

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

11th July 2012

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

17 Present

Councillors K Stevens (Chairman), R Lawrence, C Paterson and A Holbrook.

County Councillor B Bentley, County Councillor R Thomas, Alison O'Sullivan (Clerk) and 26 members of the public were also in attendance.

18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Huntbatch and District Councillor P Doodes.

19 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 2nd May 2012 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 2nd May 2012 were received and adopted by the Council.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7th March 2012 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

20 Guest Speaker Jenny Devane from East Sussex County Council

The Chair introduced Jenny Devane from ESCC who explained that ESCC are committed to ensuring that East Sussex has good broadband coverage. The Government has set aside £530m to ensure 90% of the country receives Superfast Broadband and the remaining 10% will have at least 2mb by 2015.

£10.64m of this funding is for ESCC, ESCC are match funding with £15m and providers are to make up the rest. ESCC have a long term vision to cover 100% of premises by 2017.

This funding has been awarded to make rural areas viable to service providers. The procurement process ensures that providers must meet all deadlines and it is expected that any implementation plans will appear on the ESCC website.

Residents and businesses can help Wartling become a priority by contacting Jenny at Broadband@eastsussex.gov.uk for a broadband questionnaire.

A copy of the questionnaire is also available at;
<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultation/2011/broadband/survey.aspx>

21 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that she has attended General Power of Competence Training and has submitted section 7 of CiLCA to the SLCC.

The general power of competence replaces the power of wellbeing and gives eligible parish councils in England the power to do anything that individuals can do, that is not specifically prohibited by law. It is found in The Localism Act 2011.

22 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.

23 PCSO Simon French

PCSO Simon French was not available to attend this meeting.

24 Reports from County Councillors

C Cllr Thomas attended a meeting in London about flooding. Water shortage is an ongoing problem and towns such as Uckfield and Lewes need bundled reservoirs but these are too expensive so other alternatives are being investigated.

He said that although the Fire Service is still a service to be proud of, it does have an increasing number of grievance panel meetings but cases have proved to be unfounded.

C Cllr Bentley reported that ESCC is looking into the high number of school exclusions by working closely with schools, and the County Council is also looking into new ways of providing elderly care. Dementia can start at 40 and ESCC is aiming to be 'dementia friendly'.

25 Questions from Members of the Public

Ms Jones asked what ESCC is doing to improve the care of dementia patients. As this is the responsibility of the NHS residents are asked to raise their concerns in the consultation 'to protect and improve health and well being and reduce health inequalities in East Sussex'.

The email address for this is: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay

Concerns were also raised about whether the infrastructure is in place for the new builds in the Core Strategy. There is to be a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which is a charge imposed on new developments to improve the infrastructure.

It was also noted that the Planning Inspector is likely to need a plan from the Water Companies before the Core Strategy can be formally approved.

The meeting was then re-opened.

26 Reports

a) Planning

Councillor Stevens reported that;

- i: The case regarding the Pevensey Marshes is progressing, there has been a hearing and the case is now going to the Magistrates Court in November.
- ii: The planning issues raised at previous meeting, such as the stables at Wood Lane/Jenner Lane, have been reported and responses are awaited from the owners.

b) Environment North/South

Councillor Lawrence reported that there has been an increase in rubbish dumping and flytipping in the parish but Wealden have removed everything promptly.

He is also to take up complaints about the poor state of grass cutting in the parish with ESCC.

c) Footpaths and Highways

The Wartling Road will be closed for resurfacing in August. Mr Braxton from The Lamb raised concerns for his business and asked for a schedule of works. ESCC will make arrangements with local businesses nearer the time and the clerk will notify Mr Braxton when the exact dates are known to the Parish Council.

d) Police/Crime

House burglaries are less than 2 a week in the whole of the Wealden area. Metal theft is on the increase and residents were told about Operation Creosote, where police mark equipment in outbuildings in case it is stolen.

A Static Detection Radar System was fitted in Wartling Road in April and Boreham Street in June. Mean vehicle speeds were recorded but few vehicles exceeded the speed limit. Both roads are to have occasional police speed traps in the future.

e) Communications

Councillor Holbrook reported that there are approximately 40 hits per day on the new Parish Council website.

The Community Services page has information about broadband and a link to the ESCC website. He has successfully negotiated more capacity and can now add more information and photographs.

He also reported that the Parish Council distribution list now has 79 email addresses and he appealed for more community notices.

The Chair thanked Councillor Holbrook for all his hard work on the website.

f) Finance

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council has passed the Internal Audit and Councillors read through and accepted the financial reports dated 14th June 2012

27 Reports from Outside Meetings and Courses

Councillor Stevens attended the Sussex Association of Local Council's meeting. Benefit changes mean the council tax base is changing and could mean that the Parish Council element shows an increase despite the precept not changing.

Changes to the benefit system will see some families worse off by up to £399 a week as benefits will then be paid monthly, direct to the individual (including the housing benefit).

28 Co-option of Residents

Councillors **resolved** unanimously that Daren Permaul is co-opted as a Parish Councillor to Wartling Parish Council. Mr Permaul kindly accepted the role and was welcomed by the Chair.

29 Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Chair thanked Cllr Huntbatch and all those who organised the recent Jubilee events, which were enjoyed by all.

Discussions about the Jubilee Tree took place as the Historical Society wish to donate a tree. The Reid Hall Committee cannot allocate a suitable place so a spot on Beacon's Green by PGL is now being considered.

30 Register of Interest

Councillors were asked to complete the new Register of Interest Form by 28th July 2012.

Failure to complete the form within that date is now a criminal offence.

31 Code of Conduct

Members expect to approve the new Wealden Code of Conduct once it has formally been approved by Wealden.

32 Staff Salary

Councillors **resolved** that the Clerk is paid Scale 35 with effect from 1st August 2012.

Councillors also **resolved** that the Parish Council pays salaries through the Payroll Services

33 Questions from Members.

Councillor Stevens asked if members are aware the Horticultural Society have produced a new book which is now available to buy.

A car is still restricting access by parking at Boreham Lane/Boreham Street. Councillor Stevens is dealing with this.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm