

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

5th November 2014

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

71 Present

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

County Councillor L Keeley, District Councillor P Doodles, A Hillman (Clerk) and fifteen members of the public were also in attendance.

72 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Parish Councillor Holbrook and County Councillor Bentley.

73 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 3rd September 2014 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

74 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

The Clerk distributed shed alarms which had been kindly donated by Sussex Police to residents. She hopes to have some more for the January meeting.

75 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.

76 Report from PCSO

PCSO Simon French reported;

- a break in at an empty building in Boreham Street. No items were taken.
- Sussex Police has recently launched Operation Magpie - an initiative formed to tackle burglary in the county.
- there is to be the first of three street meetings at White Friars on 6th November at 6pm.
- there have been two incidents of cars driving into ditches on the Wartling Road. There were no reports of any injuries. It was also noted that Wealden has the most dangerous roads in the South East and that speeding is not in the top five causes.
- a report of indecent exposure in the woods at Herstmonceux Castle.

PCSO French left the meeting at attend duties elsewhere.

77 Reports from District and County Councillors.

District Councillor P Doodes reported that;

- the Wealden Safer Partnership is working with the Police to try and make the roads in the District safer.
- she has successfully negotiated with Bexhill First Responders to buy three defibrillators from the Community Dividend at a reduced rate, one for Ninfield, one for Hooe and one for Wartling. Each Parish Council should receive theirs in the next three weeks. District Councillor Doodes said that, as a result of the saving, she can donate another £759 to Wartling towards another defibrillator. The Parish Council thanked District Councillor Doodes and considered the offer later on in this meeting.

County Councillor L Keeley reported that;

He has chased the Road Steward for an update about the stile at Wilderness Wood. He noted that the stile has been cut back though.

He also said that the pathway from Boreham Street to Herstmonceux has been cut. He suggested parishes might like to get together and pay towards new edging along the footpath from Horam to Boreham Street. He has asked the Herstmonceux Clerk to make contact with us.

It was also noted that ESCC Highways is cutting its hedges and ditches between September and December and will clear its drains after this when the leaves have fallen.

78 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public on this occasion.

The meeting was then re-opened.

79 Reports

- a) Planning – Councillor Stevens explained that the Parish Council will not be consulted about the works proposed at Meridian Farm because the works are within the permitted development rights.

He also reminded residents they are responsible for keeping ditches running through and adjoining their land, free flowing.

The Core Strategy is being reviewed by the Inspectorate, with a report due in April 2015, and as a result the sites for new builds are not expected to be identified until July next year.

b) Environment North

Councillor Parker reported that tyres were dumped in Boreham Lane but these have now been cleared.

c) Footpaths

Footpath 4 at Batts Hill has now been cleared by ESCC Rights of Way Department.

d) Environment South

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

e) Highways/Police

It was noted that the bollards on the Wartling Road are covered in mud and are becoming ineffective. The Clerk will ask the Highways Steward to clean them.

Speedwatch met in September and recorded eleven offences at three locations.

The Police are asking residents to visit Immobilise.com as marker pens have proved to be ineffective so far. Residents who have tried to register property on Immobilise have found it to be very complicated.

The traveller in Boreham Lane has moved on following local intervention.

ESCC Highways is reported to be looking into the possibility of reducing the 60mph speed limit at Wood Lane.

f) Communication

Work is expected to start on the Herstmonceux exchange in May next year, after which it is hoped that residents could have broadband speeds of between 8mb and 80mb depending on how far away they are from the exchange.

The Wartling telephone kiosk was damaged by a lorry recently and the telephone was found to not be working. BT removed the broken door and also tried to repair the faulty phone. As a result of the latter, telephone lines in Wartling were temporarily out of action and the telephone is still not working. The Clerk will chase BT about the door.

g) Speedwatch

Speedwatch met last month and recorded eleven offences over three locations.

f) Trees

ESCC Highways were praised for their prompt action in clearing a fallen tree on the Wartling Road recently.

The County Council has also been asked to look at a chestnut tree at Millhurst following fears it is a potential danger to road users.

The banks of the layby opposite Harris' garage are still reported to be dangerous. The Clerk will chase County Councillor Bentley who is believed looking into the matter.

80 Reports from Outside Meetings and Courses

Councillor Parker attended the latest Reid Hall Trust Meeting. The Trust has a new website, bookings have increased slightly on last year and members are looking at ways to increase bookings further.

81 Precept 2015-2016

After careful consideration Wartling Parish Council **resolved** that, subject to any late government legislation, the precept for 2015-2016 will be £5,500. This increase keeps the precept in line with actual expenditure and allows for the possibility of taking over some services from the District and County Council. Councillors **rejected** a proposal to pay someone to regularly clear litter in the bus shelter in Boreham Street. Councillor Parker will clear the bus stop for now instead.

82 First Aid Training - update

Councillors **resolved** to accept District Councillor Doodles' offer to donate £759 towards a second defibrillator for the Parish and agreed to buy one at a predicted cost of approximately £1200. The Parish Council expects to be able to claim back the VAT.

Councillors also **resolved** to donate £50 to the First Responders following the successful First Aid Training Session they held for residents recently at The Bull's Head.

83 Questions from Parish Councillors.

Councillor Paterson reported that there is a caravan in the field opposite the Science Centre. Councillor Stevens advised that the picket fencing outside Coopers Farm has been reported to him. Councillors also asked for an update on the stables in Wartling Wood. All three matters have been reported to Wealden's Enforcement Department.

Councillor Corfield reported that Harvey's Brewery is looking at submitting a planning application for housing on land adjoining the Bull's Head. The implications are not yet known but he has a lease on the land for six years so nothing should happen before then.