

Minutes of the Virtual Annual General Meeting held via Zoom, on Wednesday 5th May 2021

1. Present

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

District Councillor P Doodes, A Stevens (Clerk) and 14 members of the public were also present.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor R Cade.

3. Election of Chairman

Councillors unanimously resolved to appoint Councillor Stevens as the Chairman of Wartling Parish Council. Councillor Stevens accepted the role.

4. Election of Vice-Chairman

Councillors unanimously resolved to appoint Councillor Paterson as the Vice-Chairman of Wartling Parish Council. Councillor Paterson accepted the role.

5. Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 3rd March 2021 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Clerk's Report on Matters Arising from those Minutes

Any matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

7. Other Areas of Responsibility

Councillors agreed to rollover the existing areas of responsibility namely;

Planning	Cllr Stevens
Environment North	Cllr Reid
Footpaths	Cllr Ashley
Environment South	Cllr Ashley
Highways	Cllr Kehl
Police	Cllrs Stevens and Paterson
Communication (to include responsibility for both the website and the community distribution list)	Cllr Reid
Speedwatch	Cllr Paterson and Mr Lawrence
Tree Warden	Cllr Reid

8. To adopt the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Councillors resolved to accept the latest NALC Standing Orders (2021) and the Financial Regulations (2021) which had been distributed to all Councillors before the meeting.

9. To appoint Councillors to serve as Representatives of the Parish Council on the following bodies.

Councillors agreed the following appointments will continue;

Representative to the Village Hall Trust	Cllr Reid
Wealden District Association of Local Councils	Cllrs Stevens
East Sussex ALC Ltd (to attend the AGM)	Cllrs Stevens and Paterson

10. To approve the accounts for the financial year to 31st March 2021.

Councillors resolved;

- i: to approve the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year to 31st March 2021.
- ii: to approve the accounts, the risk management document, the asset schedule and the internal audit arrangements for the financial year to 31st March 2021.
- iii: that they are exempt from an External Audit for the year to 31st March 2021 because the Parish Council's receipts and payments for the year were each less than £25000.
- iv: To approve the following payments;

		<u>£</u>
100943	ESALC Ltd - Subscriptions	148.32
100944	ESCC - Verge Cutting	345.60
100945	ICO - Subscriptions	40.00
100946	S Goacher - Payroll	167.68
100947	A Stevens - Salary - March	330.27
100948	A Stevens - Salary - April	330.27
100949	ESCC - Pension	183.28
100950	Zurich - Insurance	257.60

11. Payment of Annual Subscriptions

Councillors resolved that the following subscriptions and insurance will continue for this financial year;

Wealden District Association of Local Councils
Society of Local Council Clerks
Sussex Association of Local Councils
Zurich Insurance
Information Commissioner

12. Bank Signatories

Councillors resolved Councillors Stevens, Paterson and the Clerk will remain cheque signatories.

13. Code of Conduct

Councillors resolved to re-adopt and abide by the Code of Conduct introduced by Wealden District Council under the Localism Act 2012.

14. General Power of Competence

Wartling Parish Council resolved that it meets the prescribed conditions for the General Power of Competence.

15. Meeting Dates

Councillors agreed the meeting dates for 2021-2022 will be as follows;

Wednesday 7th July 2021
Wednesday 1st September 2021
Wednesday 3rd November 2021
Wednesday 5th January 2022
Wednesday 2nd March 2022
Wednesday 4th May 2022
Wednesday 6th July 2022

16. Planning Applications

The Planning Inspectorate have received notice of a planning appeal against the decision made by the District Council on the following application;

WD/2020/2380/F - The Old Vicarage, Boreham Street, BN27 4SD - Single storey rear extension with roof terrace

The meeting was then suspended;

17. Questions from Members of the Public

Residents asked the Parish Council to apply to nominate The Lamb as an Asset of Community Value. The pub has closed and is now being used for Airbnb which is causing disruption and concern to those living nearby.

District Councillor Doodles said;

- She has spoken to Enforcement about The Lamb and understands that full planning permission will be required to change its use.
- She suggests residents contact Environmental Health about concerns they have and also keep a diary of events.
- Planning Officers are investigating the case and she is in touch with them regularly.
- She encourages residents to nominate the pub as an Asset of Community Value so they can be notified if anything changes.

Residents also asked;

- What is being done to address speeding in the Parish – Speedwatch sessions are carried out regularly and the Parish Council is also looking at ways to reduce speeding using the Community Infrastructure Levy (Minute 18). District Councillor Doodles holds regular meetings with the MP to make him aware because he is on the

Transport Select Committee. Councillors will also look and see if the Camera Safety Partnership, which is based in Shoreham, can help.

- What is being done about the state of the verges and the narrow paths - Any verges which need cutting can be reported to the Clerk who will then ask the County Council to cut them. The Parish Council has asked the County Council to widen the verges several times but they don't see it as a safety issue so they won't. The Parish Council is to see it can use the Community Infrastructure Levy to do something.
- What support there is to reduce litter picking – The District Council supports voluntary litter pickers by donating hi-visibility jackets and equipment. It will also collect bags of litter if they are all at one location. At the last Wealden District Association of Local Councils' Meeting, Highways England and Wealden District Council worked together with those present to discuss ways to help reduce litter in the District. Full details of the WDALC Minutes are available from the Parish Clerk. Wealden District Council is once again supporting the Great British Spring Clean which will be held in Wealden from 28th May until 13th June. Any roads where litter is a particular problem can also be reported to the Clerk who will ask officers at Wealden to make sure they are included on their maintenance schedule

18. Assets of Community Value

Councillors resolved unanimously to apply to nominate The Lamb as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). If the pub is registered as such it will give local residents greater chance to bid for it should it become available. Residents would have six weeks to notify of their intention to bid and then six months to raise the money. The owner does not have the sell it to them though.

19. Repairs to Noticeboards

Wartling Parish Council would like to thank The Men's Shed for carrying out the repairs to the noticeboards and Councillors agreed to increase the grant which had been previously awarded from £75 to £175. The Parish Council is also going to replace the wording on the notice board at Wartling.

20. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

As agreed at the last meeting, Councillor Stevens approached ESCC and asked for a site meeting to see which of the following options would be the most viable;

- 1: Village gates
- 2: Pedestrian crossing in Boreham Hill
- 3: Widening pavements and re-inforcing curbs
- 4: 30mph roundels
- 5: New traffic islands
- 6: Community Route Scheme.

The Senior Road Safety Officer said the Parish Council will need to arrange a Feasibility Study first. Councillors agreed to commission a study as long as it costs no more than £500. The Parish Council understands the Community Infrastructure Levy can be used to fund the study.

21. Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Stevens asked if the Parish Council would like to support the Local Footpath Warden who brought problems identified with footpath 24 to their attention. Footpath 24 links Boreham Lane to Wallers Haven and it then goes on to Hooe. Councillors agreed to support the Warden by making further representation to the County Council so the matter can be progressed.

Councillor Ashley asked why Herstmonceux Castle has wooden stakes in its car parking area because it causes parking problems on the road. Councillor Stevens said he will find out.

Councillor Reid asked for an update on the situation with the crater in Jenners Lane. The matter is being investigated further by the Drainage Team and the ESCC Enforcement Team. The Clerk will ask for an update.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.50pm.