

## WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

9<sup>th</sup> January 2019

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

#### 52 Present

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

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

#### 53 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received from any Parish Councillors.

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

#### 54 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

#### 55 Minutes of the Planning Meeting

The draft Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were read and adopted by the Full Council.

#### 56 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

All matters arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

#### 57 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.

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

County Councillor B Bentley sent a written report in which he said;

Please accept my apologies for this evening's meeting. Unfortunately, for 2019, Parish Councils in the Wealden East, County Council Division have scheduled their meetings in such a way that they clash throughout the year. Wartling and Horam now hold their meetings on the same Wednesday dates and Hooe and Herstmonceux meet on the same Mondays.

As I am not able to be in two meetings simultaneously, I will alternate my attendance and where appropriate provide a written report. However, if there are specific County issues that that the Parish Council would like to know about please let me know.

## ESCC

Following a period of "Core Offer" public consultation the County Council is now developing its budget (council tax) proposals for 2019/20. Following extensive ministerial lobbying that identified the unique financial issues for East Sussex it would seem from some announcements just before Christmas that our Ministers understand East Sussex better.

East Sussex has been chosen to be a part of the 75% business Rates Retention Pilot, this will benefit ESCC, Fire and Rescue, Districts and Boroughs within the County, ESCC will gain £1.6M from this process plus £1.13M from the Business Rates Levy.

Although this is good news it is interim assistance from government until the Local Government funding review and in particular the Social Care Funding green paper is published.

## Sussex Police

The Home office settlement for policing includes authority for Police and Crime Commissioners to increase the precept by up to £24 (for a Band D household). Although Katy Bourne has yet to reveal her specific proposals this would offer an opportunity to increase visible policing both in term of police constables and PCSO's and restore community policing in a way that many residents have expressed they would like to see.

Were there to be this type of change in policing I am of the view that it will only be deliverable if communication with the police is significantly and urgently improved. Reliance on reporting to Sussex Police via their web site because the 101 call centre is failing is not acceptable. Investment to enable the public to report any policing issue is a necessary investment to ensure confidence in Sussex Police is restore for many residents.

## Update on Highways Works – Wartling Road

Permits have been issued for traffic management and works to be carried out between 12<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

### 59 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.

### 60 Questions from Members of the Public

Residents asked;

- for an update on the paths situation at Rockland Place. The path has been fenced off and the matter is now with Rights of Way.
- reported potholes and verges which need attention in Boreham Lane. Councillor Stevens said he will carry out a site visit and report them to Highways.

It was also noted that Boreham House Guest House has recently been voted the best Bed and Breakfast in South East England.

The meeting was then re-opened.

## 61 Reports

- a) Planning – The Parish Council held a Planning Meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> December and the following applications were commented on;

WD/2018/2439/FA - Tyler Barn, Wartling Road, Wartling, BN27 1RX - Variation of Conditions 2 and 10 of Application WD/2018/0626/F (Demolition of existing barn and erection of a single three bedroom dwelling with detached garage). In order to change when the materials need to be approved and to make alterations to the main roof. Councillors have NO OBJECTIONS to the variation of Condition 2 in respect of the roof BUT they would wish to know why the applicant wishes to amend clause 10 and to be assured that the materials will be approved prior to being erected.

WD/2018/2292/F - Scolfes, The Strait, Boreham Street, Wartling, BN27 4SF – Demolition of pre-fabricated garage building and erection of replacement building for holiday/bed and breakfast accommodation. Councillors unanimously OBJECTED to this application. The size and design of the replacement building is wholly out of keeping with the surrounding area and the proposed height of it would have a considerable visual impact which would be harmful to the character of the village and its rural environment. Councillors are also concerned about the planned reduction in parking spaces at the restaurant. Whilst the applicant correctly states that there are not any trees on the proposed development site there are trees on neighbouring land which could be damaged given there very close proximity to the development site.

Councillors are also aware that other applications in the village have sought a change of use from holiday lets to residential properties as there is little demand in this particular area.

Furthermore Councillors would wish to know what mitigation steps need to be taken in regard to the effects any additional traffic may have on Ashdown Forest and the Pevensy Levels.

WD/2018/2401/FA - Starr Garage, Boreham Hill, Boreham Street, BN27 4SQ - The variation of Conditions 3, 4 & 6 of WD/2017/1982/F (Proposed four new garages to existing scheme provided Planning Permission under WD/2016/2990/RM) to allow revised roof designs and boundary alterations. Councillors have NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

WD/2018/2317/F - Staravon, Boreham Lane, Boreham Street, Hailsham, BN27 4SL - Proposed front porch, basement and two storey side and rear alterations and additions. Councillors have NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

It was also noted that;

- WD/2018/1507/F - Foxes Barn, Wood Lane, Wartling, Hailsham, BN27 1GA - Proposed barn containing stables and agricultural store has now been agreed by Wealden.
- A Decision has yet to be made on 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.
- Concerns about Dormers Farm are with Enforcement.

b) Environment North

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

c) Footpaths

This was covered under 'Questions from Members of the Public'.

d) Environment South

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

e) Highways

Work to the Wartling Road has been postponed and is now expected to take place between the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

It was also noted that;

- there have been three more accidents on the Wartling Road
- the volume of traffic using Boreham Lane is increasing.

f) Police

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

g) Communication

Currently houses with the BN27 1RX postcode seem to be unable to access high speed broadband. Councillor Lawrence gathered the information needed and sent it to eSussex to try and encourage them to include the area in their infill programme.

Scamming continues in the Parish, residents are advised not to call back any numbers quoted and to leave their telephones for at least five minutes after such as call so they avoid being connected to automatic premium rate services.

h) Speedwatch

There will be more Speedwatch sessions this month. Sussex Police Speed Enforcement will also be carrying out more extensive speed checks.

It was also noted that there was a 20% increase in the number of drink driving cases this December compared to the same time last year (2017). The number of 'Killed and Seriously Injured', however, fell.

i) Trees

The tree previously reported to have fallen on the bank by the church at Wartling is still there. Councillor Lawrence said he will send the Clerk a photograph of it and the Clerk will then ask Highways to revisit the matter.

62 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

63 Questions from Parish Councillors

It was with great sadness that Councillor Lawrence announced the death of former Parish Councillor Elspeth Tanner.

64 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications for consideration at this meeting.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 7.50pm.