

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 in the Reid Hall, Boreham Street

1. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Welcome by the Chairman of Wartling Parish Council

The Chairman, Keith Stevens, welcomed the eight members of the public who were in attendance.

4. Report from District Councillor Paul Coleshill

District Councillor Coleshill introduced himself and said that;

- i. He aims to make the planning system more open.
- ii. Residents will be able to get in touch with him through the District Council.
- iii. The Planning Inspector often overrides residents' objections because the Government's priority is to build more houses.

District Councillor Coleshill then left the meeting.

5. Report from the Chairman of Wartling Parish Council, Keith Stevens

Councillor Stevens read from his report which said;

'Financially we had another good year. Our income was £8096 and our expenditure £8886. A loss of just under £800 but that was because we contributed £700 to the Village Hall towards the Jubilee celebrations. We have sufficient reserves plus CIL monies of just under £16000. I very much hope we will expend these CIL monies before the end of this year.

I appreciate everyone's concern about the roads in our Parish especially the number of speeding cars and the volume of large lorries.

As I said last year SpeedWatch continues and the Police say the data they collect proves it is successful in reducing speeds even when we are not standing by the side of the roads in our highly visible coats.

Planning seems to be ok with WDC normally agreeing with our comments. I was especially pleased that the Planning Inspectorate agreed with our views regarding Wartlings Woods and recognised the importance on preserving ancient woodland.

But my main task here today is to thank people for all they do to help our community:-

The Village Hall team for all the work they do in running this hall.

Richard Lawrence and his SpeedWatch team who welcomed Mike Shine as a new member this year if anyone else is interested let Richard know.

And thanks to our outgoing District Councillors...Pam Doodles and Ray Cade. Ray joined us four years ago but Pam has been involved for many years since before I started...so being a gentleman too many to mention. Welcome to our new District Councillors Paul Coleshill who is here this evening and Mark Fairweather.

Also thanks to our County Councillor Bob Bowdler...hopefully we can work closely re our roads over the coming months and utilise our CIL monies.

And a thank you to my fellow Councillors Chris and Will and the new boy on the block Mike. And not forgetting Eve Ashley who did not stand for re-election as she is moving away from the parish.

And a special thank to our Parish Clerk who helps guide us to do things correctly and in the best interest of the residents.

And my final thanks is to you the residents of Wartling for your continued support.'

6. Dick Broady, Community Fire Safety, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service

Mr Broady reported that during 2018-19 there were 30000 house fires in the UK. 14,500 of those homes did not have working smoke alarms. A third of all deaths were people over 65.

East Sussex Fire and Rescue (ESFR) therefore offers free home safety visits during which they;

- i. Give advice.
- ii. Fit new smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- iii. Check electrics.
- iv. Look at people's habits.
- v. Suggest the best route out of a home and recommend an assembly point.
- vi. Provide smokers blankets.

Letter box sealing, door braces, tremble alarms and silent alarms are also available to anyone experiencing domestic violence. A befriending service is also available.

Leaflets providing more information can be found at www.esfrs.org, the Parish Council's website or by calling 0800 177 7069

Businesses can benefit from Fire Safety Training and can find out more by calling 0303 999 1000.

7. Penny Vasey, Chair of Windmill Hill Horticultural Society

Mrs Vasey encouraged everyone to join the Windmill Hill Horticultural Society (WHHS) which was established in 1884.

The WHHS offers residents;

- i. An Annual Summer Show on the first Saturday every August.
- ii. Meets regularly at the Reid Hall and invites speakers to talk about matters of local interest.
- iii. Annual outings, for example to Furness Brook.

Annual membership is £5, the Society is affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society and its members get to go to Wisley once a year for free.

Members also receive the RHS Garden Magazine.

Admissions to meetings is £3, or £1.50 for members which includes tea, coffee and biscuits. New members are always welcome.

More details about the WHHS can be found at www.windmillhillhortsoc.org.uk

8. Mr Derek Willis, Chair of the Reid Hall

Mr Willis said it has been an interesting year for the hall which has not yet recovered from the pandemic. As a result revenue is down and it relies heavily on the work of its volunteers.

The Trustees hosted a successful Jubilee event last June, have planted 1400 daffodils which were donated free of charge and now regard the hall as future proof maintenance wise although work will be required to the car park and roof and the heating will need to be updated at some point. The electricity meter has also been changed recently and energy costs are being carefully monitored.

9. Report from the County Councillor

County Councillor B Bowdler sent a written report which is attached to these minutes and an Annual Statement from the Democratic Services Team, a copy of which is available from the Parish Clerk on request.

