

## **WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL**

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

5<sup>th</sup> September 2018

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

19 Present

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

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

20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor B Bentley and District Councillor P Doodles.

21 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly and the Annual Council Meeting, both of which were held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

22 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

All matters arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

23 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.

24 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.

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

District Councillor Doodles sent a written report in which she said;

Waste Collection

Kier's performance has been inadequate. In one week in July, when things were at their worst, Wealden had a total of 2000 missed bins. Performance is improving slightly but even the average weekly number of 700 missed is too high, especially as those missed are often from the same homes.

The Portfolio Holder is in regular close communication with the Managing Director of the Company. At their meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> August they reviewed and updated an action plan. Wealden is continuing to keep on the pressure.

Please continue to report your missed bin and leave it out for collection. I would be grateful if you could also continue to let me know of any persistent problems so that I can take the necessary action.

### Litter

I have reported all the heavy littered areas and fly tips that have been brought to my attention. In most cases Wealden has responded quickly.

### Corporate Director

The promotion of Trevor Scott to Chief Executive has created a vacancy of Corporate Director. Recruitment for a replacement is in hand.

### Drive to Digital

As the range of services available to residents on the website increases Wealden is seeing increased usage. If you haven't visited the site lately please take a moment to have a look.

### Local Issues

The main concerns that residents have brought to my attention recently relate to missed bins, speeding and heavy traffic. Unusually I have had no complaints about neighbourly issues, dog dirt or high hedges.

### Wealden Local Plan

The Wealden Local Plan went to Full Council on 18<sup>th</sup> July and is now out for representation until 5.00pm on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Full details can be found on the website'.

## 26 Questions from Members of the Public

Residents asked;

- The Parish Council to see if they can find out how much more manure Southern Water will be dumping in a field near them because the smell and amount of flies is really bad. Councillor Stevens said he will try and find out.
- If, when the Wartling Road is closed, ESCC Highways can erect a sign at the top end of Boreham Lane to point out there is no access to the Wartling Road. The Clerk will ask Highways.
- If the road at Standard Hill on the road could be levelled. Recent repairs have left a bump which is dangerous to cyclists.

It was also noted that ESCC have repaired a Right of Way and a style by Boreham House , and they have repaired it well.

The meeting was then re-opened.

## 27 Reports

- a) Planning – Planning issues were covered later on in the meeting.

b) Environment North

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

c) Footpaths

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

d) Environment South

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

e) Highways

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

f) Police

There have been no reports of any incidents in this Parish. Sussex Police is understood to be reprioritising rural crime, new measures are expected to be announced in October.

g) Communication

The Parish Council continues to send out Community emails.

h) Speedwatch

Speedwatch sessions were carried out in June, July and August and a total of 33 offenders were reported to Sussex Police. They are then put on the police data base and sent letters and if they persistently reoffend they receive a visit from the Police are added to the Automatic Number Recognition List

i) Trees

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

28 Verge Cutting in the Parish

Wartling Parish Council was asked to consider taking over the urban cuts in the Parish from ESCC or pay for the additional cuts which are no longer being carried out by them at a cost of £24. The Parish Council queried the request because there were no urban cuts shown on its map and ESCC withdrew its offer. ESCC has now contacted the Parish Council again, and said the maps are wrong and is asking the Parish Council to pay for the extra cuts at a cost of £310.

Councillors sought a price from an independent contractor but accepted the County Council's offer because it was considerably cheaper.

Following a site visit with the Chairman and Clerk the County Council has now also cut back the vegetation on the path opposite the Reid Hall so that wheelchairs and pushchairs can get by.

Verges the County Council classes as 'rural' will be cut twice a year to a 1m strip. Where grass has not been cut and it constitutes a safety hazard it needs to be reported to them.

29 Wealden Local Plan

The Wealden Local Plan is now out for Representation. Wartling Parish Council's housing allocation is 14 and they have already been completed or committed to. Councillors agreed therefore not to make any formal response to the Plan.

30 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Lawrence asked that the number of cheque signatories is increased.

31 Planning Applications

The following planning application was considered;

WD/2018/1507/F - Foxes Barn, Wood Lane, Wartling, Hailsham, BN27 1GA - Proposed barn containing stables and agricultural store – The Councillors unanimously objected to this application. There was a barn there originally for which Planning Permission to convert into a residential property has been granted. How can the applicants now request that a new barn is needed when one of the reasons for the conversion was that it was no longer required. Permission to convert the barn was granted taking into account the size of the original barn and the new residence...in our opinion the rules were generously stretched to allow for a good sized residence. A new barn is, in the opinion of the Council, stretching the rules pertaining to conversions past braking point.

WD/2017/1674/F - Barn House, Boreham Hill, Boreham Street, BN27 4SQ - Change of use from holiday let unit to a single dwelling and use of associated land as domestic curtilage – Wartling Parish Council reiterates its previous comments and objects to this application for the same reasons it and the District Council did against previous applications in respect of this property. The Planning Inspector only allowed the original appeal relating to this property as he wanted to encourage tourism and he only granted permission subject to various strict conditions one of which was that the property was not to be used as a private residence. It is still the Council's understanding that the property has not been used for holiday lets despite the fact that surrounding properties in the village have been let successfully. But no doubt the District Council has checked the "guest log book" which was another condition imposed by the Inspector. If the property has not been let then surely the effects which a new residential property would have on the Nitrogen levels on the Ashdown Forest have to be taken into account.

WD/2018/1517/RM - Dormers Farmhouse, Windmill Hill, Hailsham, BN27 4RY - Reserved Matters pursuant to outline application WD/2016/1958/O (outline application for erection of two dwellings with parking and crossing to A271) – Councillors resolved by three votes to one that they had no objections to this application.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8.10pm.