

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

3rd January 2018

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

57 Present

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

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

58 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor P Doodles.

59 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th September 2017 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

60 Minutes of the Planning Meeting

The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 29th November 2017 were adopted by the Full Council.

61 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

All matters arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

62 Disclosures of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest in any items on this agenda.

Councillor Stevens announced he has been appointed Vice Chairman of NALC and will be changing his Register of Interest Form in due course.

The meeting was then suspended.

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

County Councillor Bentley reported that;

- East Sussex Trading Standards has helped secure the arrest of a fraudster who stole £47900 from vulnerable people in East and West Sussex. He received a 30 month custodial sentence and will have his assets seized to help reimburse his victims.
- ESCC, like many Councils, is currently struggling to put together its budget for the new financial year. ESCC raised a petition (Stand Up For Sussex), to highlight how difficult finances have become for Councils, and the Government has launched a Green Paper to see if more money can be found in the future.

Councillor Stevens added that he regularly meets all Partners through the East Sussex Association of Local Councils and they are all struggling with what they must do with what they'd like to do.

64 Report from the District Councillor on matters from the County Council affecting this Parish.

There was no report from the District Councillor on this occasion.

65 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from the public on this occasion.

The meeting was then re-opened.

66 Reports

- a) Planning – The Planning Committee met in November and commented on the following applications;

WD/2017/1250/F - Foxes Barn (Avery's Barn), Wood Lane, Wartling BN27 1GA – Replacement of existing barn previously approved for conversion under WD/2015/2486/F with new dwelling and double garage - Councillors are pleased to note that the applicants have addressed the various issues raised by them at their Planning Meeting on the 26th July and have no objections to this application.

WD/2017/2282/F - Garage at High View, Boreham Street - Replacement garage. Councillors discussed this at length and unanimously objected to the application. If the garage was to be replaced, although the accuracy of the photos of it were questioned, Councillors would wish the replacement to be of a similar size and height. The proposed structure is far too high and the visual impact would be out of character with the surrounding properties in this conservation area.

WD/2017/1982/F - Starr Garage, Boreham Hill, Boreham Street - Proposed four new garages to the existing scheme provided under WD/2016/2990/RM - Councillors have no objections to this application. This application has since been approved by Wealden District Council.

WD/2017/2388/F - Tyler Barn, Wartling Road Demolition of existing Barn and Erection of a single three bedroom dwelling with detached car port - Councillors unanimously objected to this application. Whilst the majority may have approved the incorporation of the previous pottery/jewellery making studio into the new dwelling as an exercise pool they strongly object to the contemporary design of the property including the acrylic render which is wholly out of character with the surrounding listed buildings and which spoils the visual impact of the landscape especially given that the location is only just outside the Conservation Area and visible from the local footpath. Councillors are happy to support the District Council's flexible approach to dwellings such as this as they demonstrated by their approval to the previous application for this site but feel that the design of this application is stretching that flexibility too far. They also object to some of the terminology in the application which attempts to suggest that prior approval for some elements of the applications have been given in pre-application advice. This application has since been withdrawn.

WD/2017/2609/F - Reid's Cottage, Wartling Road - Proposed single storey side extension. Cllrs. Stevens, Lawrence, Paterson and Reid were surprised that this application was necessary as they thought it would fall within Permitted Development however they had no objections to this application.

b) Environment North

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

c) Footpaths

ESCC has been asked to cut back the footpath that runs beside Little Coopers and Tyler Barn because it is impassable. Councillor Paterson will check to see if the work has been carried out yet.

d) Environment South

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

e) Highways

Councillor Kehl said she was impressed at how quickly ESCC repaired a pothole she reported. Councillor Lawrence said he will be reporting another at Wartling Hill.

f) Police

The New Year Hunt took place. The Police watched from a discreet distance and there was no trouble.

g) Communication

Councillor Lawrence said some areas in the Parish are still not receiving broadband. He will speak to Katy Thomas at the County Council and find out what plans they have to change this.

h) Speedwatch

Councillor Lawrence thanked the Speedwatch Team who carried out 15 sessions in 2017. They reported 82 vehicles, 71 owners were sent letters and the Road Police Unit intervened in one case.

Since its formation the Team has carried out 64 sessions and reported 324 vehicles.

The Community Speedwatch website has won an International Award.

More volunteers are needed if the Team is to continue. Anyone interested is asked to contact Councillor Lawrence.

i) Trees

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

67 Reports from Outside Meetings and Courses

Council Stevens attended a Budget and Policies Meeting at the East Sussex Association of Local Councils.

Councillors Stevens, Lawrence and the Clerk attended the Wealden Parish Conference in December. The rules in Planning have been relaxed but Partners are still consulted when major applications are considered.

68 Precept 2018-2019;

i: to consider any grant requests 2018-2019 – there were no grant applications for consideration at this meeting.

ii: to consider paying for extra cuts to the verges – County Councillor Bentley said that the County Council may soon be reducing the number of times it cuts the verges. Councillors asked the Clerk to find out how much it would cost if they pay for additional cuts and discuss this at a later meeting.

iii: to agree the precept for 2018-2019 – Councillors resolved that the precept for 2018-2019 will be £7000 to allow for the costs of implementing the changes in the General Data Protection Regulations which are coming into effect in May 2018.

69 PCC Consultation - to agree a formal response to the Consultation which asks how residents' would feel if the PCC share of the Council Tax was increased to enable them to provide more local policing – Councillors agreed the consultation is too open ended and in the circumstances decided not to comment as a Parish Council but that individuals were of course free to comment although they need to be quick as the closing date is in a couple of days. Responses to the consultation can be made on www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/public-consultations

70 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Stevens said the Village Hall Committee has asked the Parish Council to consider changing its meeting dates so they can accept another booking. Councillors are unfortunately unable to accommodate the request because they have commitments elsewhere but they offered to pay for the hire of the hall to help meet any shortfall.

71 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications for consideration at this meeting.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8.10pm.