

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

6th July 2022

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

24 Present

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

County Councillor B Bowdler, District Councillor P Doodles, A Stevens (Clerk) and nine members of the public were also in attendance.

25 Apologies for Absence

Councillor K Stevens sent apologies for his absence. The reason for his apologies were accepted by the Parish Council.

District Councillor R Cade sent apologies for his absence.

26 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 2nd March 2022.

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 2nd March 2022, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Acting Chairman.

27 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

All matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

28 Disclosures of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest on any items on this agenda.

The meeting was then suspended.

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

County Councillor Bowdler read from his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Residents asked if in future it would be possible to have the County and District Councillors' reports ahead of the meeting so they can ask them questions on the day.

The Clerk said it might not always be possible but when it is not they will be attached the minutes and residents will be able to ask any questions they have by email.

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

District Councillor Doodles read from her report, which is also attached to these minutes, and;

- i. Warned residents not to touch birds as cases of Avian Flu have been found locally.
- ii. Said that ESCC and Wealden are working on a county wide approach for Emergency Planning and have a basic template for parishes to use if they would like to.
- iii. The County Council is aware that Ukraine is now asking the UK to take children without adults.

31 Questions from Members of the Public

Residents asked;

- i. If the Parish Council can do anything about the increasing number of drivers in Boreham Lane who are beeping their horns a lot for no good reason. The Parish Council will bring the matter to the attention of the police.
- ii. What is happening about the planting of the millennium bulbs at the Village Hall. Councillor Reid explained this is a matter for the Village Hall who are due to meet next week and will be discussing the matter then.
- iii. For Jenners Lane to be repaired. Councillor Stevens and the Clerk will carry out a site visit and report it to ESCC.

The meeting was then re-opened.

32 Reports

- a) Planning – The application for The Lamb has been refused and is expected to go to Appeal. Enforcement are understood to be taking action in the meantime.
- b) Environment North

The A271 will be closed for repairs between 14th and 16th July and the 3rd and 4th August. Details of all road closures can be found at <https://www.eastsussexhighways.com/roadworks>
- c) Footpaths

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- d) Environment South

Councillor Ashley said it was good to see signs up which warn of deer in Wartling Road and asked if it is possible to have signs warning of deep ditches at the side of the marsh road.
- e) Highways

The overgrown vegetation causing visibility problems at the junction of Boreham Lane and Wartling Road has now been cut back.
- f) Police

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- g) Communication

There was nothing new to report.
- h) Speedwatch

The Speedwatch Team has carried out twelve more sessions at which 56 vehicles were found to be exceeding the speed limit, 50 were sent a letter and one driver was visited by the Neighbourhood Policing Team for being a repeat offender. The maximum speed recorded in a 30mph limit was 52mph.

There are 308 registered groups in Sussex who between them have generated 6612 reports. 395 roadside sessions were carried out last month. More volunteers are always needed.

It was also noted that;
 - i. Only the police can issue fines, Speedwatch Teams are there to educate.
 - ii. A speed monitoring device is being trailed by Sussex Police for the Wealden Joint Action Group which if successful can be lent out to parishes.

- iii. Potential Speedwatch sites have to be assessed and approved by the Police but there aren't enough volunteers to do any more. It was also noted that any volunteers have to be visible and willing to work at all sites.
- iv. Anyone who would like to volunteer can contact the organiser of the Wartling Parish Speedwatch Team through the Parish Council.

i) Trees

There was nothing new to report.

33 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

There were no reports from any outside meetings or courses on this occasion.

34 Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

- To agree the payments list to the 6th July 2022. The payments were as follows;

		<u>£</u>
100984	Zurich - Insurance	241.00
100985	Barkweb - Website Hosting	24.00
100986	Team 4 Solutions - Payroll - May/June	24.00
100987	ESCC - Pension - May/June/July	374.55
100988	HMRC - PAYE	77.40
100989	A Stevens - Salary - May	408.28
100990	A Stevens - Salary - June	395.67
100991	Peter Frost - Internal Audit	110.50
100992	Reid Hall – Jubilee Donation	700.00

- To agree the accounts to 30th May 2022.
- Appoint Peter Frost as their Internal Auditor for 2022-2023.

35 Feasibility Study

After much discussion, having considered the Study and taken into account residents' responses Councillors resolved to;

- i. Organise a Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) Meeting to address residents' concerns at the Tilley Lane end of Boreham Street and look into reducing the speed limits in the parish in general.
- ii. Research speed cameras as a potential way to reduce speeding traffic.

36 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Wartling Parish Council would like to officially thank the organisers of the 'Big Lunch' which was held to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee on the 5th June. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

37 Co-option update

At the last meeting Councillors resolved to co-opt Lyn Lewis to Wartling Parish Council. Mrs Lewis is to attend her first meeting in September.

38 Questions from Parish Councillors

There were no further questions from the Parish Councillors.

39 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications for commenting on at this meeting.

