

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

1st September 2021

This meeting was held at the Reid Hall in Boreham Street.

22 Present

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

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

23 Apologies for Absence

County Councillor B Bowdler and District Councillor P Doodles sent apologies for their absence.

24 Minutes of the Annual General Council Meeting held on 5th May 2021.

The Minutes of the Annual General Council Meeting held on the 5th May 2021, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

25 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

Councillor Stevens announced the resignation of Councillor Kehl and thanked her for everything she has done for the Parish.

26 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.

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

There was no report from the County Councillor on this occasion.

28 Report from the District Councillors on matters from the District Council affecting this Parish.

District Councillor Doodles sent a report which covered the following subjects;

- The Wealden Unacceptable Behaviour Policy,
- The Wealden Food Hygiene Plan 2021-2022
- Private rented accommodation for Afghan Families
- Grants
- The Wealden Empty Homes Review
- The Academy Customer Portal
- District Councillor/Parish Councillor Meetings
- Ward Walkabouts
- Parish Litter Picks
- An upcoming Road Safety Meeting with the MP.

Copies of the report are available from the Clerk upon request.

District Councillor Cade added to the report. He said;

- pressure is increasing on Wealden, because of the urgency, to find reasonably priced rented accommodation in the private sector for Afghan refugees.
- Residents and councillors are invited to attend a Road Safety Meeting with Huw Merriman MP. The meeting is being held on the 17th September at The Reid Hall in Boreham Street and start at 2.00pm.

29 Questions from Members of the Public

Residents;

- asked if the issues of traffic speeding by the Bull's Head and motorbikes racing through the village can be addressed at the meeting with the MP. Councillor Stevens said they will be and he confirmed Sussex Police has agreed to carry out a survey on Boreham Street and take action from there. The Police will also continue to carry out regular spot checks.
- asked for bollards to be replaced on the Wartling Road, near Pitfield Barn and by the telephone box near The Lamb. They also asked for the verge to be cut at the junction of Wartling Road and Boreham Lane. The Clerk will report both matters to Highways.
- said a Community Litter Pick event is being organised with District Councillor Doodes and asked for it to be advertised on the email distribution list.

The meeting was then re-opened.

30 Reports

- a) Planning – The following planning application has been approved by Wealden District Council;

WD/2021/0067/F - Old Dobbins, Horsewalk, Wartling, BN27 1RY - Proposed detached double garage including home office

- b) Environment North

Councillor Reid said the large crater in Jenners Lane has been repaired and reported a fallen tree on the Wartling Road beyond Batts Hill. The tree has already been reported to Highways but Highways felt it was not a safety concern. The Chairman will visit and reassess the situation.

- c) Footpaths

Councillor Ashley said the pandemic has been very good for nature because she has seen many herons, barn owls, lizards, swallows, cuckoos and hedgehogs. Bats have also returned to the church.

- d) Environment South

This was covered under 'Footpaths'.

e) Highways

This was covered under 'Questions from Members of the Public'.

f) Police

This was also covered under 'Members of the Public'.

g) Communication

Councillor Reid continues to send out meeting details via the email distribution list. He asked anyone who has not been receiving them to let him know.

h) Speedwatch

Speedwatch has started again but needs more volunteers.

Four sessions were carried out in July and August. 12 offenders were recorded, all of whom have since been written to. The highest speed recorded at Windmill Hill was 50mph, the highest speed recorded at Boreham Street was 40 mph and at Wartling it was 41mph. The average speed recorded at Windmill Hill was 48mph whilst at Boreham Street it was 39 mph and at Wartling it was 40mph.

i) Trees

This was covered under 'Environment North'.

31 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

Councillor Stevens attended the South East Parish Cluster Meeting in July. Those who attended were updated on the Wealden Local Plan and were asked to complete a Sustainability Study.

The next Cluster Meeting will be held on the 29th September.

32 Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

- To agree the payments list to the 1st September 2021.
- To agree the accounts to date.

At the March meeting Councillors considered suggestions on how best to spend the CIL. They subsequently commissioned a Feasibility Study to go through the options and find out which are the most viable. Councillor Stevens will ask the Road Safety Manager to chase it up. The Parish Council has chased Highways on several occasions and understands ESCC has a backlog because of Covid.

33 Assets of Community Value

The Parish Council's nomination to register The Lamb as an Asset of Community Value was successful. Local residents now have a greater chance to bid for the pub should it become

available. They will 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.

Councillor Stevens confirmed the Parish Council should receive notification of any planning applications submitted for any changes of use.

34 Questions from Parish Councillors

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

35 Planning Applications

Councillors commented on the following planning application;

WD/2021/1709/F - Land adjacent to Dyffryn, Horsewalk, Wartling, BN27 1RY – Proposed new 4-bed dwelling with associated parking and landscaping. – Wartling Parish Council objects to this application because;

- The land being used is agricultural. The development boundary will therefore move.
- The new building will affect the outlook from a barn at Old Dobbins which has been there for 150 years.
- Similar applications at New School Farm were refused. This should be too.
- The property is large and imposing.
- If it is allowed to go ahead it will set a precedent for more.
- The Design and Access Statement says the property will be close to local facilities. There are no local facilities. The only pub in the vicinity is currently being used as an AirBnB.

The Parish Council also understands there is only drainage to the existing property because there is a private agreement with the owners of Old Dobbins so the new property will need a septic tank but there is no mention of this in the application.

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