

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

6th January 2016

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

83 Present

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

County Councillor B Bentley, County Councillor L Keeley, District Councillor P Doodles, A Stevens (Clerk) and seven members of the public were also in attendance.

84 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

85 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Meeting held on 4th November 2015 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

There were no minutes for Planning Meeting arranged for the 17th December 2015 because the meeting was inquorate.

86 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

All matters' arising are included elsewhere in these minutes.

87 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.

88 Report from PCSO

It was noted that PCSOs Wendy Wyatt and Jack Matthews have replaced PCSO Simon French as the PCSOs for this Parish.

There was no report from the PCSOs on this occasion.

89 Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor P Doodles wished everyone a Happy New Year. She had nothing new to report because she has had a computer problem but she hopes to have it fixed soon. She will email the Clerk with any updates once her computer has been fixed.

County Councillor B Bentley reported that;

- budget work at ESCC is ongoing. Officers are considering the implications of the budget announcements made by the Government on the 17th December because whilst ESCC has been allowed to increase its precept to reduce the impact of the cuts on Adult Social Care there will still be a shortfall.
- Highways has appointed a new contractor and there will be a few changes in the way repairs are carried out. ESCC will now pay a lump sum to contractors rather than pay them for each individual repair and Parishes will be able to report work required direct to the Contractor.

County Councillor L Keeley said;

- the new Highways arrangements should mean a better service and he confirmed that County's staff will be employed by the new contractor.
- he is looking into the benefits of the current NHS practice to recruit staff from overseas.
- he is also investigating apprenticeship schemes in East Sussex.

90 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public on this occasion.

The meeting was then re-opened.

91 Reports

- a) Planning – There have been no Planning Meetings since the last Full Council Meeting but Councillors sent the following report to Wealden Planning;

WD2015/2486F – Averys Barn, Wartling Road – Conversion of existing agricultural barn to private residential dwelling - Councillors object to this application as they are concerned about the visual impact on the surrounding countryside, the proximity to a footpath and the impact on the road at this particular T junction. The site is outside the development boundaries as defined in the Local Plan and is thus in the countryside for development plan purposes where Wealden's policies generally seek to restrict development. This is supported by paragraph 55 of the National Planning Policy Framework which states that new isolated houses in the countryside should be avoided unless there are special circumstances. The Councillors feel that this barn is in such a visible location that it does not rank for special consideration and would not lead to an enhancement of its immediate setting. The Councillors are also concerned that the size of the development is contrary to Listed Buildings authority.

- b) Environment North

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

c) Footpaths

At the last meeting Councillors strongly objected to the proposed diversion of public footpath Wartling 19.

Wartling Parish Council has heard unofficially that the footpath will not now be re-routed.

d) Environment South

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

e) Highways

Councillor Lawrence reported two potholes to County on the Wartling Road and was pleased to report they were quickly repaired. He noted there is still a problem with water leaking onto the road near The Lamb which could be dangerous in freezing temperatures. Vegetation is also overhanging the top end of the Wartling Road and damaging passing vehicles.

f) Police

This was covered under the report from the PCSO.

g) Communication

Councillor Lawrence confirmed the works to improve broadband coverage in the area are included in contract 2 and should be completed by June 2017.

Councillor Stevens is to attend a meeting on behalf of Wealden District Association of Local Councils, with Rother District Association of Local Councils to see if, as a collective, they can help.

h) Speedwatch

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

i) Trees

No trees or power lines have fallen in the Parish in the recent stormy weather. Concerns were raised about the grass bank opposite the Harris Brother's site at Boreham Lane so, as no action has been taken by ESCC, the Parish Council will consider setting up Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) Meetings to deal with this at their next Full Council Meeting.

92 Reports from Outside Meetings and Courses

Councillor Stevens attended a meeting at ESCC in which members were told that the next round of budget cuts will deeply felt by East Sussex residents.

93 Broadband Update

This was covered under 'Communication'.

94 Precept 2016-2017

There has been no notification of any changes in legislation which will affect the precept for 2016-2017 so Councillors **resolved** the precept for 2016-2017 will be £6500 as agreed at the November Meeting.

Councillors resolved to buy 20 copies of the Millennium Map at a cost of £170 plus VAT and sell at a cost of £12.50 each to cover costs.

Councillors also discussed auto-enrolment at length and agreed to put a workplace pension in place as is their legal duty. Councillors **resolved** to opt for the East Sussex Local Government Pension on the basis that contributions are linked to the gross taxable salary. Councillors appreciate the new rules pertaining to pensions but voted to contribute to the ESLGP in recognition of the work done by the Clerk.

95 Questions from Parish Councillors.

Councillor Corfield reported that the vegetation overhanging the pavement between Scolfes and the nursery needs cutting back. County Councillor Keeley will report this to ESCC.

96 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to be considered on this occasion.