

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

9th January 2013

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

111 Present

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

County Councillor B Bentley, County Councillor R Thomas, Alison Hillman (Clerk) and 34 members of the public were in attendance.

112 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor P Dodes.

113 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 12th November 2012 were received and adopted by the Council.

The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 20th December 2012 were received and adopted by the Council.

114 Clerk's Report

The Enforcement Section at Wealden is investigating the situation at Jenner's Lane.

The speed sign mentioned in minute 84 has been referred to Highways and Councillor Lawrence will update the landowner.

115 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.

116 PCSO Simon French

PCSO Simon French was not available to attend this meeting. Councillor Stevens is to write to ask him to attend the next Full Council Meeting.

117 Reports from District and County Councillors.

C Cllrs Thomas and Bentley both work closely with the Local Government Association. Cllr Thomas works with the Inshore Fisheries Association and is currently involved in two schemes with Europe to help smaller ports like Newhaven. He also works with Hastings Fire Authority to try and protect Herstmonceux Fire Station.

Cllr Thomas reported that ESCC has new proposals regarding flooding, they have a meeting on the 18th January and a new Area Manager. The issue of flooding remains a priority as deluges like those experienced recently, are expected over the next 30 years.

Cllr Bentley oversees Adult Social Care and introduced a new website which has been set up to offer advice and support and an alternative to going into care homes. The website is <http://www.eastsussex1space.co.uk/>.

He also noted that protesters at the Bexhill/Hastings Link Road will not disrupt the road construction and that Cllr Thomas and he have been successful in their attempts to get parts of the A22 resurfaced.

118 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from member of the public.

The meeting was then re-opened.

119 Reports

a) Planning

Councillor Stevens reported that application WD2012/2042F - Dormers Farm, Tilley Lane has been refused. Applications WD2012/2184F and WD2012/2184LB for The Lamb Inn have been approved. The application from Harris' Bros is outstanding.

Regarding the marshlands, Mr Gulzar is reported to have pleaded guilty. Natural England is waiting for his timetable to restore his land and he is currently awaiting sentence.

b) Environment North/South

Cllr Lawrence is to follow up reports of rubbish being dumped in Wood Lane.

c) Footpaths and Highways

Residents are asked to report all potholes to the Clerk who will then ask the County Council to repair them.

Roads are flooding which have not previously flooded as a result of the amount of rain, there being no drain clearing and hedge cuttings

falling into the drains. Residents are asked to report any drains which need clearing to the Clerk.

Speeding in Boreham Lane is causing a lot of concern. The road in parts is 8' wide and the national speed limit applies. Traffic surveys have been carried out and a petition sent to the County Council but the problem appears to be that of frontage. Councillors asked that Highways and the Policing Unit Sergeant are invited to the next Parish Council Meeting to discuss what action, if any, can be taken. The Parish Council is to provide some signs to the residents. In the meantime residents are asked to write to their MP to support the Rural Speed Limit Review and pass on any car registration numbers of speeding cars to the Parish Council. Recent Speedwatch sessions in the Parish found 28 people exceeded the speed limit by 10mph or more.

Councillor Stevens has received lots of complaints about the bridlepath through Herstmonceux Castle and is to talk to Herstmonceux Parish Council.

d) Police/Crime

There have been a number of oil thefts and some metal thefts but things are generally quiet. The number of metal thefts is expected to fall now that scrap metal dealers can only pay out by cheque.

Operation Creosote continues and residents who would like their property marked are asked to contact Cllr Lawrence.

e) Communications

The Parish website continues to grow and takes more hits. The community email lists is successful and residents are encouraged to join up.

120 Councillors' Areas of Responsibility

Councillors **resolved** to accept the following areas of responsibility;

Cllr Lawrence	Communications and Speedwatch
Cllr Holbrook	Roads and Police
Cllr Paterson	Reid Hall/Environment South/WDALC
Cllr Permaul	Footpath and Environment North
Cllr Huntbatch	Planning and Trees

120 Reports from Outside Meetings and Courses

Cllr Stevens, through the Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils, met the Chief Constable and the new Police and Crime Commissioner. They receive the most complaints about speeding.

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne, is also looking into Travellers. It would help the police if the Parish Council can take and keep photographs of padlocked fields which then provide evidence that the field was locked. The police can then act.

121 Precept Request

Cllr Stevens reported that funding by the District Council for Parish Precepts is changing. The Government traditionally paid the part relating to council tax benefits but this is now being paid direct to districts less 10%. After discussions with the WDALC, Wealden are making up the shortfall with the special transitional grant they receive from Central Government. The majority of District Councils are not. The Government has also confirmed that precepts will not be capped this year but may be next year. He therefore proposed that Wartling Parish Council increases its precept for 2013-2014 to £5000 thereby bringing the precept in line with expenditure. This will protect the reserves which can then be used for fingerpost signs and any services handed over by the County and District Councils. This represents a 25% increase which equates to approximately 70p per month per band G property.

Councillors **resolved** that the precept for 2013-2014 is £5000.

122 Questions from Members.

Cllr Stevens asked if Councillors would like to consider linking with Hooe and Herstmonceux Parish Councils to offer services to older residents like those offered by Rotherfield St Martin. He also said there is an increasing number of food banks in urban areas and suggested residents may like to let the Parish Council know if they know of anyone who might benefit from one locally.

Cllr Stevens also encouraged Councillors to sign up for more training. A list of training dates will be sent out by the Clerk.

There being no further questions from members, the meeting closed at 8.35pm