

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

7th November 2012

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

77 Present

Councillors K Stevens (Chairman), R Lawrence, C Paterson, S Huntbatch, D Permaul and A Holbrook.

County Councillor B Bentley, District Councillor P Doodles, Alison Hillman (Clerk) and 22 members of the public were in attendance.

Two representatives from PGL and Mr Abby Hussein from Wealden District Council were also in attendance.

78 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor R Thomas.

79 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 5th September 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 October 2012 were received and adopted by the Council.

The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 25th October 2012 were received and adopted by the Council.

The meeting was then suspended.

80 Wealden District Council

Free loft and cavity wall insulation is available to residents through Abby Hussein or Michelle Martin at Wealden District Council on 01323 443322 and could result in savings of £450 a year for the average resident. Recent events such as the Energy Breakfast at Hooe and the Energy Café at Ninfield were well attended and further events are planned throughout Wealden. It is also hoped to extend funding to Village Halls.

The parish of Wartling is in the top ten indices of mass deprivation in fuel poverty in Wealden.

Draught proofing is also available to all (including those in listed buildings) by calling 07732 989554.

Next year the Government is introducing the 'Green Deal'. Residents can have energy efficient measures installed in their homes and the cost of the installation will be offset against the savings made in their fuel bills.

Properties will need to be assessed and the 'loan' stays with the property until it is paid off. The Parish Council has also been advised that planning permission is not always required for solar panels fitted on listed buildings.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hussein for attending and Mr Hussein subsequently left the meeting.

81 Report from PGL

The General Manager of PGL reported that PGL is the leading provider of school holiday provision for children. It had 63,000 bed nights booked this year, the majority have rebooked next year and the staff have listened and responded to local environmental complaints from neighbours. The number of complaints has decreased.

PGL has raised thousands of pounds for local charities and provides facilities for local groups. It provides staff for local events, has offered a home for the jubilee oak and employs 110 staff who are mostly local and who use local suppliers.

Residents said the noise problems persist and were invited to PGL to see how these problems can be addressed.

82 PCSO Simon French

PCSO Simon French was not available to attend this meeting but sent a report which was read out by Councillor Lawrence.

Speeding is considered a problem in Wealden. The Static Detection Radar was in place in the parish in April, traffic speeds were recorded and these were considered acceptable by the police who will therefore take no further action. Speedwatch is to continue operating and the Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation. In the last nine months Speedwatch has resulted in 3757 letters being sent to motorists in East Sussex.

Concerns were raised about speeding on the newly resurfaced Wartling Road as there have been two accidents since it re-opened.

Bogus callers have been reported in the parish, a man in an unmarked van has been trying to sell security and callers claiming to be from ESCC are pressuring residents to repair their driveways. In both instances residents are asked to call the police.

83 Reports from District and County Councillors.

District Councillor P Dodes reported that;

- i: A 32 year old man has been prosecuted by Wealden for flytipping. He has been ordered to pay £2400 costs, he received a nine month suspended sentence and must carry out 220 hours community service. Residents were reminded they can report flytipping to Wealden by telephone or email.

- ii: the Joint Waste Contract is expected to be signed in December after which Kier will collect the waste. There should be no change in the new waste collection service and savings of £750,000 are anticipated.
- iii: the Inspector has found the Core Strategy sound and it is expected to be signed off at Wealden's Council Meeting on the 28th November.
- iv: the Safer Wealden Partnership found that the roads in East Sussex are the most dangerous and that most accidents are caused by 17 to 19 year old men. Mr Leach from the Partnership has drawn up a research paper designed to make young drivers safer which has been well received.
- v: the Local Development Sub-Committee meets on the 14th November, Maresfield Parish Council will be seeking designation as a Neighbourhood Area.
- vi: Wealden is considering reducing exemption for second homes. This is currently out for consultation.
- vii: a recent planning application has been recommended for refusal by officers at Wealden. This application is to enable the homeowners to provide full time permanent care to an elderly resident with dementia and is supported by the community. D Cllr Doodes has referred it to committee and will oppose the Officer's Recommendation and report back.

D Cllr Doodes receives press releases and asked that these are displayed on the community's website. She also congratulated the Parish Council and residents for clearing the Wartling Road whilst it was closed recently.

C Cllr B Bentley reported that in real terms the County Council's budget is being reduced by £60m. The County Council is looking into changing its services and residents are asked to look at the papers on the ESCC website and make any comments to them.

He thanked those who completed the East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Survey. Those who completed the survey identified Mental Health as their main concern.

84 Questions from Members of the Public

Mrs Jones asked for an update on Jenner's Lane, this is still with Enforcement at Wealden.

A complaint was received about a speed sign which has been fitted to a residents gate. Cllr Lawrence will investigate.

D Cllr Doodes invited everyone to a Christmas Craft Fayre at Ninfield Memorial Hall on Saturday 10th November between 10am and 4pm in aid of Chestnut Tree House Hospice.

The meeting was then re-opened.

85 Clerk's Report

All Matters' Arising were covered elsewhere in these minutes.

86 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.

87 Reports

a) Planning

Councillor Stevens reported that the court case involving the marshland and Natural England took place on 1st November. The accused pleaded guilty to most charges and is to talk to Natural England about the rest. He will then be sentenced and sentencing will depend on how these other charges are addressed.

The next Planning Meeting is at the Reid Hall on Monday 12th November at 5pm. The following applications will be considered;

WD2012/2042F – Dormers Farm, Tilley Lane – Conversion of old dairy from storage into two holiday lets.

WD2012/2184F and WD2012/2184LB – The Lamb Inn – Proposed single storey extension to rear courtyard, construction of timber framed lean-to wood store, alterations to ground floor and conversion of first floor residential flat to provide five B&B bedrooms with en-suite and staff accommodation.

b) Environment North/South

Councillor Lawrence reported that there have been four instances of flytipping since the new Wartling Road has opened.

Councillor Huntbatch reported that she will take up any complaints about PGL on residents' behalf.

c) Footpaths and Highways

Cllr Paterson attended a meeting at Warbleton Parish Council where they discussed traffic management measures through Bodle Street Green. Warbleton is concerned that although there is a 30mph limit through the village, traffic still drives too fast. Wartling is involved as Joe's Lane/Victoria Road forms the parish boundary. Warbleton requested Wartling's support which has been duly given and is to refer its concerns to Michael Higgs at ESCC. ESCC has, in the meantime, offered to provide yellow and black road safety signs which will be available through Cllr Paterson. Complaints have been received

about overgrowth on the path from the Castle to the Lamb and from the Reid Hall west to the parish boundary. The Clerk will report these to ESCC.

d) Police/Crime

This was covered under minute 82. Cllr Lawrence added that 30mph stickers are available to put on wheelie bins in a bid to try and reduce speeding.

e) Communications

At the previous meeting Cllr Holbrook appealed for more information for the website. He has received and subsequently sent out information about more local events and he thanked those present for their help.

Cllr Lawrence has been to look at the broadband bus which shows how ESCC plan to get broadband to everyone in East Sussex.

f) Finance

The Clerk had previously distributed the financial reports and precept figures and this will be covered under minute 91.

88 Reports from Outside Meetings and Courses

Cllr Stevens attended the East Sussex Assembly Conference. Becky Shaw, Chief Executive Officer, is to talk to the Wealden District Association to establish the needs of Towns and Parishes.

Cllrs Lawrence, Stevens and the Clerk attended the Parish Conference. This was organised jointly by Wealden and the Wealden District Association and was generally well received.

89 Parish Magazine

Councillors **resolved** unanimously to pay £3 per issue to have an article in each edition of the Village Magazine.

90 Code of Conduct

Wartling Parish Council **resolved** to accept the new Wealden Code of Conduct which complies with the provisions in the Localism Act.

91 Precept Request

After careful consideration Wartling Parish Council **resolved** that, subject to any late government legislation, the precept for 2013-2014 will remain £4,000. There will be no increase.

92 General Power of Competence

Wartling Parish Council **resolved** that it meets the prescribed conditions for the General Power of Competence.

Councillors and the public congratulated the Clerk on her success in achieving this latest qualification.

93 Grants

Councillors considered the request from Mediation Plus. Mediation Plus provides a mediation service for the communities in and around Eastbourne, Lewes, Seaford, Newhaven, Hailsham, Uckfield, Polegate, Heathfield, Pevensey and Crowborough.

Councillors **resolved** that priority should be given to clubs and associations within the parish and rejected the request.

94 Questions from Members.

Cllr Stevens said the recent History Society event held at the Reid Hall was very successful and calenders of the village will be available for sale at the Church Christmas Fayres.

There being no further questions from members, the meeting closed at 9.00pm