

## **WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL**

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

1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

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

49 Present

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

A Stevens (Clerk) and seventeen members of the public were also in attendance.

50 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor B Bowdler and District Councillor M Fairweather.

51 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

52 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

Any matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

53 Disclosures of Interests

There were no declarations of interests or changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

54 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.

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

There was no report from the District Councillor on this occasion.

56 Questions from Members of the Public

Residents;

- i. Asked the Parish Council to consider putting a grit bin at the junction of Wood Lane and The Strait. Councillors agreed to include this on the agenda for the next meeting. The Clerk will seek costings in the meantime.
- ii. Recommended the new Flexi Bus, details of which can be found on the ESCC website.

The meeting was then re-opened.

57 Planning Applications

Wartling Parish Council commented on the following planning applications:

WD/2023/2435/FR - Northfield Cottage, Boreham Hill, Boreham Street, BN27 4SF - Change of use of land to residential and retrospective application for the positioning of a static caravan on the land – Councillors still feel it is unacceptable to change the status of the land from agricultural to

residential in the Conservation Area and that this is especially so in this instance given that the curtilage of the property has been extended to allow the stable block to be converted to an annexe.

WD/2023/2546/F - Rickards Farms, The Strait, Boreham Street, Wartling, BN27 4SD - Demolition of single storey outbuilding and construction of two storey rear extension with single storey link – Wartling Parish Council has no objections to this planning application.

WD/2023/2557/FA - Brooks Farm, Boreham Lane, Wartling, BN27 1RS - Variation/removal of Condition 5 of WD/2020/1491/f (proposed demolition of barn and the construction of a single-storey dwelling) black roofing batten finish to change to single ply rubber membrane with a standing seam finish, black vertical cladding to change to random width timber cladding, glazing over the front entrance door to be split into separate elements, fenestration change of the east elevation, 2 bedrooms changed to single larger bedroom and glazing changed to match the master bedroom glazing – Wartling Parish Council has no objections to this application but councillors felt they lacked the specialist knowledge needed to make a more informed decision.

WD/2023/2552/F - Land at Byways, Byways, Boreham Street, BN27 4SE - Conversion and change of use of shed into 1no. 2 bed dwelling – Wartling Parish Council objects to this application because it is not in keeping with the design of the neighbouring properties.

WD/2023/1926/MAJ - Land forming part of The Sussex Wildlife Trust Reserve and wider Pevensey Levels - Engineering works for the purposes of providing greater areas/variety of wetland habitats to provide environmental and biodiversity gains – Wartling Parish Council wholeheartedly supports this application because it will enhance and protect the Pevensey Levels.

## 58 Reports

### a) Planning

The Appeal relating to The Lamb has been dismissed by the Planning Inspector and the enforcement notice was upheld. The owner can now continue to use the premises as AirBnB until mid-January.

### b) Environment

Councillor Shine thanked the Clerk for arranging to have the tyre that was dumped in Boreham Hill removed.

### c) Footpaths

At an earlier meeting Councillor Reid reported some outstanding issues with footpath WRT/24/1 which date back to 2021. Rights of Way has now agreed to carry out a site inspection and report back to the Clerk.

A broken stile at Preston Farm and overgrown vegetation opposite Rickards Farm were also reported. Once the Clerk has the What3Words reference and photographs for each she will report them to the appropriate authority.

### d) Highways

Councillor Shine said the;

- i. pavements leaving Boreham Street, both east and west, still need cutting back because residents have to step onto a very busy road which has a 60 mph speed limit. This was discussed in more detail under Minute 60.
- ii. Fingerpost sign at the Bull's Head needs repainting. It was agreed that this will be an item on the next agenda. The Clerk will seek prices in the meantime.
- iii. temporary diversion sign at the junction of Boreham Lane and Boreham Street is causing visibility problems for drivers. The Clerk has asked Highways to move it.

e) Police

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

f) 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

Three Speedwatch sessions were carried out in September, ten offenders were noted. The fastest speed recorded was 46mph in a 30mph zone. There were no Speedwatch sessions in October because the police system was down.

