

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

3rd July 2019

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

26 Present

Councillors K Stevens (Chairman), D Kehl and W Reid.

District Councillor P Doodes, District Councillor R Cade, A Stevens (Clerk) and six members of the public were also in attendance.

27 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from C Paterson and they were accepted by those present.

28 Minutes of the Parish Assembly and Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Assembly and the Annual General Meeting which were both held on the 8th May 2019, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

29 Minutes of the Planning Meeting

The draft Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 17th June 2019 were adopted by the Full Council.

30 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

All matters arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

31 Disclosures of Interests

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

The meeting was then suspended.

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

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

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

District Councillor Doodes said Biffa has now taken over the new Waste Contract. She said there have been lots of questions about the new contract and the most commonly asked questions (with answers) are as follows;

Will Biffa be better than Keir?

Yes it should be. Waste collection is their main area of expertise whilst Keir has other priorities.

Will our collection days be changed?

Full information will be given in the event of round changes. Keep an eye on your weekly alerts and the Wealden website. The rounds will not change immediately. Biffa spent the month before the start of the contract driving the routes familiarising themselves with the job in hand.

Why charge for garden waste collection when it has always been free?

This service is a discretionary service; we are one of the final local authorities to introduce charges. This is the alternative way to stopping the service altogether. This way only those who need it will pay for it. The only other alternative open to Wealden was keeping the status quo and increase the council tax to cover the cost. It was decided that residents should have the discretion of paying for a discretionary service!

If my green waste bin is not emptied will I get a refund now if I am paying for it?

We are already paying for our collections. The same system will continue, missed bins to be reported via the website and the late collection will be arranged. The administrative costs of arranging refunds could be huge, better that Wealden concentrate on putting pressure on Biffa to provide an excellent service.

There is sure to be an increase in fly tipping isn't there? What is the take up for the payment of garden waste collections?

Concern about increased fly tipping was considered when planning this new contract. It appears from hearing the experience of other local authorities this does not happen on a large scale. Unfortunately there are inconsiderate people, a minority, who will fly tip whatever services a local authority provides but most residents are upstanding people. So far some 26000 households out of 62000 have applied. The aim is 50%. It will never be 100% because there are many residents with no garden who do not need the service and many with small gardens who have opted to join forces and share a garden waste bin with their neighbours.

What is the % of waste recycled and where does the rest go? How much goes to landfill?

The Government target was to get 50% of waste recycled by 2020. We are already at just over 51% so Wealden is ahead of the game. Waste is weighed at each point in its journey so Wealden is confident about the accuracy of that figure. 48% of the rest goes to the incinerator in Newhaven; only 0.8% goes to landfill. The heat generated by the incinerator goes to the National Grid and provides power for 20/25000 homes. Even the final ash is used in road stone so there is very little waste at the end of the whole process.

Does our waste go to the Middle East?

The Joint Waste and Recycling Committee, made up of members of all the local authorities who have signed up to the new joint waste contract (Wealden, Rother, Hastings) have commissioned a report on what happens to our recycled waste'.

34 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from the public on this occasion.

The meeting was then re-opened.

35 Reports

- a) Planning – There has been one Planning Meeting since the last Full Council Meeting. The following application was considered;

WD/2019/0471/F and WD/2019/0472/LB - Post Office Cottage, The Strait, Boreham Street, Wartling, BN27 4SF - Extension of hipped roof to form gable and conversion of roof to form a bedroom with en-suite. Re-roofing and re-pointing. Insertion of 2 flat roof dormers, lowering of roof void floor, new enclosed porch to rear and demolition of existing garage and replacement with an oak framed garage with room over.

Councillors had no objections to this application provided that it and the materials to be used are approved by the District's Conservation Officer.

- b) Environment North

There was nothing new to report from Environment North this occasion.

- c) Footpaths

There was nothing new to report on footpaths on this occasion.

- d) Environment South

Councillors received a report that a tree has fallen down in Wood Lane. Councillor Reid said he will look into getting it removed.

- e) Highways

Councillors agreed the recent repairs to the Wartling Road have improved the road. It was also reported that the Wartling Road will be closed for resurfacing on the 17th and 18th August.

ESCC is understood to be;

- carrying out a survey of 'B' and 'C' roads, where there have been accidents, to see if any measures can be carried out to avoid similar accidents happening again.
- getting strict with people parking on zig zag line outside schools.

f) Police

Councillor Stevens attended a recent Road Safety Meeting where it was reported that the recent accident on the Wartling Road where a driver died, is being investigated by Sussex Police. It has already been established that Highways was not at fault.

Huw Merriman MP is to also going to arrange a meeting with the relevant authorities to help raise the issue of speeding.

g) Communication

Councillors resolved that Councillor Reid will take over the editing of the Parish's website and they also agreed that he can also undertake some training, if required. Councillor Reid has also taken over the Parish Council's Email List.

It was noted that half of the residents in Wartling are still experiencing problems with low Broadband speeds. ESCC is still looking into the issue and in the meantime Wartling has been given as an example to the Common's Select Committee.

h) Speedwatch

The Parish Council carried out three Speedwatch Sessions in May, 19 offenders were caught as a result.

The Parish Council also carried out three Speedwatch Sessions in June, and 18 offenders were caught.

i) Trees

This was covered under 'Environment South'.

36 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

This was covered under 'Police'.

37 Questions from Parish Councillors

There were no questions from any of the Parish Councillors on this occasion.

Councillor Ashley entered the meeting.

38 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2019/0902/F - Preston Farm, Boreham Hill, Boreham Street, BN27 4SF - Relocation of existing outbuilding and new stone paving to terrace area to replace concrete paving – Wartling Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD/2019/0731/F - The Horseshoe Inn, Comphurst Lane, Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RU - Demolition of the existing Horseshoe Inn and provision of a mixed use development consisting of a new public house/restaurant/function facility with ancillary staff

accommodation, village green, public car parking and 9 no. dwellings, together with associated accesses, car parking, amenity space, landscaping and bin/cycle storage Wartling Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as;

- The visitor and resident parking situation is looked at in more detail. Parking is already a problem especially when the Windmill is open.
- The exterior, especially the painted render, is changed because it is not in keeping with the neighbouring properties.

Residents said they were concerned about this application because there is a lot of history in the pub, and it will be lost if these plans go ahead.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8.05pm.