

## **WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL**

### **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF**

1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

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

The meeting began with a minute's silence to remember Hugh Parkes, a former Chairman of Wartling Parish Council, who died in January.

94 Present

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

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

95 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor E Ashley. The reasons for her apologies were accepted by the Full Council.

District Councillor R Cade also sent apologies for his absence.

96 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

97 Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were adopted by the Full Council.

98 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

Any matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

99 Disclosures of Interests

There were no disclosures of interests on any items on the agenda nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

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

County Councillor Bowdler sent a written report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

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

District Councillor Doodles sent a copy of the District Councillors' report, a copy of which is also attached to these minutes.

Councillor Shine congratulated Wealden on its plan to install more electric car charging points in the District and for also encouraging residents to use their High Streets more but he wondered if the two policies conflict, because electric car charging places reduce the number of parking spaces at a

time when parking at The Quintins has been reduced from three hours to two. District Councillor Doodles explained that the charging points are needed by some and each one should only result in the loss of one of two spaces.

102 Questions from Members of the Public

Ms Jones reported a low branch over-hanging the road in Jenners Lane. Councillor Reid will take a look and report back.

The meeting was then re-opened.

103 Reports

a) Planning

The Appeal for planning application WD/2021/2059/F (Land at Dragonfly Fields, Jenners Lane) has been Dismissed.

Councillor Stevens encouraged residents to read the Appeal Decision which can be found at; [WD-2021-2059-F Appeal Documentation APPEAL DECISION 3302843.pdf](#)

b) Environment North

The new development at the former Horseshoe Inn means some of the residents in Windmill Hill have nowhere to park. Work to try and resolve the situation is ongoing.

c) Footpaths

There was nothing new to report about the footpaths in the parish.

d) Environment South

There was nothing new to report from Environment South.

e) Highways

This was covered later on in the meeting.

f) Police

There was nothing new to report.

g) Communication

Reports continue to be sent out via the village email distribution list. Anyone who is not included and would like to be is asked to contact the Parish Clerk.

h) Speedwatch

There have been five Speedwatch sessions since the last Parish Council Meeting. 11 offences were recorded, 10 letters were sent out and the highest speed recorded was 47mph in a 30mph limit. More volunteers are still needed.

i) Trees

This was covered under Environmental North.

104 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

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

105 Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

- To approve the payments list to the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023. The payments were as follows;

		<u>£</u>
101006	ESALC – Councillor Training	48.00
101007	A Stevens - Salary - January	400.87
101008	A Stevens - Salary - February	400.87
101009	ESCC – Pensions	236.64
101010	HMRC - PAYE	120.60

- To approve the accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

106 Highways

1: At the last meeting it was reported that Herstmonceux and Catsfield Parish Council both have speed monitoring (cat) devices and the Clerk was asked to find out if they would be prepared to lend them to us but as neither was, Councillors asked her to see if they will rent them out instead. She will also find out how much it would cost to buy our own.

Councillor Stevens is still chasing the Wealden Safer Partnership one and expects to have an update soon.

The Parish Council understands that within a year the police will be able to request to retrieve speed data on all new cars.

2: Road Safety Officers have assessed road safety at Tilley Lane. Their report is as follows;

'There is a yellow backed junction warning sign with supplementary '140 yds' distance plate on the A271 The Strait to the west of Tilley Lane facing eastbound vehicles. This sign was supplemented by a SLOW road marking, however, when carriageway repair works were carried out last year by East Sussex Highways this road marking was not re-instated. I have contacted East Sussex Highways to request that this road marking is re-instated as soon as possible.

There is a junction warning sign with supplementary '60 yds' distance plate on the A271 The Strait to the east of Tilley Lane facing westbound vehicles which is not supplemented with a SLOW road marking, so I shall arrange for one to be installed in the westbound carriageway and trust this will meet with your approval.

The junction is within a 40mph speed limit and there have been no reported personal injury crashes at the junction in the most recent 10 year period. With the addition of the SLOW road markings, I am satisfied that drivers will have sufficient information to negotiate this stretch of road and junction safely'.

3: Councillors resolved to commission a Feasibility Study for Wartling Road to see if anything can be done to reduce speeds there.

4: Councillors resolved to accept the kind offer from Mr and Mrs Parker to clean the bus shelter outside Boreham House.

5: Councillors resolved not to support the letter sent by Hadlow Down Parish Council. Whilst they agreed with them about the state of the roads they felt that the money spent on a legal case would

be better spent repairing the roads. Councillor Shine asked if it might be better practice to share letters that achieve results instead.

107 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Reid invited everyone to attend the Reid Hall AGM on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Tickets cost £10, include two glasses of wine and can be bought by calling 07809 383482 or 07801 708937.

108 Planning Applications

WD/2021/2025/LBR - Windmill Hill Place, Windmill Hill, Wartling, BN27 4RZ - Retention of repair works to main roof – Wartling Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as it meets the Listed Building Requirements.

There was no further business so the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

## East Sussex County Council Report – February 23 From Cllr Bob Bowdler

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

### Adult Social Care

#### Members of the public encouraged to share views on health and wellbeing service

East Sussex residents are being encouraged to share their views on proposed changes to One You East Sussex, the integrated health and wellbeing service for people living in the county. The council is considering changing how the service supports residents when the current contract ends in March 2024.

One You East Sussex helps residents to eat well, manage their weight, move more, quit smoking and drink less. The service supports approximately 5000 residents each year.

The proposed change would still see holistic health assessments offered to all eligible residents, and everyone would have access to online support programmes to help them make changes to their health-related behaviours. More intensive support, such as weight management group delivered in person or face-to-face support from a health coach, would only be routinely offered to those with the highest needs who could gain the greatest health benefits.

This change would help the service tackle health inequalities by offering greater levels of support to those who need it the most, including those living in areas with high levels of deprivation, where life expectancy is lower than average, or to people living with a disability or mental health issue.

Any savings from the proposed changes would be used by the service to help it achieve the best possible health outcomes for residents and communities. The consultation also seeks people's views on the possible ways any saving could be re-invested back into the service.

The consultation can be completed online [here](#).

#### Council backs national HIV testing week campaign

As part of a national awareness week which commenced on 6 February, people across East Sussex are being encouraged to regularly test for HIV.

The council is backing the new National HIV Testing Week campaign, 'I Test', which aims to encourage more people to get tested and help stop the spread of the virus. The annual awareness programme is part of the government's action plan to reduce new HIV infections by 80 percent by 2025 and eradicate new cases of HIV by 2030.

Testing for HIV is quick, confidential, and can even be done at home. Free finger-prick tests, delivered in discreet packaging, can be ordered online [here](#). The results are available to receive via text. In addition to at-home testing, people can also get tested at their local GP surgery or specialist sexual health clinic.

Further advice and support can be found on the [East Sussex Sexual Health Website](#).

## Communities, Economy and Transport

### East Sussex marks anniversary of Ukraine Invasion

On Friday 24 February, the Ukrainian flag was raised in solidarity with the people of Ukraine as the country marks the anniversary of the Russian invasion. At 11am, the council joined the national one-minute silence to commemorate one year since the start of the year.

East Sussex residents have shown their continuing and steadfast support for Ukrainians during the last 12 months. Over 500 host families are currently offering shelter to those fleeing the conflict, with more than 1,400 Ukrainian guests now living in the country. A further 300 guests are expected to arrive locally during the coming weeks. Numerous local groups and organisations have provided activities and support to assist Ukrainian guests in getting to know their new communities.

As the war continues, more Ukrainians are having to leave their homeland and the council is seeking more host families. Information on hosting Ukrainian guests, the support available to those arriving in East Sussex and other ways people can help is available [here](#).

### Families urged to claim fruit and vegetable payments

Families are being urged to check their eligibility for help to buy milk and food through the NHS Healthy Start initiative. As well as providing funds each month to buy milk, fruit and vegetables, the scheme also allows those who are eligible to obtain free vitamins.

Women who are over 10 weeks pregnant and families with a child under 4 who are in receipt of certain benefits can apply for the scheme. It is estimated that over 1400 eligible families in East Sussex are missing out on at least £320,000 of available funding every year.

People who qualify will be sent a Healthy Start card with money loaded onto it; this can be used in shops such as supermarkets, convenience stores, petrol stations and pharmacies that display the Mastercard® symbol and sell healthy food and milk. The card can be used to buy plain liquid cow's milk; fresh, frozen, and tinned fruit and vegetables; fresh, dried, and tinned pulses and infant formula milk based on cow's milk. It can also be used to get Healthy Start Women's vitamin tablets and children's vitamin drops for free.

