

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

5th July 2023

This meeting was held at the Reid Hall in Boreham Street.

20 Present

Councillors K Stevens (Chairman), C Paterson, W Reid and M Shine.

District Councillor Mark Fairweather, A Stevens (Clerk) and four members of the public were also in attendance.

21 Apologies for Absence

County Councillor B Bowdler sent apologies for his absence.

22 Minutes of the Parish Assembly and the Annual General Meeting both of which were held on the 10th May 2023

The Minutes of each Meeting were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

23 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

Any matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

24 Disclosures of Interests

Councillor Stevens said he has recently been appointed at Chair of the East Sussex Association of Local Councils and will be updating his Register of Interests accordingly.

The meeting was then suspended.

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

County Councillor Bowdler sent a written report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

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

District Councillor Fairweather reported;

- i. The District Council is pushing the County Council to repair more potholes.
- ii. The Uckfield Leisure Centre may not close despite rumours to the contrary.
- iii. Some of the northern parts of the District were without water for up to three weeks recently.

He also;

- i. confirmed there are many factors that led to the shortage and that planning applications cannot be refused on the grounds there isn't enough water for them, and;
- ii. agreed to find out more about Quiet Lanes and report back to the next meeting.

27 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from the public.

The meeting was then re-opened.

a) Planning

The Parish Council understands the Planning Inspector has now visited The Lamb and his report is due soon.

There are no further updates on the potential solar farm at Olives Farm.

Concerns were raised about the building work taking place at Brooks Farm and residents were advised that if the work seems to exceed the planning application to let the clerk know who in turn will take the matter up with Wealden.

b) Environment

Councillor Shine said;

- i: There was some flytipping in Boreham Lane he reported and has now been cleared
- ii: The pavements leaving Boreham Street, both east and west, need cutting back because residents have to step onto a very busy road which has a 60 mph speed limit. The Clerk will ask Highways to cut them back.

c) Footpaths

Councillor Reid reported some outstanding issues with footpath WRT/24/1 which date back to 2021. The Clerk will find out why they have not been resolved and report back.

It was also suggested that Rights of Way could be invited to attend a future Parish Council Meeting to report on the work they do.

d) Highways

Concerns have been raised about the refreshment van in the layby by Boreham Bridge and whether or not it is registered especially now the wheels have been removed. The matter has been referred to the Environmental Health and Licensing Team.

e) Police

There was nothing new to report.

f) Communication

Reports continue to be sent out via the village email distribution list. Anyone who is not included and would like to be is asked to contact the Parish Clerk.

h) Speedwatch

There have been eight Speedwatch sessions since the last Parish Council Meeting. 18 offences were recorded and 16 letters were sent out. It is pleasing to report that the numbers continue to reduce.

It was also noted that 97% of those caught do not reoffend in the first year.

i) Trees

There was nothing new to report.

29 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

Councillor Stevens reported that the National Association of Local Councils is pushing;

- to allow Parish Councils to call remote meetings as and when required, and;
- For Standards to return to Public Life.

30 Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

- To approve the payments list to the 5th July 2023. The payments were as follows;

		£
101019	Peter Frost – Internal Auditor	61.75
101020	A Stevens - Salary - May	461.07
101021	A Stevens - Salary - June	431.07
101022	ESCC – Pensions	227.24

- To approve the accounts to 30th May 2023.
- To sponsor a prize at the Windmill Hill Summer Show at a cost of £50.

31 Highways

1: Councillor Stevens reported that the Safer Wealden Partnership has been unable to arrange training for the Black Speed Monitoring Device because of staff shortages but hopes this will be rectified soon.

2: Following on from the last meeting the Parish Council asked East Sussex County Council how much it would cost to get the white lines on the Wartling Road and Boreham Street repainted and is now waiting to hear back.

32 Wealden Local Plan

The Parish Council continues to be concerned about the water situation and the effects on the infrastructure as a whole.

33 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Reid asked that in light of the extra housing if it is possible to push for a 40mph speed limit in Windmill Hill. The Clerk will find out.

34 Planning Applications

WD/2023/1658/FA – Dragonfly Farm, Jenners Lane, Wartling – Removal of Condition 1 of WD/2012/1587/FA (Removal of Condition 3 of Planning Permission WD/1999/1322/F – Proposed stabling and hay store) to allow for flexible use and deletion of requirement to remove following cessation of equestrian use - Wartling Parish Council strongly objects to this application. This site is within an ancient woodland (a fact that is not mentioned in the application) and the area needs to be preserved as such. It is afforded specific protection under the NPPF and 'there are not wholly exceptional reasons' for approving the removal of Condition 1 of WD/2012/1587/FA. Following the refusal of recent applications to develop the site for residential use it is surely time to impose Condition 1, rather than remove it.

