

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

9th July 2014

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

28 Present

Councillors K Stevens (Chairman), R Lawrence, C Paterson, S Parker and M Corfield.

A Hillman (Clerk) and nine members of the public were also in attendance.

29 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Parish Councillor A Holbrook, County Councillor B Bentley, County Councillor L Keeley and PCSO Simon French.

30 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 5th March 2014 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7th May 2014 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 4th June 2014 were adopted by the Full Council.

31 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

All Matters' Arising are covered elsewhere on the agenda.

32 Disclosures of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest in any items on this agenda and there were no reported changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

33 Report from PCSO

PCSO Simon French reported;

- another accident on the Wartling Road. A single vehicle drove into a ditch.
- a barn was broken into at Boreham House and a number of hand and power tools were taken.

34 Reports from District and County Councillors.

County Councillor Keeley was unable to attend on this occasion but sent a report read by Councillor Stevens in which he said that;

- work to Jenners Lane been done but Wilderness Wood still needs attention.
- the style in Jenners Lane is to be repaired.
- works to paths may require match funding.
- he has asked the Highways Steward to clean out the drains in the parish.
- the footpath behind the village hall is almost blocked at the Wartling end and needs clearing.

A full copy of his report is available upon request from the Clerk.

35 Questions from Members of the Public

Residents noted that;

- there are works outstanding in Jenners Lane. The Clerk is to chase ESCC to find out the outcome of recent enforcement action.
- the grass is being cut near White Friars against neighbours wishes and asked who is cutting it. The Clerk suggested asking the contractors.
- neither ESCC nor the police will reduce speed limits in Wood Lane or Jenners Lane.
- the Hailsham Trust is appealing for volunteers.

The Chairman explained how Local Authorities are funded and how that funding is being heavily reduced by Central Government leading them to carry out only their statutory obligations.

The meeting was then re-opened.

36 Reports

a) Planning

It was noted that Wealden District Council refused the retrospective application for gates at the Smugglers' Wheel.

b) Environment North

Councillor Parker asked for an update about the bus parked in Boreham Street in which someone appears to be living. Councillor Stevens explained that as long as they pay road tax they can park there.

Councillor Parker also asked for an update following complaints about the state of the footpaths in Wartling Wood. This is being investigated by Enforcement.

c) Footpaths

Councillor Paterson reported that the footpath by Bats' Hill is blocked by nettles and he will investigate.

d) Environment South

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

e) Highways/Police

Councillor Lawrence confirmed the driver in item 33 was on her mobile phone and was later prosecuted.

He met the police about the road problems on the Wartling Road, ESCC did not attend the meeting but they are waiting for the results of the latest feasibility study before considering what action, if any, they will take.

It was reported that each road death costs the economy £1.79m.

f) Communication

Councillor Lawrence suggested the Parish Council has a list of local businesses and homeworkers which could be presented to County Councillor Bentley to support the parishes needs for better broadband. ESCC expect to improve broadband speed in 98% of the county by 2017.

g) Speedwatch

Speedwatch met last month and recorded ten vehicles speeding. 67 vehicles have been reported in the last year.

f) Trees

Councillor Corfield reported that branches from a beech tree by Herstmonceux Castle are causing concern. The Clerk will report this is Herstmonceux Parish Council.

37 Reports from Outside Meetings and Courses

Councillor Parker attended the latest Reid Hall Committee Meeting. Trish Tilling is the new booking clerk. Members are applying for a grant from the Community Dividend for roof insulation.

Councillor Stevens met the police. House burglaries in Wealden are the lowest in East Sussex. They average seven a month out of 64911 dwellings.

There are more thefts from outside dwellings probably because they are not a prisonable offence. Killed and seriously injured road offences are high although Wealden also has more roads. More accidents occur by drivers not looking than from speeding.

It was also noted that not one item of recovered property had been marked from Operation Creosote. Councillor Stevens asked all residents to consider listing the serial numbers of their property on the Operation Immobilise app so police can prove it's a stolen item when its recovered.

The police are offering free shed alarms, anyone interested should add their names to a list at the entrance to the Village Fete on the 12th July.

38 First Aid Training - update

Councillor Stevens **resolved** to cancel the First Aid Training which had been arranged for the 15th July as many of those due to attend will be at a funeral.

39 Conservation Areas

After much discussion, councillors agreed they needed more time to consider the pros and cons of increasing the amount of conservation areas in the parish and asked if Jo Tucker, the Wealden Officer responsible for designating them, can attend the next Full Council Meeting.

Councillor Lawrence will draft a flyer for residents so the Parish Council can find out their views.

40 Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance

Councillors **resolved** not to donate to the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance as the village fete being held on the 12th July expects to donate over £1000 to them.

41 Questions from Parish Councillors.

There being no questions, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.