More information on the Healthy Start initiative and details of how to apply can be found [here](#).

### Library book amnesty to be held across East Sussex

A book amnesty is being held in libraries across the county to recover many missing library books. From February 13 to March 31, fines will be waived by the library service for any books returned.

Popular titles such as *The Hungry Caterpillar*, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *The Gruffalo* are some of the overdue children's books. Over 70 copies of children's titles by Roald Dahl are currently missing from East Sussex libraries.

Books can be returned to any East Sussex library during opening hours. Alternatively, most libraries have drop boxes for out of hours returns. Residents who are not finished with the books they currently have out on loan are being encouraged to renew them as soon as possible.

Details on the locations of local libraries can be found [here](#).

Further information about how to renew books can be found [here](#).

## **Childrens' Services:**

### Use of Household Support Fund approved to support vulnerable households

At the meeting of 27 February, the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability resolved to approve the proposed use of £2,052,500 of the Household Support Fund to provide support to households with children between 1 April – 30 September 2023.

The scheme provides a further opportunity to extend the support to households with children, households with pensioners, households with a disabled person and other vulnerable households within East Sussex who are experiencing financial challenges.

The minutes of the meeting can be found [here](#).

### East Sussex County Council signs new Armed Forces Covenant

At the meeting of 14 February, the Lead Member for Children & Families and Armed Forces Champion resolved to agree to the pledges outlined by the East Sussex County Council Armed Forces Covenant and to sign the updated document.

The re-submission of the Covenant demonstrates the council's continued support to the Armed Forces Community and Veterans and allows for the council to aim for Gold Accreditation on the Employers Recognition Scheme in 2023.

The minutes of the meeting can be found [here](#).

## **Governance Services**

### Budget protecting vital services approved

The county council's 2023/24 budget, which will pay for services including roads, libraries, and support for vulnerable adults and children, was approved at a meeting of the Full Council on Tuesday, February 7. The authority's plan for delivering its priorities in the coming year was also announced.

As well as day-to-day spending on services, Full Council also approved the proposed capital programme, which includes investment in improvements to the highways infrastructure, school places, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) provision, as well as further supporting the council's commitment to reduce its carbon footprint from its operations.

The Council Plan for the coming financial year was also announced. This sets out the programme of how services will be delivered, including improved bus services, integrated care services, a new strategy for providing Special Educational Needs and Disability support for East Sussex children, and the development of a new economic strategy for the county.

The full report can be found [here](#).

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

ESCC 4 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefings  
ESCC Fostering Service  
ESCC Full Council  
Census Data Training  
Horam Parish Council DNA  
ESCC Armed Forces Champion meeting

ESCC Planning Committee  
ESCC Adoption Service Briefing  
ESCC Cabinet Briefing  
Herstmonceux Parish Council  
East Sussex Combatting Drugs Workshop Day 1  
East Sussex Inter Generation Drugs Workshop Day 2  
Armed Forces Awareness  
Hooe Parish Council DNA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. B. H.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wealden East Division  
1/3/23



## **District Councillor Report Wartling Parish Council February 2023**

### **Waste Management**

Despite some disruption to services during the icy conditions before Christmas, waste collection performance remains good with an average of 44 missed bins per 100,000 collections. The Contract Service Level Agreement requires 77 or fewer missed bins per 100,000 collections. Improvements have been made in particular for customers with assisted collections, with a reduction of 70% of missed bins.

Work continues to enable the introduction of Hydro-treated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as a drop-in replacement fuel for regular diesel for the waste collection and street cleansing fleet of vehicles, saving up to 90% on overall carbon emissions.

The full year 2021/22 recycling data showed an improvement from last year with 49.1% of waste collected and recycled, compared to 48.4% for the previous year. It is anticipated that the industrial action during 2022, and the temporary suspension of all recycling and garden waste collections for a period of 6 weeks, will adversely affect recycling performance for 2022/23 although, this is expected to recover again in 2023/24.

### **Street Scene**

Street cleansing performance remains good with the latest independent survey for street cleanliness reporting all measures such as litter, detritus and dog fouling being within contractual targets. Fly tipping incidents have reduced by 13% for Q3 2022/23, compared to the same period the previous year.

### **Housing**

**Ukraine:** The government announced £650m new funding to support refugees for Ukraine as well as changes to the level of tariff payments for councils and thank you payments for hosts.