There was no further business so the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Members' Update - East Sussex County Council - June 2023

From Cllr Bob Bowdler

(Wealden East Division:- Heathfield, Horam, Hooe, Herstmonceux, Ninfield, Warbleton & Wartling parishes)



Tributes paid to long-serving Eastbourne councillor

Tributes have been paid following the sad death of long-standing Eastbourne councillor Barry Taylor.

Councillor Taylor was first elected to represent the Eastbourne Meads division at the county council in 2005 and served on Eastbourne Borough Council up until May 2023. As an East Sussex County Councillor, Barry was most recently the Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee and sat on the council's Standards Committee. He was also a dedicated member of the East Sussex Fire Authority. We extend our condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

Adult Social Care

East Sussex County Council Celebrates Carers Week

Between 5 and 11 June, East Sussex celebrated Carers Week. The week is an annual campaign which aims to raise awareness of caring, whilst encouraging people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and access much-needed support.

East Sussex County Council has a carers strategy which sets out a commitment to support staff who have caring responsibilities.

Support is also available for young carers across the county, with access to services providing support with physical and emotional wellbeing. [East Sussex Young Carers](#) provide support to carers aged 5-18, and the [Young Carers Service](#) support carers aged 5-25.

More information about support and resources for carers can be found [here](#).

Support Services available for LGBTQ+ community

Specialist services offering advice and support for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual community (LGBTQ+) are available across East Sussex.

Funding has been awarded to the council's Joint Mental Health Commissioning Team from the Sussex Health and Care Partnership to fund three advice services. The services will offer support and information to those identifying as LGBTQ+, or who are exploring their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

According to the 2021 Census, over 15,000 residents aged 16 years and over identified with an LGB+ orientation in East Sussex, and 1,640 residents aged 16 years and over indicated that their gender identity was different from their sex registered at birth.

Information about the specialist services, including contact information, can be found [here](#).

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

Children's Services

Revitalisation of Youth Clubs

The Council has obtained £8m in funding to provide a complete rebuild of the Heathfield Youth Centre and a full refurbishment of the Peacehaven Youth Centre (known as The Joff). The funding is time limited and requires the project to be completed by March 2025. The funding includes £400,000 in revenue to ensure continuity during the build phase.

New specialist facility approved for East Sussex primary schools

East Sussex County Council has approved the establishment of two new specialist facilities for up to eight pupils at Denton Community Primary School and Meridian Primary School respectively, with effect from 1 September 2023.

More information about the meeting where this decision was made can be found [here](#).

Additional support to become available for families in East Sussex through Family Hubs

Following the receipt of funding from the Government's Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme, families across the county will be able to access a range of support services through 11 Family Hubs which will open their doors this summer.

Professionals, includes midwives, health visitors, Early Communications Support Workers and Early Years Practitioners, will offer support from the Hubs. Sessions will also give families the chance to socialise and support their children's needs and development. The Hubs will run across 11 sites, with more support offered [online](#).

East Sussex is one of 15 authorities to be awarded trailblazer status, specifically focussing on parent/infant relationships and perinatal mental health.

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

Communities, Economy and Transport

Grant funded capital project agreed to refurbish youth centres in East Sussex

Following the award of capital funding, East Sussex County Council has agreed to redevelop Peacehaven Youth Centre (The Joff) and rebuild Heathfield Youth Centre in Youth Hubs. The Council was also awarded revenue funding to enable delivery of youth services from alternative locations whilst the construction takes place.

More information about the meeting where this decision was made can be found [here](#).

County Council agrees additional investment to improve road conditions

East Sussex County Council has agreed additional investment in highways to include maintenance for extra patching and drainage work and to provide early improvements and resilience.

Decisions on future investment will be made during the council's normal budget setting process, starting in the autumn. East Sussex County Council continues to lobby central Government for better and longer-term funding for road maintenance.

More information about the meeting where this decision was made can be found [here](#).

New flexible, on-demand rideshare bus service introduced

East Sussex County Council has launched FlexiBus – a new, flexible and on-demand rideshare service operating across the county. The service is available in more rural areas of East Sussex which are not served by a regular bus service.

The cost of a Flexibus ride is equivalent to a standard bus fare, capped at £2 for a single journey until the end of October or an adult day pass can be bought for £5. As FlexiBus is a ride share service you may pick up or drop of others on your way.

