construction of first floor dormer window, roof light and replacement porch to front elevation – Wartling Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD/2019/0349/F - Northfield Cottage, Boreham Hill, Boreham Street, BN27 4SF - Extension to residential curtilage and conversion of existing stable block into self-contained annexe – Wartling Parish Council objects to this application because given the distance between the stable block and Northfield Cottage it would appear to be a separate property rather than an annexe and it is not in keeping with and spoils the vista of the area.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8.10pm.