

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
of Wartling Parish Council held at The Reid Hall in Boreham Street on Wednesday
10th May 2023

1. Present

Cllrs K Stevens (Chairman), C Paterson, W Reid and M Shine.

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

2. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Welcome and Signing in of New Council

Councillors duly completed their Acceptance of Office, Register of Interests and Consent to Receive Forms and handed them to the Clerk.

4. Election of Chairman

Councillor Paterson proposed and Councillor Reid seconded Councillor Stevens for the role of Chairman. Councillor Stevens duly accepted the role.

5. Election of Vice-Chairman

Councillor Stevens proposed and Councillor Paterson seconded Councillor Reid for the role of Vice-Chairman. Councillor Reid accepted the role.

6. Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 1st March 2023 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

All matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

8. Areas of Responsibility

Councillors were appointed the following areas of responsibility;

Planning	Cllr Stevens
Environment	Cllr Shine
Footpaths	Cllr Reid
Highways	Cllrs Paterson and Shine
Police	Cllrs Stevens
Communication (to include responsibility for both the website and the community distribution list)	Cllr Reid
Speedwatch	Mr Lawrence/All Councillors
Tree Warden	Cllr Paterson

9. To adopt the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Councillors resolved to adopt the latest NALC Standing Orders and Financial Regulations which had been distributed to all Councillors before the meeting.

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

The following appointments were agreed;

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

11. To approve the accounts for the financial year to 31st March 2023.

Councillors resolved;

- i. to approve the Annual Governance Statement, the Risk Assessment, the Asset List and the Statement of Internal Control for the financial year to 31st March 2023.
- ii. to approve the Accounting Statements for the financial year to 31st March 2023.
- iii. to confirm the dates for the Exercise for Elector's Rights as the 5th June 2023 and end on the 14th July 2023.
- iv. that they are exempt from an External Audit for the year to 31st March 2023 because the Parish Council's receipts and payments for the year were each less than £25000.
- v. that the following subscriptions and insurance will continue;
 - Wealden District Association of Local Councils (£15.00)
 - Society of Local Council Clerks (£30.00)
 - East Sussex Association of Local Councils (£131.09)
 - Zurich Insurance (£264.00)
 - Information Commissioner (£40.00)
- vi. to approve the following payments;

	£
101011 ESALC Ltd - Subscriptions	131.09
101012 ESCC - Verge Cutting	350.60
101013 Information Commissioner - Subscription	40.00
101014 Zurich - Insurance	264.00
101015 ESCC - Pension	227.74
101016 A Stevens - Salary - March	401.07
101017 A Stevens - Salary - April	401.07
- vii. the bank signatories will be Councillors Stevens, Paterson, Reid and Shine and the Clerk.
- viii. the Internal Auditor for 2023-2024 will be Mike Platten, April Skies Accounting as our existing Internal Auditor is retiring this month.

12. Code of Conduct

Councillors **resolved;**

- i. to re-adopt and abide by the Code of Conduct introduced by Wealden District Council under the Localism Act 2012.
- ii. To re-adopt the Civility and Respect Pledge.

13. Meeting Dates for the Ensuing Year

Councillors resolved the meeting dates for 2023-2024 will be;

2023

Wednesday 5 th July	7.30pm
Wednesday 6 th September	7.30pm

Wednesday 1st November 7.30pm

2024

Wednesday 11 th January	7.30pm
Wednesday 6 th March	7.30pm
Wednesday 1 st May	7.30pm
Wednesday 3 rd July	7.30pm
Wednesday 4 th September	7.30pm
Wednesday 6 th November	7.30pm

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

The meeting was suspended.

15. Brief Report from the County Councillor on matters from the County Council affecting this Parish

There was nothing new to report because updates were given at the Parish Assembly.

16. Brief Report from the District Councillor on matters from the District Council affecting this Parish

There was nothing new to report because updates were given at the Parish Assembly.

17. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no further questions from any members of the public and the meeting was then re-opened.

18. Feasibility Study

- i. As a result of a discussion Councillor Stevens had with ESCC Highways Councillors asked him to get prices to repaint the white lines on the Wartling Road and Boreham Street because it will make the roads look narrower and help reduce speeding. Highways told Councillor Stevens they will not accept any other measures at the current time.
- ii. The Safer Wealden Partnership has agreed to lend Wartling Parish Council a Black Cat Speed Monitoring Device provided those who use it have received training. The members of Speedwatch have agreed to undertake the training required. The device will then be used to collect traffic data.

19. Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Shine said he attended a meeting with Sussex Police in March where he was told about Operation Downsway.

Operation Downsway is its annual campaign to tackle anti-social road users and positively influence drivers and motorcyclists to drive responsibly, considerately, and safely.

Every weekend between April and September officers from teams across the force will take part in the dedicated operation, providing a highly visible presence on the road network in Sussex and taking enforcement action where necessary.

Councillor Stevens asked the Parish Council to consider sponsoring a prize at this year's Windmill Hill Summer Show. This will be an item for the next Parish Council Meeting agenda.

There was no further business and the meeting concluded at 8.40pm.