More information about FlexiBus, including details of operational zones, can be found [here](#).

East Sussex celebrates Armed Forces Day

On 19 June, the Armed Forces flag was raised at County Hall in Lewes to mark Armed Forces Day. The flag flies in recognition of the whole armed forces community, from currently serving troops to Service families, veterans and cadets. Armed Forces Day is an annual event which intends to raise awareness of the contribution made by the UK's servicemen and women, past and present.

Data from the Office for National Statistics from the 2021 Census for England and Wales suggests that over 21,000 armed forces veterans aged 16 years and over live in East Sussex, and the county has the fourth highest proportion of veterans (4.6 per cent) in the South East.

The council is also a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant, a promise that those who have served in the armed forces are treated fairly and suffer no disadvantage.

Apprenticeship Roadshow events to take place in East Sussex

The Apprenticeship Roadshow is back for 2023. Two events will provide an opportunity for young people, parents and carers as well as job seekers and career changers across East Sussex to meet employers with live apprenticeship vacancies in their area. Attendees can also speak to advisers about which pathway is right for them, and learn from current apprentices about their experiences.

Each event will provide up to date information on apprenticeships, ranging from pre-employment through to higher and degree level apprenticeships. One event will be held in Hastings on 21 June, and the other in Eastbourne on 12 July.

More information about the Apprenticeship Roadshow and registration instructions can be found [here](#).

Book amnesty sees hundreds of titles returned to East Sussex libraries

Hundreds of overdue books have been returned to libraries across the county following a seven-week book amnesty earlier this year. The amnesty ran from Monday, 13 February to Friday, 31 March and saw over 750 lost books returned. 240 of the previously lost books were re-loaned to new customers during the period.

To avoid any future overdue fines, library users are reminded that borrowed items can be returned to any East Sussex library, not just the ones they were borrowed from. Most libraries also have drop boxes for out of hours returns.

More information about to renew borrowed items can be found under the 'Renew your books' section [here](#).

New app to support volunteering opportunities

The contribution of volunteers across the county is being celebrated with the development of an app to make it easier for people to find opportunities. East Sussex County Council is working with [The Tribe Project](#) on an initiative to boost community involvement across the county and support voluntary for the right roles.

The app is currently in development and will help support the work of [Rother Voluntary Action \(RVA\)](#), [Hastings Voluntary Action \(HVA\)](#) and [Wealden, Eastbourne and Lewes Voluntary Action \(3VA\)](#). As the project develops, organisations that have volunteering opportunities are being invited to add these to the app ahead of its release in the autumn.

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

For your information: **Meetings I attended in June as your County Councillor:**

ESCC 4 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefings
South East Region Armed Forces Briefing
Ministerial Meeting East Sussex Family Hubs - Hailsham
Official Visit to Sussex Cadet Force - Heathfield
SE Region Armed Forces meeting - Crawley
Childrens Services Achievement Awards
Horam PC
Armed Forces Service – Guildford (Armed Forces Week)
Flag Raising – Lewes
Whole Council Forum
Cabinet Session
ESCC Official (Peer Review) Inspection (2 Days)
Cabinet Briefing
MOD Meeting in Lewes
Cabinet
Governance Committee
Highways Briefing - Ringmer
Launch of First Family Hubs – Hastings
Hope to Harm meeting with Police - Eastbourne
Borough & Districts Armed Forces Champions



Wealden East Division 1/7/23

Waste Management

Despite some disruption to services during the icy conditions before Christmas, waste collection performance remains good with an average of 44 missed bins per 100,000 collections. The Contract Service Level Agreement requires 77 or fewer missed bins per 100,000 collections. Improvements have been made in particular for customers with assisted collections, with a reduction of 70% of missed bins.

Work continues to enable the introduction of Hydro-treated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as a drop-in replacement fuel for regular diesel for the waste collection and street cleansing fleet of vehicles, saving up to 90% on overall carbon emissions.

The full year 2021/22 recycling data showed an improvement from last year with 49.1% of waste collected and recycled, compared to 48.4% for the previous year. It is anticipated that the industrial action during 2022, and the temporary suspension of all recycling and garden waste collections for a period of 6 weeks, will adversely affect recycling performance for 2022/23 although, this is expected to recover again in 2023/24.

Street Scene

Street cleansing performance remains good with the latest independent survey for street cleanliness reporting all measures such as litter, detritus and dog fouling being within contractual targets.