The biggest component is a £500m capital fund for new housing to alleviate local housing and homelessness pressures.

We have decided to take up the offer and match fund (60% WDC – 40% Government) the purchasing of 10 properties in order to provide temporary and “move on” accommodation for our Ukrainian guests along with funding the acquisition of two four bed properties to accommodate two Afghan refugee families. This is to help relieve the situation of a substantial number of Afghan refugees being accommodated in hotels around the UK.

**Homelessness Prevention Grant:** The government has confirmed allocations for the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG) in 2023-24 and 2024-25. Funding will continue to be allocated direct to district councils. You can find details of each council’s allocation.

**Damp & Mould in housing:** Social housing has the lowest proportion of non-decent homes of all housing tenures at just 13% compared to 16% of owner occupiers and 21% of private rented.

However, there are lessons to be learnt from such cases and we strive, as we have always done at Wealden, to continue to improve the quality of our housing and service to our tenants.

We inspect all properties where we are notified of damp and mould and work with our contractors to ensure they report any signs of mould when undertaking any type of repair, so that we can initiate a proactive response. As a holistic Housing service, we have plans in place for increasing welfare visits and stock condition inspections, to highlight potential issues earlier.

### **Corporate Plan 2023 - 2027**

Work is continuing apace. Following extensive consultation last year the plan will be titled ‘Ambitious for our future and based on 4 themes: Engaged Communities; Sustainable Environment; Thriving Economy; Ambitious Council.

## **Climate Change**

Work continues on the roll out of electric vehicle charging in WDC car parks. A webinar on the project and the way parish and town councils can facilitate public charging of their own held on 1<sup>st</sup> December was well attended and a number of town and parish councils have already made contact with, Connected Kerb, to investigate potential sites. We now have final designs for the charger locations and are just undertaking some final due diligence regarding where cables will need to be laid and what permissions are needed. It is hoped that on the ground installation should start sometime in the coming couple of months.

## **Emergency Planning**

Lessons are being learned from the Major Incident declared w/c 19<sup>th</sup> December which saw residents across Sussex and in particular the Crowborough area without water for several days.

## **Food Hygiene Rating Scheme**

The number of very good businesses continues to be a high percentage at 76%. 8 businesses were failing in December and are being monitored.

70% of food businesses have been inspected, by 1 January, which are due to be inspected this financial year. We should achieve almost 100 percent of the programme by the end of the year.

## **Communications**

Work to celebrate Wealden District Council's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024 is continuing. The authority was established in 1974 following the Local Government Act 1972 and we are looking at ways to mark the occasion with civic celebrations as well as those within the community.

## **The following Press Releases may be of interest:**

### **a) Benefits service drop-in session comes to Pevensey Bay**

Residents living in Wealden are invited to a benefits drop-in session in Pevensey Bay on Tuesday 7 March. The event is being held in St Wilfrid Church on the corner of Eastbourne Road and Collier Road, and residents do not need an appointment to attend the session, which is from 12pm-4pm.

### **b) Construction starts on new Changing Places unit in Wealden facility in Pevensey Bay.**

Wealden District Council contractors are currently building the foundations on which the Changing Places unit, being purchased from Rise Adaptions Ltd, will stand next to the existing council-run toilets in the Sea Road Car Park. Work has begun on a new Changing Places

### **c) Free NHS health checks offered to residents in Wealden**

Free NHS health checks are to take place across the Wealden district in partnership with One You East Sussex. Wealden District Council is delivering a Wealden road show provided by One You East Sussex, a free holistic lifestyle service for residents of East Sussex

### **d) Wealden council is finalist in national award**

Wealden District Council is a 2022 finalist for two awards in the Great British Workplace Wellbeing Awards. Shortlisted for the Best Support to Remote Workers, Wealden Council has shown support to its employees through the lockdowns and has continued to allow flexibility of a hybrid-working model, along with the wellbeing support that can be accessed from the offices and remotely to ensure employees have an effective work-life balance.

### **e) Wealden District Council hosted the Wealden Community Lottery launch recently**

to give good causes a first look at how the lottery will work, as well as giving them a chance to sign up and raise awareness leading up to tickets going on sale.

The event – on Wednesday 1 February at Hailsham Civic Community Hall – was a great success, with 117 people attending from a range of local organisations within the Wealden community.

**Cllrs Ray Cade and Pam Doodes**  
**February 2023**

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