There was no further business so the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Members' Update - East Sussex County Council

June 2022

Business Services

Bespoke initiative supports healthier workplaces

The East Sussex County Council Wellbeing at Work Programme is a bespoke project which works with employers to share resources and deliver training, as well as providing an accreditation scheme, to help boost the health and wellbeing of employees. Just months after its launch, three of the 24 workplaces who have signed up to the Public Health-funded programme have already been recognised for the efforts they have made in supporting their staff.

To achieve awards, companies must complete a number of criteria that introduce policies and initiatives and embeds practices that promote and support health and wellbeing.

Wealden District Council became the first to achieve a bronze Wellbeing at Work Award, closely followed by Crowborough-based manufacturer Servomex which was presented with the same award this month. The Prideaux Group, a chain of three care homes based in Bexhill and Eastbourne also earned the Commitment Award last month.

Communities, Economy and Transport

Apprenticeship boost as roadshows return

The Apprenticeship Roadshows have returned to East Sussex. The Sussex Council of Training Providers, in partnership with East Sussex County Council, are holding events in Hastings and Eastbourne.

Each year around 2,500 apprentices start in East Sussex, providing excellent opportunities for young people beginning their careers and new routes for employees wanting to change direction.

Roadshow attendees will be able to find out more about traineeships and apprenticeships, including higher and degree level apprenticeships, and meet local employers with live apprenticeship vacancies in their area. East Sussex County Council, the NHS and a number of local employers and training providers will be at the roadshows promoting their apprenticeship and training opportunities.

More information is available on the [Careers East Sussex website](#).

Children invited to join the Gadgeteers' Summer Reading Challenge

Young readers in East Sussex are being encouraged to discover the science and innovation in the world around them as they take on the Summer Reading Challenge. East Sussex libraries are calling on children aged four to 12 to read six books over the summer months as part of The Reading Agency's Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge 2022.

This year the Science Museum Group are bringing a science themed challenge to libraries across the county that will inspire youngsters to use their imagination and creativity and show that reading and science are for everyone.

Free science themed workshops and events will also be taking place at East Sussex libraries this summer. In addition, digital skills company TechResort will be running virtual reality sessions and PyBadge coding workshops.

The Summer Reading Challenge starts next month and runs from July 9 to September 10 in all East Sussex libraries.

For more information visit [the East Sussex Libraries](#) and [Summer Reading Challenge](#) websites.

Flying the flag for our armed forces

The annual Armed Forces Day fell on Saturday 25 June. The event is intended to raise awareness of the contribution made by the nation's servicemen and women and to show support for the armed forces.

Cllr Bob Bowdler, the county council's Armed Forces Champion was joined by the Lord-Lieutenant for East Sussex, Andrew Blackman, in raising the flag at County Hall on Monday 20 June.

In 2018 the council was awarded a national accolade for the support it gives to the armed forces community. It received a silver award under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Employer Recognition Support Scheme, which honours employers that show a commitment to supporting current and former military personnel.

The council is a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant, a promise that those who have served in the armed forces are treated fairly and suffer no disadvantage. The award was recognition of the support the council gives to armed forces cadet volunteers, and to members of the Army Reserve and the way it has trained members of staff as armed forces 'champions' under the MoD-funded Forces Connect South East programme.



Funding to boost air quality welcomed by council leaders

Sussex-Air, a partnership of local authorities across Sussex, has been awarded £876,300 from the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) for local projects which will improve air quality across the County.

The first project includes upgrading the exhausts of around 40 double-decker buses serving Brighton & Hove and parts of East and West Sussex to reduce the emissions they produce.

The second project aims to raise public awareness of the impact of air pollution and, alongside an upgraded monitoring network, Sussex-Air partners will relay the science and health impacts of poor air quality to our local communities. The Sussex network of air quality analysers will be supplemented with additional particulate (PM) monitors and a network of sensors.

Major investment in roads and pavements

East Sussex County Council's Cabinet have approved additional, one-off funding of £5.8 million at the end of 2021 to carry out additional work on top of that covered by the annual £20.4 million highways maintenance budget.

Schemes benefitting from the additional funding have now been identified by local East Sussex Highways teams looking at the current condition of roads and pavements, as well as considering issues raised by the public and councillors.

Council leaders agreed to give East Sussex Highways an additional; £2.5 million for extra patching work on road surfaces and to repair potholes; £1.8 million to improve pavements; £1 million to replace aging roads signs, bollards and posts, and £500,000 to refresh lines and road markings.

Further information about work on the county's roads and pavements can be found on the [East Sussex Highways website](#).

Residents begin to reap benefits of library strategy

East Sussex residents are starting to enjoy the benefits of support and activities introduced as part of an updated five-year Library Strategy. The strategy was updated to ensure that the growing needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable are met whilst new, high-quality services that all residents can access and enjoy are developed and enhanced.

The Step into Reading programme has been launched at five East Sussex Libraries and offers one to one mentoring support to help adults learn to read. Young people are also being encouraged to access library services with a range of activities and groups including STEM activities, and homework and activity clubs for primary school children. Young families are also benefitting from the updated strategy with Rhymetimes or Storytimes now running in all 17 county council libraries. Some dual language Storytimes now take place with volunteers offering stories in Polish, Turkish, Spanish, Lithuanian and Russian, with a Ukrainian Storytime being planned.

