

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

4th November 2020

This meeting was a virtual Meeting held via Zoom

45 Present

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

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

46 Apologies for Absence

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

District Councillor P Doodes also sent apologies for her absence.

47 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd September 2020.

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 2nd September 2020, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

48 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

All matters arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

49 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.

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

County Councillor Bennett said that during the latest lockdown measures;

- Libraries will close from the 5th November but they hope to retain their 'click and collect' service.
- Registry Offices will only open to register births and deaths.
- Schools, nurseries and colleges will remain open.
- Those who were previously shielding will still be supported.
- Community hubs will continue.
- Shielding will not be age related.
- Those who received food boxes in the first lockdown need to get back in touch with the Community Hub. Details of the hub can be found on the Wealden District Council website.

District Councillor Cade read from his written report which said;

- Wealden's Hub is still operating so anyone you know/families/individuals, especially older or vulnerable people...difficulties or loneliness – contact us. There is also a call from the hub for parishes to review their volunteer lists to see who may be still available. Obviously this will not be the same as before and we will have some volunteers, who will be back working.
- We have decided to extend the Government's initiative until the end of the next Easter of not immediately seeking eviction for rent arrears. We are taking a more sympathetic view of our tenants who have got behind with their rents during the lockdown period between March and August. There are exclusions applying to people who were already in arrears before the lockdown, have not paid any rent during the lockdown or have not engaged with the housing income officers. Advice and support is also open to households in private rented accommodation, who are in rent arrears with the same conditions applying. Anyone in that position should engage with Wealden's Housing Income team for help.
- The Wealden Benefits Team are now administering self-isolation payments as a result of the Test and Trace system. Individuals are entitled to a Test and Trace payment or discretionary support payment of £500, which is to support people employed or self-employed and are unable to work from home, are currently in receipt of universal credit/working tax credit/income based employment and support allowance income based/job seekers allowance/income support/housing benefit and/or pension credit. These payments are designed to help ensure people, who have tested positive for the virus and their close contacts self-isolate for the required period, to stop the onward spread of the virus. They need to have been told to isolate by the track and trace system and it doesn't apply to people isolating after returning from abroad.
- A 'Local Restrictions' Scheme has been introduced in case of a local lockdown. This will be for businesses listed to pay business rates. It will be for any business forced to close by instruction and cannot trade. It is for the three weeks they are likely to be closed and payment will be £1500. Also, the Government has re-introduced a furlough scheme and this includes payments to self-employed and discretionary payments for people suffering particular hardship. We have not yet been notified as to the criteria and our allocation pot, but we have devised a system ready to implement the scheme.

As you can imagine the situation is constantly changing, so if you are in doubt contact me or the Benefits Team for advice or look on the Wealden website under the coronavirus section or

<https://www.wealden.gov.uk/press-and-media/coronavirus-covid-19-latest/>

- The waste bins collections are doing well, but we are experiencing more incidents of fly-tipping. The householder has the responsibility of ensuring any waste is properly dealt with, so people should be careful who they employ.
- The Great September Clean Up organised locally by Wealden managed to remove more than 1.5 tons of litter thrown away in public places throughout the district.

He also confirmed that Wealden District Council is also supporting its residents and community through the latest national restrictions by allowing people to park their cars in the long stay (10hr and 23hr) areas of their car parks without any concern about parking enforcement.

52 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr Lawrence said that the village Facebook will continue through this latest lockdown.

The meeting was then re-opened.

53 Reports

- a) Planning – The Parish Council has considered the following planning applications since the last Full Council Meeting;

WD/2020/1952/F - The Well House, Camping Site, Wartling Road, Wartling, BN27 1RX - Proposed oak framed camping shelter - Wartling Parish Council does not have any objections to this application which should help enhance this local business

WD/2020/1491/F - Brooks Farm, Boreham Lane, Wartling, BN27 1RS - Proposed demolition of barn and the construction of a single-storey dwelling - Wartling Parish Council does not have any objection to this application as the proposed construction appears to take account of all its objections against the previous application numbered WD/2018/1233/F.

We would however ask that the conditions you put in place when approving the original application (WD/2017/0840/F) be carried forward and attached to any approval granted in respect of this latest application.

- b) Environment North

There has been not been any reported instances of fly tipping since the last Full Council Meeting.

- c) Footpaths

There was nothing new to report on footpaths.

- d) Environment South

Two trees fell down in the recent windy weather but they were removed quickly.

- e) Highways

Councillor Kehl said there is a minor pothole outside The Reids which she will monitor and refer to ESCC Highways when it meets the criteria for repair.

It was also noted that the pothole near PGL has been reported to ESCC for repair.

- f) Police

Councillor Stevens attended the latest Wealden District Association of Local Councils Meeting.

Inspector Gross was present and updated members on the new Community Safety Action Groups (CSAG). The aim of the CSAGs is to improve people's lives in the local community by working in partnership to reduce the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

g) Communication

The Clerk will send a draft Accessibility Statement to Councillor Reid for the Parish Council website.

h) Speedwatch

There were four sessions carried out in September, 25 offenders were reported. Two sessions were held in October and 8 offenders were reported.

Speedwatch sessions have now been put on hold again because of the latest Coronavirus restrictions.

i) Trees

This was covered in Minute 53 (9d).

54 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

All outside meetings and training courses are taking place remotely for the foreseeable future.

Councillor Stevens attended the Wealden South East Parish Planning Cluster Meeting which was held virtually on the afternoon of the 4th November. Those who attended were updated on the progress of the Wealden Local Plan. The Wealden Local Plan consultation is expected to start in November.

55 Precept 2021-2022

Councillors resolved;

- The precept for 2021-2022 will not increase this year and it will therefore be £7350.
- To award the Mens' Shed a grant of £70.
- To continue with the existing verge cutting arrangements for 2021 (Option 2).
- To ask residents for their views via the Parish News on how the £12832.25 Community Infrastructure Levy, the Parish Council has received, might be best used.

56 Questions from Parish Councillors

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

57 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2020/1239/F - Coopers Farm, Wartling Road, Wartling, BN27 1RX - Conversion of outbuilding and granary into three dwellings.

WD/2020/1240/LB - Coopers Farm, Wartling Road, Wartling, BN27 1RX - Conversion of outbuilding and granary into three dwellings.

Wartling Parish Council has no objections to these applications as long as they meet the Listed Building Requirements, and the Requirements of ESCC Highways because of the additional traffic exiting onto Wartling Road. Councillors ask that an earlier decision to not reduce the speed limit there to 40mph is reviewed because they feel there will now be enough visible properties to meet the requirements.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 7.45pm.