Fly tipping incidents have reduced by 13% for Q3 2022/23, compared to the same period the previous year.

Housing

Ukraine: The government announced £650m new funding to support refugees for Ukraine as well as changes to the level of tariff payments for councils and thank you payments for hosts.

The biggest component is a £500m capital fund for new housing to alleviate local housing and homelessness pressures.

We have decided to take up the offer and match fund (60% WDC – 40% Government) the purchasing of 10 properties in order to provide temporary and “move on” accommodation for our Ukrainian guests along with funding the acquisition of two four bed properties to accommodate two Afghan refugee families. This is to help relieve the situation of a substantial number of Afghan refugees being accommodated in hotels around the UK.

Homelessness Prevention Grant: The government has confirmed allocations for the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG) in 2023-24 and 2024-25. Funding will continue to be allocated direct to district councils. You can find details of each council’s allocation.

Damp & Mould in housing: Social housing has the lowest proportion of non-decent homes of all housing tenures at just 13% compared to 16% of owner occupiers and 21% of private rented.

However, there are lessons to be learnt from such cases and we strive, as we have always done at Wealden, to continue to improve the quality of our housing and service to our tenants.

We inspect all properties where we are notified of damp and mould and work with our contractors to ensure they report any signs of mould when undertaking any type of repair, so that we can initiate a proactive response. As a holistic Housing service, we have plans in place for increasing welfare visits and stock condition inspections, to highlight potential issues earlier.

Corporate Plan 2023 - 2027

Work is continuing apace. Following extensive consultation last year the plan will be titled ‘Ambitious for our future and based on 4 themes: Engaged Communities; Sustainable Environment; Thriving Economy; Ambitious Council.

Climate Change

Work continues on the roll out of electric vehicle charging in WDC car parks. A webinar on the project and the way parish and town councils can facilitate public charging of their own held on 1st December

was well attended and a number of town and parish councils have already made contact with, Connected Kerb, to investigate potential sites. We now have final designs for the charger locations and are just undertaking some final due diligence regarding where cables will need to be laid and what permissions are needed. It is hoped that on the ground installation should start sometime in the coming couple of months.

Emergency Planning

Lessons are being learned from the Major Incident declared w/c 19th December which saw residents across Sussex and in particular the Crowborough area without water for several days.

Food Hygiene Rating Scheme

The number of very good businesses continues to be a high percentage at 76%. 8 businesses were failing in December and are being monitored.

70% of food businesses have been inspected, by 1 January, which are due to be inspected this financial year. We should achieve almost 100 percent of the programme by the end of the year.

Communications

Work to celebrate Wealden District Council's 50th anniversary in 2024 is continuing. The authority was established in 1974 following the Local Government Act 1972 and we are looking at ways to mark the occasion with civic celebrations as well as those within the community.

The following Press Releases may be of interest:

a) Benefits service drop-in session comes to Pevensey Bay

Residents living in Wealden are invited to a benefits drop-in session in Pevensey Bay on Tuesday 7 March. The event is being held in St Wilfrid Church on the corner of Eastbourne Road and Collier Road, and residents do not need an appointment to attend the session, which is from 12pm-4pm.

b) Construction starts on new Changing Places unit in Wealden facility in Pevensey Bay.

Wealden District Council contractors are currently building the foundations on which the Changing Places unit, being purchased from Rise Adaptions Ltd, will stand next to the existing council-run toilets in the Sea Road Car Park. Work has begun on a new Changing Places

c) Free NHS health checks offered to residents in Wealden

Free NHS health checks are to take place across the Wealden district in partnership with One You East Sussex. Wealden District Council is delivering a Wealden road show provided by One You East Sussex, a free holistic lifestyle service for residents of East Sussex

d) Wealden council is finalist in national award

Wealden District Council is a 2022 finalist for two awards in the Great British Workplace Wellbeing Awards. Shortlisted for the Best Support to Remote Workers, Wealden Council has shown support to its employees through the lockdowns and has continued to allow flexibility of a hybrid-working model, along with the wellbeing support that can be accessed from the offices and remotely to ensure employees have an effective work-life balance.

e) Wealden District Council hosted the Wealden Community Lottery launch recently

to give good causes a first look at how the lottery will work, as well as giving them a chance to sign up and raise awareness leading up to tickets going on sale.

The event – on Wednesday 1 February at Hailsham Civic Community Hall – was a great success, with 117 people attending from a range of local organisations within the Wealden community.

Cllrs Ray Cade and Pam Doodles

