

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

3rd March 2021

This meeting was a virtual Meeting held via Zoom

80 Present

Councillors K Stevens (Chairman), D Kehl, C Paterson and W Reid.

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

81 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr E Ashley. The reasons for her apologies were accepted by the Parish Council.

District Councillor P Doodes also sent apologies for her absence.

82 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th January 2021.

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 6th January 2021, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

83 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

Councillor Stevens said;

- The Surrey Association of Local Councils has announced its intention to break away from SSALC Ltd and as a result SSALC Ltd will cease trading on the 31st March 2021. The West Sussex Association of Local Councils and the East Sussex Association of Local Councils will continue as separate entities.
- He has fitted a new battery in the defibrillator at The Bulls Head. He has also checked the battery in the one at the Lamb which was fine.

84 Disclosures of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest on any items on this agenda nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

85 Reports from the County Councillor on matters from the County Council affecting this Parish.

County Councillor Bentley said;

- ESCC has considered the accounts of the Ashdown Forest.
- If all goes to plan the County Council plans to open its libraries from 12th April 2021. Its Registration Offices plan to open from 29th March for weddings with up to six people, the 12th April for those with up to 15 people and the 17th May for those with up to 30. They hope to be able to lift all restrictions by 21st June.
- The County Council Elections will be taking place on the 6th May 2021. He will not be standing again.

86 Report from the District Councillors on matters from the District Council affecting this Parish.

District Councillor Cade said;

- The Wealden Hub is continuing to operate and he encouraged residents to keep checking the Wealden District Council website for updates.
- Wealden staff are continuing to work mostly from home for now.
- The District Council has paid out £48m in grants to 6500 businesses during the pandemic, £5.4m of this has been paid out since November. New parameters are filtering down from Central Government and some people who were excluded before are now included.
- Wealden has introduced its Restart and Recovery Plan to help support businesses and get people back to employment.
- The District Council has also renewed its Private Sector Housing Policy. When people are referred to them with dementia or they are referred to them because they have just been discharged from hospital, Wealden is now able to go into their homes to make them safe and fit any adaptations.
- Wealden is currently waiting for guidance from Central Government on how to proceed with the County Council elections.
- Census 2021 has begun. Anyone who needs help to complete the form is asked to contact Pevensey Parish Council where Councillor McKinnon has set up a Census Support Centre.

87 Questions from Members of the Public

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

The meeting was then re-opened.

88 Reports

- a) Planning – Wartling Parish Council considered the following planning applications and its comments are as follows;

WD/2021/0013/F - Post Office Cottage, The Strait, Boreham Street, Wartling, BN27 4SF - Demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement 2 bay garage - Wartling Parish Council's only concern is that the height of the proposed new garage is significantly higher than the existing garage but will not object to the application provided the Conservation Officer does not raise any objections.

WD/2020/2699/FR - Highlands House, The Strait, Boreham Street, Hailsham, BN27 4SD - Conversion of ground floor of garage to create ancillary accommodation and use as a holiday let along with the existing first floor bedroom and the replacement of the existing store. Retrospective permission for window at the rear and for the roof lights that are not to be amended - Wartling Parish Council does not have any objections to this application.

It was also noted that the following planning application was refused by Wealden;

WD/2020/2380/F - The Old Vicarage, Boreham Street, BN27 4SD - Single storey rear extension with roof terrace.

b) Environment North

Councillor Reid reported a large crater in Jenners Lane. Councillor Stevens said he will take photographs of it so he can report it to Highways.

c) Footpaths

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

d) Environment South

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

e) Highways

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

f) Police

It was noted that Inspector Jon Gross is to retire from Sussex Police soon.

g) Communication

Councillor Reid said he has been sending meeting details out via the email distribution list and he also regularly updates the website.

h) Speedwatch

Speedwatch sessions have been put on hold again in Wartling because of the Coronavirus situation.

i) Trees

At the previous meeting it was reported that a tree had fallen down at Wartling Hill. The matter was subsequently reported to Highways who said they will not remove it because it is not causing an obvious safety concern. The Parish Council understands the tree has now been removed by persons unknown.

89 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

Councillor Stevens attended the South East Parish Cluster Meeting and circulated a written report which said;

'The South East Planning Cluster Group met for the second time on the 2nd February 2021.

This is an informal unminuted meeting chaired by Chris Bending.

It was good that the number of parishes represented increased from four to seven with only one absent.

The main theme was Wealden's Direction of Travel and we heard that there had been over 1700 comments from 300 sources. The comments are interesting and well informed. They

are now being summarised for members and themes will be identified. They will also be doing more testing on the different options.

The next stage is to set the planning objectives and then where the new housing will be allocated. The new plan takes account of the old one much of which needs updating. It was confirmed that when working out the housing/settlement placing they will be seeking an early input from Parish Councils.

In answer to questions we heard that the time line on the government's white paper is constantly changing and that the latest indication is it will not be out until the Autumn at the earliest. On that theme it is rumoured that the "duty to cooperate" may be removed in order to force districts to resolve their own problems with fresh initiatives. Slightly ironic if they do as the failure to cooperate was one of the main reasons why Wealden's plan got refused last year. Eastbourne District have apparently responded far more positively to the latest plan than they did to the last one....perhaps they have also heard that the duty to cooperate may be going!

Flood zones should be preserved.

A recent survey has learnt that Businesses want to locate in the Stone Cross/Polegate/Hailsham area rather than in Eastbourne which is quite a turn around and I wonder if this could open up business sites for more housing in Eastbourne.

A very worthwhile and informative meeting'.

90 Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

- To agree the payments list to the 3rd February 2021.
- To agree the accounts to date.

Councillors also considered suggestions on how best to spend the CIL, which were;

- 1: Village gates
- 2: Pedestrian crossing in Boreham Hill
- 3: Widening pavements and re-inforce curbs
- 4: 30mph roundels
- 5: New traffic islands
- 6: Community Route Scheme.

They resolved to arrange a site meeting with the Traffic and Safety Manager at East Sussex County Council to go through the options and find out which is the most viable.

91 Face to Face Meetings

This was deferred to the next meeting by which time the Parish Council hopes to know what the legal position on holding face to face meetings and virtual meetings after the 7th May.

92 Maintenance of the Parish Notice Boards

Councillors agreed the notice boards require some maintenance work and asked the Clerk to bring prices to the next meeting.

93 Questions from Parish Councillors

Wartling Parish Council thanked County Councillor Bentley for all the help and support he has given the parish over the years and wished him well with his retirement.

94 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications for consideration at this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm.