

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

2nd March 2016

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

97 Present

Councillors K Stevens (Chairman), R Lawrence, S Parker, C Paterson and M Corfield.

County Councillor B Bentley, A Stevens (Clerk) and fourteen members of the public were also in attendance.

98 Apologies for Absence

County Councillor Keeley and District Councillor Doodes sent their apologies for absence.

Councillor Stevens announced the formal resignation of Shelagh Huntbatch.

99 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Meeting held on 6th January 2016 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

100 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

The Parish Council has been awarded £770.00 from NALC to meet the requirements of the Transparency Fund.

101 Disclosures of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest in any items on this agenda and there were no changes to the Register of Interests reported.

The meeting was then suspended.

102 Report from PCSO

There was no report from the PCSOs on this occasion but it was noted that the PCSOs have shed alarms available. Anyone who would like one is asked to contact the Parish Clerk. Councillor Stevens also reported that there have been no burglaries on sheds which have alarms fitted on them.

103 Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor P Doodes was unable to attend on this occasion but sent a written report in which she;

- congratulated the Reid Hall for its successful funding bid to Wealden.

- announced a Council Tax Increase of 1.9%, the first increase for five years.
- said Parishes and local organisations are being encouraged to get involved with 'Clean for the Queen'. A media release dated 29th February which is on the Wealden website gives details and help that Wealden can offer.
- told everyone that the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Election is to be held on 5th May and reminded residents they can check that they are included on the Register of Electors. If they are not, the deadline for registering is Monday 18th April. This can be also be done on the Wealden website
- said Wealden is asking people who live, work or attend schools/college in the district to give details of their experience of mobile phone reception and internet access across the district. The on-line consultation is open until 18th April; the results are expected on 16th May. Further details on the Wealden website or residents can contact Fiona Berry on 01323 443268
- has volunteered to join a Working Party which has been formed by, and will report to, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This group of elected members is investigating how best to engage with Young People and her task after our first meeting is to contact Parish Councils to ask about their experiences. So far she has received about nine responses and will be reporting back to the next working group meeting on 23rd March. The results will be published when available.
- Locally, she said she has been quiet recently. She has received no reports about missed bins, the only telephone calls have been about hall hire, doctors, and Wealden phone numbers.
- she is asking any residents who have any issues they would like her to follow up, let her know.

County Councillor L Keeley sent his apologies with a note to say ESCC is increasing its Council Tax by an additional 2% for Adult Social Care and 1.9% to cover increasing costs generally.

County Councillor B Bentley reported that;

- Sussex Police has increased its share of the Council Tax by £5 which represents an increase of more than 2% but as a smaller authority it is allowed to do so. He said he has concerns about the future of Neighbourhood Policing and does not think the recruitment of 70 new Police Constables will impact on Neighbourhood Policing very much.
- As part of the Local Government Association he continues to lobby Central Government for more money for Local Councils and succeeded when the County Council received news it was getting more money the night before its budget meeting. He has also complained to them about poor broadband speeds in some areas.
- ESCC has launched its Extra Care Housing Scheme. Extra care housing is housing for people with care and support needs who wish to continue to live independently. Flats in extra care schemes can either be rented or bought. One of the new buildings has been named after Councillor Bentley and his wife, who is also a Councillor.

104 Questions from Members of the Public

Residents complained that;

- the paths in Boreham Street have still not be cleared. The Clerk will take this up with the County Council.
- Parking is still a problem at Boreham Lane – this is covered under minute 108.

The meeting was then re-opened.

105 Reports

- a) Planning – There have been no Planning Meetings since the last Full Council Meeting but it was noted that the Planning Application for Avery’s Barn has now been approved.

- b) Environment North

The pipe and stile at Jenners Lane are still broken. The Clerk will take this up with the County Council.

- c) Footpaths

The Wartling Wood footpath is reported to be impassable. Councillor Paterson will carry out a site visit and report back to the Clerk.

- d) Environment South

A lot of rubbish was dumped in Boreham Lane but has subsequently been removed by the District Council. There was another instance of fly tipping but some of it was dumped on public land. The Clerk will check whether Wealden notify the land owner in such cases.

- e) Highways

Councillors were reminded that ESCC Highways has appointed a new contractor and there will be a few changes in the way repairs are carried out. Parishes will be able to report work required direct to the new Contractor (Costain) and the majority of the ESCC Highways staff will transfer to Costain under TUPE.

- f) Police

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

- g) Communication

Councillor Lawrence has now heard back from ESCC who have confirmed they are still going ahead with contract 2. Wartling is in the

first phase and can expect better broadband coverage and speeds by July 2016.

h) Speedwatch

The Speedwatch Team are to meet in the next few weeks and hope to have their own recording equipment by then.

i) Trees

Councillor Corfield received a report that trees overhanging the road to PGL are damaging coaches. Staff have cut the overhang but further work is needed.

Councillor Corfield also reported that trees are being cut at The Old House and asked if they are protected by Tree Preservation Orders.

Councillor Corfield will check both matters out with the Arboriculturist at Wealden.

j) Finance – Councillors read and approved the accounts to 29th January 2016.

Councillors also considered a grant request from the Reid Hall and **resolved** to award the Hall £750 towards various maintenance improvements.

106 Reports from Outside Meetings and Courses

Councillor Parker announced the recent Reid Hall jumble sale raised £1000.

Councillors Lawrence and Paterson attended the Local Action Team meeting with Sussex Police who confirmed they are investigating the theft of some quad bikes in the parish.

Councillor Stevens and the Clerk attended the SECAMB meeting on 1st March. There were presentations on its governance and the work of its staff and volunteers. A new Ambulance Station is being built at Polegate to help improve efficiency and save money.

107 Broadband Update

Rother District Association of Local Councils is to join with Wealden District Association of Local Councils to identify areas with poor broadband speeds and signals.

108 Boreham Lane

Following concerns raised about the safety of the bank in Boreham Lane

at previous meetings, Councillor Corfield met the Highways Steward at East Sussex County Council He confirmed that County Council will not put posts there to stop cars parking there but suggested the Parish Council might like to apply for a licence and carry out the work instead.

Councillors asked to get prices to fit both collapsible and non-collapsible posts, begin the process of applying for a licence and report back to the next meeting. The Clerk will also look into funding options.

109 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Corfield reported a problem with dog mess on the pavements in Boreham Street. He said the problem is particularly bad from Boreham House and the Bull's Head to the Village Hall. The Clerk will contact the Street Scene Officer at Wealden to see what action the Parish Council can take. Councillor Stevens reminded dog owners they can join Paws on Watch, details of which are on the Wealden District Council website.

110 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2016/0226/FA - Barn Cottage – Use of dwelling without compliance with condition 4 attached to WD2010/1278F – Wartling Parish Council objects to this application for the same reasons it and Wealden District Council did against the previous application WD2010/1278F. The Planning Inspector only allowed the appeal as he wanted to encourage tourism and he only granted permission subject to various conditions that the property was not to be used as a private residence.

WD/2016/0213/FA - Barn House – Removal of conditions 2, 3 and 4 of WD2011/0773F (proposed holiday let cottage) – so as to allow the property to be used as a residence within use class C3 – Wartling Parish Council objects to this application for the same reasons it and Wealden District Council did against the previous application. The Planning Inspector only allowed the appeal as he wanted to encourage tourism and he only granted permission subject to various conditions that the property was not to be used as a private residence.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8.40pm.