It is still not possible to arrange for the training needed to use Black Speed Monitoring Devices because of staff shortages at Sussex Police.

i) Trees

Two oak trees on the verge outside Northfield House were reported to be in need of attention. The Clerk will report them to Highways who are understood to own the land.

59 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

Councillor Shine attended an end of Summer Season Event held by Sussex Police about Operation Downsway. Operation Downsway is an annual summer campaign which tackles road safety issues and influences drivers and motorcyclists to drive responsibly, considerably, and safely.

The campaign was hugely successful and resulted in 25% less deaths. Residents are now being invited to let Sussex Police know which areas they would like them to focus on next year.

60 Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

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

		£
101027	WDALC - Subscription	15.00
101028	A Stevens - Salary - September	431.07
101029	A Stevens - Salary - October	431.07
101030	ESCC – Pension	227.24
101031	Wealden – Election Expenses	437.63

- To approve the accounts to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
- To continue with the existing verge cutting arrangements for 2024 (Option 2). The Clerk will find out if it is possible to also pay for additional cuts to some of the areas marked as 'rural' on the ESCC maps. She will also ask them to take cuttings away and not throw them into the verge where they end up blocking the drains.
- The precept for 2024-2025 will be £8750. This helps the Parish Council precept keep pace with inflation. This figure may be increased if the outcome of bullet point 3 is known by the end of December.

61 Highways

The Parish Council has asked East Sussex County Council how much it would cost to have white lines on Wartling Road and Boreham Street. The County Council has agreed to repaint those on the Wartling Road. The Clerk is still chasing them up for the price for ones at Boreham Street.

Councillor Shine asked what the Parish Council can do to get the speed limit in Boreham Street, (between the Village Hall and the former Horseshoe Inn), reduced to 30mph. It is understood the County Council is considering changing its criteria and we should know more after the ESALC AGM.

Quiet Lanes were also discussed and there may be more information on these at the same AGM. Quiet Lanes aim to educate road users to respect horse riders and walkers.

There was no further business so the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

## Members' Update – East Sussex County Council – October 2023

### Cllr Bob Bowdler - Wealden East Division

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

## Adult Social Care

### New family hubs open in Eastbourne

Families in the Eastbourne area can now access a range of support services under one roof as two new Family Hubs open their doors. They are the latest of the 11 Family Hubs East Sussex County Council to open this year, giving access to a host of professionals.

Visitors to the hubs can get support and advice from midwives, health visitors, Early Communications Support Workers, Early Years Practitioners, Community Engagement Coordinators and Early Years Keyworkers. Activity sessions will also give children, parents and carers the chance to socialise and support their children's needs and development.

More information about the Family Hubs can be found on the County Council's [website](#). Read more about this story [here](#).

### Day service celebrates 50 years

A special celebration event has been held to mark the Golden Jubilee of Beeching Park. This year, the service is celebrating 50 years of providing day services for people with learning disabilities. The park, which is the home of Hastings and Rother Day Service, has seen two monarchs, 12 Prime Ministers, and has delivered over 12,000 days of service.

The site has the latest facilities and equipment for clients' use, including training kitchens, activity rooms, a computer suite and a large garden for relaxation, gardening, and sports. The service opened on the Bexhill industrial estate in 1973 and became a day service providing activities and support to adults with learning disabilities in the late 1990s.

More information about Beeching Park is available on the [1 Space website](#).

Read more about this story [here](#).

### Free maths courses available for adults in East Sussex

Free maths courses are being offered in East Sussex to help adults build their numeracy skills and to mark Number Confidence week, which runs from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. The courses are being offered as part of a new national programme, The Multiply Project, to help improve people's confidence with numbers.

18 different maths and numeracy courses are being run at locations across the county including Plumpton, Hastings, Eastbourne, Lewes, Rye, and Newhaven. Courses are free and available to residents aged 19 or over, with beginner sessions to boost confidence and help participants build on the foundations of their maths knowledge, as well as more advanced offers up to a Level 2 Functional Skills Qualification.

