

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

2nd March 2022

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

65 Present

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

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

66 Apologies for Absence

District Councillor P Doodes sent apologies for her absence.

67 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 3rd November 2021.

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

68 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

All matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

69 To adopt the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on the 22nd November 2021 and the 14th December 2021

The draft Minutes of both meetings were adopted by the Parish Council.

70 Disclosures of Interests

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

Councillor Stevens said he has been elected as Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils and will update his Register of Interests accordingly.

The meeting was then suspended.

71 To introduce PCSO Geraldine Hodgens

PCSO Hodgens was unable to attend this meeting.

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

County Councillor Bowdler sent the following report;

Adult Social Care

Accessible online safety video launched

A new video has been created to help adults with learning disabilities stay safe online, as part of a competition commissioned by East Sussex County Council and managed by Lewes-based arts charity Culture Shift to develop an adult-appropriate online safety resource.

The winning film, titled 'Safety Net', was designed by Rhiannon Barton, a graduate student from the University of Brighton. It is specifically aimed at people who have autism and/or a learning disability and can be used as part of conversations and training about internet safety.

The film is available to watch on YouTube and tackles issues such as not sharing or watching things which are inappropriate or unpleasant, keeping personal information private, and how to ask for help. It was created in collaboration with learning disabled adults and the soundtrack was provided by local band Delta 7.

More than £4million to support care providers

Over £4million of funding is being shared among East Sussex care providers to ensure support remains available for those in need.

East Sussex County Council was awarded £4.982million from the Government Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund (WRRF) to support providers who are facing unprecedented challenges in retaining their workforce. The funding will be used to provide support in people's own homes and care homes, help to prevent hospital admissions, and boost providers' capacity to deliver more hours of care.

Plans for distribution of the funds were approved last month, following discussions between independent care providers and East Sussex's Lead Members for Adult Social Care and Health.

The grant is the second instalment from a pot of £162.5m distributed to councils.

Communities, Economy and Transport

Economy-boosting access road opens to traffic

The Newhaven Port Access Road, an integral part of the Newhaven Enterprise Zone, has officially opened to traffic and will provide a crucial boost to the town's economy.

The new road creates direct access to East Quay and allocated development land, opening up 80,000 square metres of business space and allowing the creation of new jobs.

The road was funded by a £10 million grant from the Department for Transport and £13.2 million from East Sussex County Council's capital programme – money set aside for one-off projects.

In July 2021, the new cycle path and footway that runs alongside the road opened, providing pedestrian access to Tide Mills and the beach. The new path also links with existing footpaths north and south of Mill Creek to create new circular walking and cycling routes.

Funding agreed for 'community' road works

Plans to make more money available for road safety works in East Sussex have been approved by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment.

Around £750,000 of unused money from the council's Community Match programme will instead be spent on a wide range of road improvement projects which would not usually meet funding criteria, such as traffic islands or dropped kerbs.

Chosen works will address safety concerns, cost no more than £40,000 and be identified by considering a range of issues and specific site characteristics. Funding for these works will be made available in the coming months.'

The County Council is also currently negotiating its new roads' maintenance contract which is worth £750m. £1.3m has also been allocated to repair potholes each year.

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

District Councillor Cade said;

- The Covid grants are coming to an end and some have now gone. £68m has been distributed.
- Those eligible to receive the £150 rebate from Central Government, ie; those in Council Tax Band A-D properties, should receive confirmation shortly. Anyone who is eligible but doesn't is asked to let him know.
- Wealden initiated its Emergency Plan during the recent storms. Its Emergency Hub took in phone calls from those who were struggling. He asked anyone who is still experiencing hardship to contact him for assistance.

74 Questions from Members of the Public

Residents asked;

- For an update on the road safety meeting held by the MP in September. Councillor Stevens said he understands there will be a follow up meeting in June.
- What is happening about getting a speed recording camera in Boreham Street. Councillor Stevens attended a Road Safety Group Meeting where he was told the Police has one in storage which they plan to bring back and, if it is successful, the Joint Action Group (JAG) will buy one more for parishes to use. The data from these cameras can then be used by the Police. A smaller version of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) which fits inside police cars may also be purchased by JAG for use in the district. It is understood that some parishes have bought their own cameras but the data collected from these is not official and cannot be used.

In the meantime, Wartling Parish Council continues to carry out regular Speedwatch sessions and East Sussex Fire and Rescue also send out teams to monitor the speed. Data from these sessions is then sent to the police via Operation Crackdown.

The meeting was then re-opened.

75 Reports

- a) Planning – Councillor Stevens attended the latest South East Parish Cluster Meeting. The Strategic and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) has been delayed because of technical issues. The Local Plan is due out for consultation in the spring but may be delayed if the Government White Paper on Levelling Up isn't out in time. Wealden is lobbying Central Government to change the housing numbers, as are 25 other Parish Councils in the District led by Councillor Mikelis from Chiddingly Parish Council. Councillors resolved unanimously to join those parishes and support Chiddingly Parish Council in its efforts to convince Central Government to modify its planning policies.

There has been no news on the latest planning application for The Lamb.

- b) Environment North

The recent storms affected the parish badly. Several trees came down, the Wartling Road was closed as a result and residents suffered power cuts lasting several days. Everything is now back to normal.

- c) Footpaths

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

d) Environment South

Councillor Ashley asked the Parish Council to consider planting bee friendly plants at the Village Hall and on the roadside verges. She was advised to ask the Village Hall Committee to consider planting there and County Councillor Bowdler agreed to ask the County Council if it will support planting on the verges. 'Planting on the verges' will then be an item on the next agenda.

e) Highways

This was covered under Environment North.

f) Police

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

g) Communication

There was nothing new to report.

h) Speedwatch

The latest Speedwatch Sessions were cancelled because of the bad weather but more will be taking place soon.

i) Trees

This was covered under Environment North.

76 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

Councillor Stevens attended the South East Parish Cluster Meeting in February, details of which were covered under 'Planning'.

77 Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

- To agree the payments list to the 2nd March 2022. Councillors also approved the cleaning of the bus shelter in Boreham Street.
- To agree the accounts to date.

The Feasibility Report is due soon. The verges in Boreham Street have been cut back in the meantime.

78 Parish Council Vacancies

At the last meeting Councillors resolved to hold an informal meeting in January to try and recruit more councillors but the meeting was postponed because of the Omicron variant. Councillors resolved to attend the AGM of the Village Hall Committee instead because there will be a significant number of residents there.

79 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Herstmonceux Parish Council has invited Wartling Parish Council to join in with events it is proposing to hold to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which are;

- i. The lighting of the beacon on the 2nd June.
- ii. A Tea Party in the Village Hall on the 3rd June.

- iii. A Gig in the Garden at Cowbeech on the 3rd June in the evening.
- iv. An Orchard View Tea Party for those at Windmill Hill on the 4th June.
- v. A Children Focused Day at the Village Hall or Village Green on the 4th June.
- vi. Saturday afternoon races/mini sports day on the Village Green.
- vii. A Church Service at Herstmonceux Church followed by a barbeque or picnic on the 5th June.
- viii. A Jubilee Tea at Cowbeech on the 5th June.

The Reid Hall Committee in Boreham Street is holding a lunch for Wartling Parish residents on the 5th June at 2pm. The lunch will include roast pork, ice cream rolls, paella and bring your own drinks. The charge, supported by the Village Hall, will be £5 per head.

Wartling Parish Council unanimously resolved to donate £700 towards the event because it was felt it would also give residents a lift after the pandemic. The Hall Committee agreed to also plant some bulbs to commemorate the Jubilee.

80 Questions from Parish Councillors

There were no further questions from the Parish Councillors.

81 Planning Applications

Councillors commented on the following planning application;

WD/2022/0117/F - Highlands House, Boreham Street, Herstmonceux, BN27 4SD - Conversion of existing and previously approved double garage with accommodation above to create a single bedroom annex at ground and first floor – Wartling Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as the new accommodation is tied to the existing property and cannot be sold separately.

There was no further business so the meeting closed at 8.15pm.