

## **WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL**

### **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF**

6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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

35 Present

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

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

36 Apologies for Absence

Councillor M Shine sent apologies for his absence. The reasons for his apologies were accepted by the Full Council.

37 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

38 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

Any matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

39 Disclosures of Interests

There were no declarations of interests or changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

40 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.

He also added that;

- i. He has not been given the names of schools in the County affected by RAAC yet.
- ii. The Secretary of State for Education Gillian Keegan visited recently.

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

District Councillor Fairweather;

- i. Asked if the Parish Council and residents would like the planning application for Wartling Wood referred to Planning Committee South for a Decision. They would.
- ii. Said he will bring more information about Quiet Lanes to the November Meeting so he can answer any questions Councillor Shine has. Councillor Shine originally requested the information but was unable to attend this meeting.
- iii. Said the Local Plan consultation is expected to take place later this year.
- iv. Confirmed the situation at Brooks Farm is being investigated further. He is also going to meet two representatives from the Water Levels Management Board and will alert them too.

42 Questions from Members of the Public

Residents speculated on the work taking place at Brooks Farm and were disappointed that action wasn't taken sooner.

The meeting was then re-opened.

43 Reports

a) Planning

The Appeal relating to The Lamb has been dismissed by the Planning Inspector which means the enforcement notice has been upheld. It means the owner can still use the premises for AirBnb but only until mid-October. District Councillor Fairweather suggested residents photograph any AirBnb activities which take place after then for Enforcement at Wealden.

b) Environment

At the last meeting Councillor Shine said 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 then contacted Highways who agreed to cut the area within the 30mph zone but not the rest because they don't feel it poses a safety threat. She has asked them to revisit the matter.

c) Footpaths

At the last meeting Councillor Reid reported some outstanding issues with footpath WRT/24/1 which date back to 2021. The Clerk contacted Rights of Way and has yet to receive a reply so she will chase them up again.

The Parish Council has also been invited by Herstmonceux Parish Council to join its councillors and carry out a survey of any work that needs doing on both parishes' footpaths. Councillor Reid offered his contact details.

d) Highways

There were no new updates on the Highways.

e) Police

The last meeting with the Police was cancelled. Meetings will now take place four monthly because there are staff shortages.

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

Three Speedwatch sessions were carried out in July, nine offences were noted but only 5 went through the system because of technical issues. Two sessions took place in August, there were only two offenders.

The Parish Council would like to pass on its condolences to the family of Doug Pouchin. Mr Pouchin was a Speedwatch volunteer. He will be sorely missed, his work was greatly appreciated.

i) Trees

There was nothing new to report.

44 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

Councillor Stevens;

- i. Attended a Healthwatch Advisory Group Meeting where it was reported that the numbers of cases of Covid are on the increase again.
- ii. Reported there is a problem nationally and in East Sussex with the retention and recruitment of Parish Clerks.

45 Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

- To approve the payments list to the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The payments were as follows;

		<u>£</u>
101023	ESALC Ltd	48.00
101024	A Stevens - Salary - July	431.07
101025	A Stevens - Salary - August	431.07
101026	ESCC – Pension	227.24

- To approve the accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

46 Highways

1: Councillor Stevens said the Safer Wealden Partnership has been unable to arrange training for the Black Speed Monitoring Device because of staff shortages but he hopes this will be rectified soon. The Parish Council could consider buying one but Councillors would still need to do the training.

2: 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. As a result, the County Council has agreed to repaint those on the Wartling Road between The Lamb and the junction with Boreham Hill at its own cost. The Clerk will continue to chase for a price to get the ones in Boreham Street between Boreham Hill and the junction with Wartling Road reinstated.

47 Questions from Parish Councillors

In light of the extra housing and the recent accident at the junction with Wartling Road, the Parish Council will ask the County Council to re-evaluate the Councillors' request for a 30mph speed limit in Windmill Hill to see if it now meets the criteria.

48 Planning Applications

WD/2023/2098/F - 2 Sunnyside, The Strait, Boreham Street, Wartling, BN27 4SF - Replacement of windows to side and rear of existing dwelling. Replacement of timber door with white UPVC door – Wartling Parish Council has no objections to this planning application as long as it meets the requirements of being in a Conservation Area.

There was no further business so the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

## **Members' Update – East Sussex County Council – August 2023**

### **Cllr Bob Bowdler - Wealden East Division**

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

## **Adult Social Care**

### Events celebrate Older People's Day

A programme of activities will take place across September and October to mark International Older People's Day 2023. The 'Full of Life' events programme has been unveiled by East Sussex County Council and East Sussex Senior's Association (ESSA) and features over 40 free and paid for activities open to the 50+ age group.

