

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 1st May 2013 in the Reid Hall, Boreham Street

### 1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors B Bentley and R Thomas and District Councillor P Doodles. They were unable to attend this meeting under the rules of purdah.

### 2. Welcome

The Chairman, Keith Stevens, welcomed the twenty five people in attendance and reported that during this past year;

- Localism has given more powers to Local Councillors. Wartling Parish Council has achieved the eligibility requirements for the General Power of Competence and now has the same rights as individuals.
- There were changes to permitted development rights, residents can now make certain types of minor changes to their properties without needing to apply for planning permission.
- The Parish Council formed a Working Party to clear the vegetation at Wartling Road whilst the road was resurfaced. He thanked everyone who helped. The Parish Council also received confirmation that the speed limit in Boreham Street by PGL is to be reduced. Mr Gulzar has started returning his site at Pevensey Levels to its original state.
- Katy Bourne was voted the first Police and Crime Commissioner in East Sussex.
- Speedwatch remained active and the Parish Council worked with the Fire Brigade and visited residents to offer free fire safety advice and smoke detectors.
- The Parish Council is to organise photographs of fields which will help the police gather evidence to establish that a field has been broken into.
- Crime in the parish is generally low although there has been one reported break in. The Chairman emphasised the need to report all thefts and burglaries to the Police.
- The new Bexhill-Hastings link road is to go ahead, monies have been received from ESCC.
- The Lamb public house has re-opened and Michael Corfield celebrated four years as Landlord of the Bull's Head in Boreham Street.

- We were sorry to see Cllr Shelagh Huntbatch leave but delighted to welcome Daren Permaul.
- He finished by thanking all County, District and Parish Councillors for working so hard on behalf of this Parish Council over the last year and residents for making our meetings the best attended in East Sussex.

### 3. Report from the Police

There have been thefts of oil locally and a break in at the stables at Wartling Wood. There has been a burglary in Wartling and wine has been stolen from Boreham Lane.

### 4. Report from County and District Councillors

County Councillors R Thomas and B Bentley sent a written report which stated the following;

Because of the election campaign County Council activity has been low Councillors have continued to push for the reduced speed on the A271 from Windmill Hill to Boreham Street, the latest progress is;

The traffic regulation order (TRO) was advertised from Friday 19th April 2013 in the newspaper and public notices have been posted on the road, these explain the proposals and advise that any objections should be submitted to the County Council legal department before 13th May 2013.

A part of the local action was to work with PGL to design some posters to go up as an extra visual reminder to drivers that the speed limit has changed.

The Chairman then invited representatives of clubs and associations;

### 4. Reports from Clubs and Associations

There were no reports from Clubs and Associations on this occasion.

### 5. Open Forum

Mrs Jones asked when the stables at Jenner's Lane are being moved. The stables are reported to have been moved.

Mr Parkes asked why the parish precept has increased by 25% for the year 2013-2014 and if the decision was voted on and agreed.

Councillor Stevens pointed out that the decision had been agreed at the last Full Council Meeting by all the Councillors and that the residents in attendance (approximately 30) had unanimously supported the Council's decision. Some had suggested a 50% increase. It was pointed out that the increase amounted to less than 70p per annum to a band G property. Councillor Stevens explained that while there are reserves, expenditure exceeds income and reserves can not be drawn upon indefinitely.

In future monies will be required by the Council to fund items such as fingerpost signs and to bridge any gap in Council Tax following the government's decision to reduce the payment for Council Tax Benefits by 10%. This includes the 25% discount for single residents which applies to a number of our residents. There is a transitional grant this year which Wealden has paid out to all parishes – not all Districts have done this.

Mr Parkes was of the view that the Council had previously built up reserves so why can't they do it again. Councillor Stevens pointed out that the reserves built up after a loan had been repaid. Increased responsibilities bring increased costs. He also pointed out the council is limited on the funds it can accumulate.

Mr Frank Tusker asked for a detailed breakdown of expenses. The Chairman said he would cover this point during the AGM.

Mr Parkes asked the Parish Council to include litter picking and cleaning the bus shelter on the next Full Council Meeting agenda.