

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

4th March 2020

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

78 Present

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

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

79 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor E Ashley and the reasons for her absence were accepted by the Parish Council.

Apologies for absence were also received from District Councillor P Doodes.

80 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th January 2020.

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 8th January 2020, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

81 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

Councillor Stevens said;

- he has replaced the battery in the defibrillator at The Lamb because it was flat. Councillors approved the cost of a new battery and pads at £199.31 plus vat.
- He also checked the defibrillator at The Bull's Head. It was in good working order.

Councillors agreed that:

- Councillor Stevens will write to the landlord of each pub and see if they can help contribute towards the cost of replacing the defibrillator battery.
- Councillor Reid will check the defibrillator at The Bull's Head each month and report back.
- Councillor Paterson will check the one at The Lamb and report back.

It was also noted that defibrillator batteries usually last between 4 and 5 years.

82 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.

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

County Councillor Bentley distributed a copy of his reports on ESCC's budget and Sussex Police's Precept to the Parish Councillors. In his ESCC Report he described;

- The County Council's achievements.
- Its planned investments – which included additional funding for roads.
- Its revenue investment activities to help reduce future demand such as accommodation and social support to avoid homelessness.
- Its capital programme investment to improve residential homes and highways.
- How it is deferring planned savings in the family keyworker service, children's safeguarding, libraries and Trading Standards.

His report on the Policing Precept explained;

- The role of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP). The PCP has the power to support, reject or veto the Policing Precept Proposal.
- Investments made by Central Government.
- There will be a £10 rise in the Police share of the precept.
- The Chief Constable's Investment Requirement which includes more enforcement, more investigation and a greater police presence particularly in towns, villages and online.

A full copy of County Councillor Bentley's Report can be found at the end of these Minutes.

County Councillor Bentley also said;

- ESCC has repaired 11000 potholes this winter, which is three times more than last year. The increase is a direct result of this year's bad weather.
- The County Council has 16 pothole gangs. There used to be ten.
- ESCC has invested £23m in road maintenance.
- Contractors do not paid to go back and re-repair potholes.
- He will find out why a pothole in Boreham Lane needs repairing again when it was only last repaired two weeks ago.

Residents are asked to report any potholes to ESCC, via fixmystreet.com. Potholes will then be graded and prioritised accordingly.

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

District Councillor Cade said;

- Wealden's Full Council has now officially withdrawn the Local Plan following its rejection by the Planning Inspector. The Inspector found the submitted plan cannot be taken forward to adoption because it has failed one of the requirements for legal compliance, that of the Duty to Co-operate. In addition, there are some significant failings in respect of the soundness of the submitted Plan, for example Wealden applied a different category of caution regarding development that affected the Ashdown Forest. Work has started on a new plan and there will be even more housing in it than there was in the old one.
- Wealden has declared a Climate Emergency and aims to be carbon neutral by 2050. Some of the issues will be expensive and therefore ongoing. For example Wealden owns 2800 properties which have gas boilers and they will need to be changed over time. It was noted that those who own listed buildings are put off making changes

because they currently need to apply for planning permission. Councillors asked if this is something Wealden can look at changing.

- The new Joint Waste Contract is working well. Residents with any complaints were asked to contact District Councillor Cade.

85 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public on this occasion.

The meeting was then re-opened.

86 Reports

- a) Planning – Planning applications were discussed at the end of the meeting. There were no other issues for noting.

b) Environment North

The flooding resulting from the recent wet and windy weather has now subsided. Any fallen trees have been cleared.

c) Footpaths

Councillor Stevens said ESCC plans to reduce the work it does on footpaths.

d) Environment South

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

e) Highways

Councillors noted;

- ESCC will be carrying out works to repair a broken drainage pipe on Victoria Road, Bodle Street Green. Work is planned to start on 23rd March and will continue for 2 days. The road will remain open with temporary traffic lights in place.
- The authorities found the car which appears to have been abandoned in Boreham Lane is taxed and insured and therefore it is legally allowed to park there.
- Boreham Lane remains closed whilst the sink hole is being repaired.

f) Police

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

g) Communication

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

h) Speedwatch

The Parish Council has carried out three more Speedwatch Sessions since the last Full Council Meeting. Five offenders were reported each time.

i) Trees

A member of the public reported that a tree had fallen on to the road by The Lamb. The Clerk will report the matter to Highways.

87 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

Councillor Reid announced the Reid Hall AGM is on the 19th March at 7pm. The AGM will be followed by a Wine and Cheese Social Evening from 7.30pm to 9pm. Tickets for the Social Evening are £10 per person, in advance.

88 Pension Discretion Policy

Councillors reviewed and accepted the Pension Discretion Policy dated 4th March 2020.

89 Internal Audit

Councillors formally resolved to;

- Appoint Peter Frost as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor for the financial year 2019-2020.
- Formally record that no follow up action is needed from the Audit Report for the accounting year 2018-2019.

90 Questions from Parish Councillors

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

91 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2019/2527/F - Montague Farm, Wood Lane, Boreham Street, Wartling, BN27 4SE - A replacement 40' barn for feed – Councillors had no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD/2019/2528/F - Montague Farm, Wood Lane, Boreham Street, Wartling, BN27 4SE - A replacement 100' livestock barn - Councillors had no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

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