Events will include film screenings, lunch clubs and wellbeing workshops, as well as coffee mornings, singalongs, creative crafting and board games sessions. Many of the events have been organised by ESSA Senior Forum groups which provide a collective voice for over 50s across the county, as well as holding social events and offering help and advice to older people. The Forums meet with the council's Adult Social Care team and the NHS every two months, influencing the decisions made locally on the issues which impact their everyday lives.

More information about Older People's Day and the full events programme can be found [here](#).

Further details about Older People's Forums in East Sussex, including how to join one, can be found on the [East Sussex County Council website](#).

## **Children's Services**

### £7 million boost to help to County Youth Centres

Facilities for young people in Heathfield and Peacehaven will undergo a major upgrade thanks to more than £7 million of Government funding. The Youth Investment Fund will help East Sussex County Council to provide a range of positive activities and support services for young people after school, in the evenings and at weekends.

The funding is part of a £300 million commitment by the Government to transform and level up the out-of-school youth sector in levelling up priority areas. With the funding secured, the County Council hopes to have the youth centres completed by December 2024.

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

## **Communities, Economy and Transport**

### Public's views sought on bus service boosting plans

Proposals to help make bus services more reliable, improve journey times and reduce congestion in Eastbourne, Newhaven and Peacehaven have been unveiled. The plans include new bus lanes, bus stops and shelters, upgrades to junctions and signals to give priority to buses, as well as new and upgraded pedestrian routes and crossings.

East Sussex County Council is asking the public to give their views on the proposals, which are part of the council's Bus Service Improvement Plan, aiming to ensure that residents and visitors can enjoy the highest possible quality bus services, improving air quality and helping the county to

reduce its carbon footprint. All feedback from the consultation will be considered when preliminary and detailed designs are drawn up towards the end of the year.

The public consultation began on 31 July and will run until 25 September. Residents can have their say by visiting the consultation's [web page](#). A series of drop-in events will also take place to allow members of the public to view plans and ask questions.

More information about the consultation and the drop-in events is available [here](#).

### Solar panels to contribute to county's environmental efforts

Efforts to reduce carbon emissions from council buildings across the county have been boosted by the latest installation of solar panels. The Keep in Moulsecoomb became the 13<sup>th</sup> building to have panels fitted as part of East Sussex County Council's climate emergency plan. Within 12 months, the new installation is expected to save 23 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and save around £45,000 in energy bills.

As well as the 13 solar panel installations, East Sussex County Council has completed 20 LED lighting projects and installed low carbon heating in two of its buildings in the last two years.

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

### East Sussex welcomes £10.5 million bus service improvements

As part of the East Sussex Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), £10.5 million of Government funding has been invested into improving bus services across the county. Every district and borough has benefitted from the enhanced services, with new hourly daily services in some areas, frequency enhancements, and additional evening and weekend services.

As well as the service enhancements, the ambitious plan has resulted in reduced fares and the successful introduction of an on-demand bus service, FlexiBus, in rural areas of the county.

More information about this story can be found [here](#). A full list of improvements is available on the [East Sussex County Council website](#).

### New school bus service introduced

East Sussex County Council has confirmed funding for two different bus services, which will operate from September and serve Seahaven Academy.

The two routes, from Saltdean and Denton, will run during term time, with drop off and pick up times corresponding with the school's new start and finish times. The new services will be operated by Brighton & Hove Buses and will initially be funded by the council for three academic years, to the end of July 2026.

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

### Praise for students as exam results announced

Council leaders have praised the efforts of young people across East Sussex as this year's [A-Level](#) and [GCSE](#) results are announced.

Advice for parents and young people on the next steps available, including further education, work experience and apprenticeships, can be found on the [Careers East Sussex website](#).

The [Youth Employability Service](#) also has information available for 18-year-olds. Young people, parents and carers can find information on the help available to support their mental health and wellbeing [here](#).

### Creative business investment programme launched in East Sussex

A scheme to help companies become investment ready is available to creative industries in East Sussex. The 'Create South East' programme aims to support local creative businesses to develop the skills needed to secure investment and facilitate access to additional funding. The initiative is part of the government's national 'Create Growth' programme to help grow creative industries nationwide. The programme will run until 2025.

More information about the programme, including instructions for how to submit an Expression of Interest, can be found [here](#).

Read more about this story [here](#).

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

ESCC 4 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefings  
Fostering Annual Outing – Hailsham  
HAF Project – Hastings  
Youth Services - Heathfield & Horam  
Horam Parish Council  
Community Youth Committee  
Visit to Buzz Active – Hailsham  
Herstmonceux Parish Council  
Visit to SE Army Cadets Annual Camp - Crowborough



Wealden East Division  
5 September 23