He also said that;

- i. the County Council has as a result of the recent elections got the message to pull its fingers out. It still doesn't have enough money to carry out all the work needed though.
- ii. The new Highways Contractor has promised to increase manpower, improve working practices and jet patch more.
- iii. CIL contributions get distributed to local authorities and are funding the improvements planned for the A22.

10. Reports from Clubs and Associations

Mr Lawrence told everyone about the work of the Men's Shed and Community Workshop. It meets at Herstmonceux Castle every Wednesday between 10am and 5pm and in the summer also on Monday's from 10am to 12pm. Women are also members.

Equipment is available and those attending can work on either their own or on community projects. Expert help, which includes furniture and upholstery advice, is also on hand.

Membership is £1 a year and the £1 entry fee includes tea.

More details about the Workshop are available from Richard Lawrence on rlawrence.wpc@btinternet.com.

11. Open Forum

Residents reported a tree overhanging the road and damaging vehicles which use Jenners Lane. Councillor Reid has been to look and will report the matter to ESCC for action.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Members' Update - East Sussex County Council - April 2023

From Cllr Bob Bowdler

(Wealden East Division:- Heathfield, Horam, Hooe, Herstmonceux, Ninfield, Warbleton & Wartling parishes)

Tributes paid to dedicated, long-serving councillor



Tributes have been paid following the death of long-serving county councillor Rupert Simmons, who has died at the age of 70.

Councillor Simmons represented the Heathfield and Mayfield division and served as a Cabinet member responsible for economy. He also served as Chairman of the County Council between 2009 and 2011.

In his own division, Councillor Simmons chaired the Healthfield Partnership Trust for 20 years and was well known and respected among residents.

The East Sussex County Council flag was raised and lowered to half-mast in tribute to Councillor Simmons, while councillors attending the meeting of Cabinet on 18 April fell silent to remember him.

Read the full tribute to Councillor Simmons [here](#).

Adult Social Care

Cost of living payment: millions to get help to pay bills

The [BBC](#) has reported that low-income households are now starting to receive the latest cost-of-living payment to tackle ongoing high bills.

Eight million means-tested benefits claimants, including people on Universal Credit, should receive the £301 instalment between 25 April and 17 May. Further payments will come in the autumn and the following spring. More than 6 million people with disabilities will get an extra £150 during the summer, and over 8 million pensioners will receive an extra £300 next winter.

Cost-of-living payments were originally introduced to help struggling families cope with the soaring cost of gas and electricity. Two payments totalling £650 were made last year.

The latest £301 will be paid directly into eligible recipients' bank accounts, without the need to make a claim. The amount is £301 to distinguish it from the next two instalments, which will be for £300 and £299.

More information about the cost-of-living payment and who is eligible to claim it can be found [here](#).

Communities, Economy and Transport

Turner Prize exhibition and ceremony to take place in Eastbourne gallery

Towner Eastbourne has been given the honour of hosting the Turner Prize in September. The prize, established in 1984, is the most high-profile award in contemporary British art. It will be the first time that the ceremony has been held in Sussex.

The presentation of the 2023 prize is part of Towner 100, a year-long centenary celebration of arts and culture across Eastbourne. The programme launched with two displays exploring the Towner Collection past and present. It will continue with a large-scale exhibition of sculptures by the artist Barbara Hepworth, followed by the presentation of the Turner Prize in the autumn.

The shortlist for the prize was announced in April. Exhibitions of the nominees' work will be available for the public to view between 28 September 2023 and 14 April 2024.

More information about the exhibition can be found [here](#).

Jaqueline Wilson reflects on her love of libraries following Seaford visit

Following her visit to Seaford Library in March, beloved children's author and East Sussex resident Jaqueline Wilson spoke to the Your East Sussex (YES) team about her love of libraries, which began when she was given special permission to join her childhood library at six years old.

She described her history as a junior journalist, as well as her aim to reflect real life in her books – often writing about topics such as fostering, adoption and divorce. After a number of years in London, the author moved to East Sussex.

For many years in the 2000s, Wilson was the most borrowed author in Britain's libraries. Many of her most loved books are available to borrow from East Sussex libraries, including Tracey Beaker, Hetty Feather, and The Runaway Girls. More information about this story can be found [here](#).

For your information: **Meetings I attended in April as your County Councillor:**

ESCC 4 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefings
ESCC Digital 'Inspire' Event - Hastings
Horam Parish Council
Herstmonceux Parish Council
ESCC Cabinet Briefing
ESCC Representative at Chichester Cathedral
ESCC Cabinet
Corporate Parenting Panel
Visit to Childrens Placements, Hailsham
Heathfield Works Workshop
Fiduciary Training session
ESSCP Board



Wealden East Division
5/5/23