All Multiply courses are fully funded and accept self-referrals. For more information and to sign up to courses, visit the [Careers East Sussex website](#). To find out more about Number Confidence Week, visit the [National Numeracy website](#).

Read more about this story [here](#).

## Communities, Economy and Transport

### East Sussex town to receive a Tree City of the World award

Bexhill has joined 170 towns and cities across the globe to receive a Tree City of the World 2023 award. Following a successful application by Rother District Council, the town is one of just 21 places in the UK to

receive the accolade. Run by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the award recognises cities and towns committed to ensuring that their urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed, and celebrated.

More information about the award can be found on the programme's [website](#).

Read more about this story [here](#).

### County Council's support for Armed Forces wins GOLD Award

A commitment to support current and former military personnel and their families has earned East Sussex County Council national recognition. The authority has been given a Gold Award under the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Support Scheme, the highest honour which recognises the positive role employers play in supporting the armed forces community.

To achieve the accolade, the council had to provide 10 additional paid days leave for reservists, and have supportive HR policies in place for reservists, veterans, Cadet Force adult volunteers and the spouses and partners of those serving in the Armed Forces.

Read more about this story [here](#).

### New highways control hub to help plan work on county roads

New technology is now in place in the form of a control hub to enable East Sussex County Council's highways contractor to monitor activity, track work and find ways to improve the service.

The introduction of the hub follows the council's decision to invest an additional £15.7 million to address increasing road damage caused by extreme weather. The money is paying for more patching and surface dressing work to bring roads in poor condition up to a good standard and protect them for longer.

Reports of road defects can be made [online](#), where information about how East Sussex highways are managed and upcoming roadworks can also be found.

Read more about this story [here](#).

### Project explores impact of art on youth mental health

An ambitious project to examine the positive impact of art on mental health has been launched in East Sussex. To understand the specific mental health and wellbeing benefits exposure to the arts can have for children and young people, a survey has been commissioned by East Sussex County Council's Public Health team as part of the Eastbourne ALIVE project.

The survey will assess how Eastbourne ALIVE's artistic and creative activity contributes to children and young people's social, emotional and mental health, as well as their wellbeing. The information collected will be used to help shape future planning for mental health and wellbeing services in East Sussex.

Working with young people, local cultural organisations, businesses, and the wider community, Eastbourne ALIVE includes public art installations, dance and music events, as well as school visits to Towner Eastbourne.

More information about Eastbourne ALIVE can be found [here](#). Read more about this story [here](#).

## **Governance Services**

### Council receives positive peer review feedback

East Sussex County Council has received a strong vote of confidence following a recent independent peer review.

The council participated in a Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) with the aim of further improving the authority's work. The review is offered to all local authorities by the Local Government Association and included a three-day site visit in June 2023. The independent CPC report found the county council to be well-run and well-managed, open and approachable as well as a trusted and respected partner. It also noted that it was clear from the interviews conducted that 'the organisation does what it says it will do and does it well', with the review team finding a strong record of delivery across all key service areas.

The final CPC Final Feedback Report can be found [online](#).

Read more about this story [here](#).

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

ESCC 4 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefings  
Wartling Parish Council  
Childrens Services Consultants – Lewes  
Armed Forces Covenant GOLD Awards – Portsmouth  
Horam GAP Opening  
ESCC Full Council  
Herstmonceux SLR  
ESSCP Board Meeting  
Horam Parish Open Evening  
ESCC Corporate Parenting Panel  
ESCC Cabinet Briefing  
Children in Care Achievement Awards – St Bedes  
Horam Parish Council  
Ninfield Parish Council – DNA  
Hooe Parish Council  
Lord Lieutenants Awards – Lancing Collage  
Warbleton Parish Council  
Borough & Districts Armed Forces Champions  
GATCOM (Gatwick) Meeting  
Youth Employment Scheme Meeting  
Turner Prize Presentation – Eastbourne  
We Can Make a Difference (NHS) Meeting - Brighton



Wealden East Division  
1 November 23