More information about the strategy, which runs until 2027-28, can be found [on the East Sussex Libraries website](#). The website also contains [a schedule of all events and activities](#).

Cllr Bob Bowdler

Wealden East Division

District Councillors' Report July 2022

Housing

The "Homes for Ukraine" (HfU) scheme is continuing to develop with planned initiatives and responses to unforeseen challenges, being refined.

Although the lead authority is East Sussex County Council, Wealden has been responsible for the subsistence payments to arriving Ukrainian families and the "Thank You" financial contribution to hosts. Due to the unexpected nature of these payments and the need to ensure the integrity of the system, these have been delayed. However, the subsistence scheme went "live" some weeks ago and has been very successful.

The most encouraging aspect of the whole operation is community groups are becoming established and starting to work together. On 13/6/22, Cllr Cade attended a get-together of hosts and Ukrainian families at Hellingly. This is a newly formed group supported by the Parish Council.

On 21/6/22, a similar gathering took place at the State Hall, Heathfield, involving hosts and guests from the Mayfield, Burwash, Heathfield and Hellingly community groups.

At the beginning of the HfU scheme it was recognised, its effectiveness and success relied on local communities welcoming and supporting the refugees. This also meant trying to ensure the various groups shared information, experiences and best practice.

It is also essential and natural Ukrainian families have the opportunity to meet with each other to exchange feelings and experiences. Many have endured difficulties and trauma, both in Ukraine and during their journey to the UK.

It was felt each Ward Councillors should be aware of the number of Ukrainians and hosts in their Ward. Actual details could not be sent out as this would compromise confidentiality rules. So, it was decided to send just the numbers in their area of responsibility. The numbers in the Herstmonceux & Pevensey Levels Ward as at 13/6/22 was 3 guests with 2 hosts.

Waste Management

As you know, the strike by the GMB members working for BIFFA was called off on 14/6/22 following the agreement of an offer. The strikers returned to work the following day, which was mainly spent moving vehicle back to the appropriate depot and in preparations to resume full collections.

Due to catching up with the collection of the refuse, recycle material and garden waste, it is expected it will take three to four weeks to return to normal service. As part of the efforts to quicken that process it was agreed the usual collection start time of 7am would be changed to 6.30 am.

As expected, the GMB took advantage of publicizing the offer by Biffa in much the same way they had done with the Hastings and Rother deals, by declaring it a ground-breaking agreement of a 27% increase.

There were various stages of the negotiations, but, suffice to say the GMB conflated, the offer of 17% increase to establish parity with the deal recently agreed with the two partners of our Joint Waste Contract, plus some bonuses; and an offer of 7% increase in twelve months.

Climate Change

Connected Kerb has been appointed as our partner for the provision of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging in 11 Wealden owned and managed car parks. The initial mobilisation meeting has taken place and Connected

Kerb has begun the technical feasibility work on the best location for charge points within the car parks. The next stage will be physical surveys of the sites following which a timetable of installations will be developed.

East Sussex SPACES Task and Finish Group is collecting information on wider EV charging across East Sussex. This will inform East Sussex County Council on their on-street EV charging strategy going forward.

A Solar PV installation for the Wealden Crematorium was included in the Annual Procurement Programme for 2022/2023 (presented to Cabinet 16 March 2022). The specification has been finalised and the Procurement Hub is presently drafting the tender documentation.

Sussex Solar Together 2021 is progressing well. In Wealden, 835 households have registered an interest in the scheme. So far 189 have accepted their solar PV offer. 72 opted to include an EV charge point quote and 84 added battery storage to their PV. 8 households have accepted an offer for retrofit battery storage to an existing PV system. 52 installations have already been completed.

Unfortunately, due to Covid related impacts, the procured installer for the 2020 scheme has given their notice to exit from the scheme. Following discussions between iChooser (the West Sussex County Council appointed provider of the Solar Together Scheme) and local authorities (including Wealden) any delayed 2020 installations are being given the option to convert to the 2021 scheme. 27 households Wealden households are affected

An update on the HRA Decarbonisation Plan was presented to Cabinet in June. Data validation is in progress in respect of the new Intelligent Energy system linked to the HRA asset database. 97 properties have already been identified for the first focus of improvement work.

Unlock Diplocks – 15 businesses have had an energy audit from LoCASE.

A review of our small fleet vehicles has been undertaken. In addition to the one EV pool car already on the fleet a further three EVs will be replacing vehicles presently used by the Housing and Car Parks teams.

Sadly, the Riding Sunbeams project (a community solar project to link solar generation to the rail network at Selmeston) is no longer continuing. The project hit upon some site-specific technical issues which proved impossible to overcome. Although not progressing the project has been recognised nationally and the learning from it will be used by Network Rail in its commitment to powering its rail network from renewable means.

Emergency Plans

We are working with ESCC to provide a County-wide approach to Town/ Parish Emergency Plans. Templates will be available alongside guidance/ support for completion this summer

Councillors Ray Cade and Pam Doodes
Herstmonceux and Pevensey Levels Ward
July 2022

