

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

1st March 2017

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

118 Present

Councillors K Stevens (Chairman), R Lawrence and C Paterson.

County Councillor B Bentley, County Councillor L Keeley, A Stevens (Clerk) and seven members of the public were also in attendance.

119 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor P Doodles.

120 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th January 2017 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

121 Minutes of the Planning Meetings

The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 18th November 2016 were read and adopted by the Parish Council.

The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 7th February 2017 were also read and adopted by the Parish Council.

122 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

Councillors agreed they had no changes to make to the Employer's Discretion Policy and therefore resolved to adopt it.

123 Disclosures of Interests

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

The meeting was then suspended.

124 Reports from the County Councillors on matters from the County Council affecting this Parish.

County Councillor Bentley said ESCC agreed a 4.99% increase in its share of the Council Tax. Along with money from reserves, the increase will be used to;

- retain funding for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
- retain the Youth Cabinet.
- invest an additional £1m into Highways, for drainage work and ditch work.
- invest an additional £300,000 to repair pavements.

- set aside a further £150,000 for the Community Match Project.
- target Anti-Social behaviour.
- invest more money in education.

County Councillor Bentley also dispelled recent press reports that the Police and Crime Commissioner has been arrested. He said she has not. The case, which is about her election expenses, is currently with the Crime Prosecution Service.

County Councillor Keeley said;

- Central Government wants County Councils to be self-financing.
- business rates are increasing which could force more people to shop on-line.
- more infrastructure is needed to cope with the increased housing.
- Southern Water will not be able to upgrade their works until 2022, meanwhile on site drainage systems could cause problems in our rivers.
- there seems to be an increase in the number of telephone scams and he warned residents to be vigilant.

125 Report from the District Councillor on matters from the County Council affecting this Parish.

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

126 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr Hassell asked the County Councillor to make sure that when Highways clear the gulleys they also clear the grips. He said the rubbish is currently left on verges and needs to be dealt with safely and legally. County Councillor Bentley confirmed this is being targeted. Councillor Stevens suggested Highways should work with the Clerks on this.

The meeting was then re-opened.

127 Reports

- a) Planning – There has been one Planning Meeting since the last Full Council Meeting. The following Planning Applications were commented on;

WD/2017/0075/F – Sharwood, Boreham Lane – Proposed single storey rear extension to provide a larger kitchen – Wartling Parish Council has no objections to this application which Councillors feel enhances the property.

WD/2016/3083/LB and WD/2016/3081/FA – Wheelwright Cottage, Horsewalk, Wartling – Proposed extension and changes to internal layout – Wartling Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as it complies with the Listed Building requirements.

WD/2016/2990/RM – Harris Brothers, Starr Garage, Boreham Hill – Reserved matters pursuant to outline application WD2013/2079/O (Demolition of existing buildings and proposed development of six market houses with associated parking and landscaping) – Wartling Parish Council has no objections to the landscaping proposals but Councillors feel there should be additional parking spaces or perhaps garages as there is already a parking problem in Boreham Lane.

b) Environment North

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

c) Footpaths

Councillor Lawrence asked whether the path has been cleared at Batt's Hill. The Parish Council understands it has been.

d) Environment South

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

e) Highways

Councillor Lawrence has reported more potholes in Wartling Road to ESCC Highways. He will also report one by Hoads Hill House and another at the Boreham Street end of Wartling Road.

f) Police

Councillor Stevens reported that the law on mobile phone use while driving has changed this month and now carries a six-point penalty, a £200 fine and the potential for a driving ban.

g) Communication

Councillor Lawrence encouraged residents to sign up to a new service which is being offered by BT. Called BT Call Protect, the new service allows customers to blacklist and stop nuisance calls.

h) Speedwatch

The Speedwatch Team met in February and noted 5 offenders. They will meet again in March.

It was also noted the Community Speedwatch is expanding and will now cover East and West Sussex, Surrey and Kent.

Trees

A dead tree was reported on the verge outside Torvean House in Boreham Street and another tree was reported to have fallen on the bank by the church at Wartling.

Councillor Paterson will carry out a site visit and action accordingly.

128 Reports from Outside Meetings and Courses

Councillor Stevens attended a recent ESCC Partners' Meeting where members were updated on the ESCC budget and its implications.

129 Appointment of New Parish Councillors

Councillors resolved to co-opt Mr W Reid and Mrs D Kehl to Wartling Parish Council.

Councillor Stevens thanked them for applying and officially welcomed them.

130 Finance Update

Councillors resolved to approve the accounts to 31st January 2017 and agreed the Internal Auditor for 2016-2017 will be Peter Frost.

131 Website

Wartling Parish Council has received two prices to upgrade its website, and Councillors had asked the Clerk to find out if they can keep their existing address.

The Clerk confirmed they can and Councillors therefore resolved to accept the price from Barkweb who will also maintain the new website.

132 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Lawrence told those present about Wealden District Council's 'Big Wealden Switch Campaign'. Residents who have joined so far saved an average of £232 a year on their domestic energy bills. Full details about the Scheme can be found on the Wealden District Council website.

133 Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications for consideration at this meeting.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8.06pm.