

## **WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL**

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

4<sup>th</sup> November 2015

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

66 Present

Councillors K Stevens (Chairman), R Lawrence, C Paterson, S Parker and M Corfield.

District Councillor P Doodes, A Stevens (Clerk) and fourteen members of the public were also in attendance.

67 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Parish Councillor S Huntbatch, County Councillors B Bentley, County Councillor L Keeley and PSCO S French.

68 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Meeting held on 2nd September 2015 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 were received and adopted by the Full Council.

69 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

All matters' arising are included elsewhere in these minutes. Councillor Stevens said he will bring details of the Council's auto enrolment obligations to the next Full Council Meeting. This item will be classed as confidential and the conclusion reported back to Full Council.

70 Disclosures of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest in any items on this agenda and there were no reported changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

71 Report from PCSO

PCSO French sent a written report in which he said;

- East Sussex Highways has had a works container broken into on Boreham Hill. A large amount of work tools were stolen.
- Police have received a report from a resident that two males were seen checking out properties in Jenners Lane recently. The males were driving a white shogun vehicle.

The Police are asking residents to report any suspicious behaviour on 101 or at [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk).

The Chairman confirmed that inconsiderate/dangerous parking at Boreham Lane has been reported to the Police by the Parish Council.

## 72 Reports from District and County Councillors.

County Councillor L Keeley sent a written report in which he said;

- he is at the Care and Dementia Conference in Birmingham.
- he and County Councillor Purslove from Pevensy met representatives from Southern Water to talk about the impact the proposed extra development will have on the sewage system.
- he has set up a group in Hailsham called the Transport Action Group. The Group is looking at the transport side of the Issues, Options and Recommendations document.
- he has visited schools and doctors in the Hailsham area to look at the effects the new Local Plan will have on the existing infrastructure.

District Councillor P Doodes said;

- Wealden is holding exhibitions to allow residents to comment on the new Local Plan. Exhibitions are being held at;

Heathfield Youth Centre on Saturday 7th November from 10.00am - 2.00pm

Hailsham Civic Community Hall on Friday 13th November from 2.00pm - 8.00pm

Polegate Community Centre on Saturday 14th November from 10.00am - 2.00pm

- grants applications are being sought from clubs and associations by the Wealden and Rother Rural (WARR) Partnership.
- there is to be a Chestnut Tree Craft Fair at the Reid Hall on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November from 10am to 4pm. Everyone is welcome.

## 73 Questions from Members of the Public

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

The meeting was then re-opened.

## 74 Reports

- a) Planning – There has been one Planning Meeting since the last Full Council Meeting.

The Planning Committee considered on the following planning applications;

WD2015/1649F – Flynn Concrete, Tilly Lane – Steel framed livestock and general purpose building built to agricultural specification – The Committee agreed that this site was not overlooked and that the nature of the building was in keeping with the surroundings and they therefore had NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

WD2015/2036F and WD2015/2035LB – Byways, Boreham Street – Proposed replacement single storey extensions and refurbishment works including selected window replacement and repairs, replacement of upper storey weatherboarding, re-roofing, chimney reinstatement, replacement rainwater goods, replacement SVP and enlargement of forecourt parking area - The Committee was pleased to learn that work is to be completed and carried out on this property and they therefore have NO OBJECTIONS to the application PROVIDED the work is approved by the Listed Buildings authority.

WD2015/1984F – Windmill Hill Activity Centre – Construct staff accommodation within existing activity hall together with forming new door and window openings - The Committee has NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

WD2015/1758F – Tyler Barn, adjacent Coopers Farm, Wartling Road – Demolition of existing barn previously approved for conversion and erection of one dwelling. Erection of car port/shed structure and proposed ancillary artist's studio - The committee discussed this application at length. The committee has NO OBJECTION to the demolition of the existing barn and the erection of a new dwelling which should greatly enhance the appearance of the property nor do they have any objections to the erection of the car port. The main discussion centred around the proposed ancillary artist's studio and concerns were raised about the encroachment of agricultural land however the committee decided they would not object provided safeguards were taken to tie the studio to Tyler Barn and conditions applied as to the usage.

WD2015/1601/F and WD2015/1601/LB - The Smugglers Wheel, Boreham Hill, Boreham Street - Replacement of existing gate with a pair of hardwood gates. The committee has NO OBJECTIONS to the proposed replacement gates PROVIDED the work is approved by the Listed Buildings authority.

Committee Members also considered on;

Proposed Diversion of Public Footpath. Wartling 19  
The committee strongly OBJECTED to this proposal to divert the footpath around the field edge. The small animal yard if it can be called that was erected long after the footpath. The owners altered the gates which has caused problems and the diversion would not make any difference to vehicles emerging into the area used by walkers, in fact it could have the opposite effect as coming around the edge of the field they would be hidden from sight. The existence of the footpath in its current location helps limit attempts to alter the

usage of the barn. In the committees view the proposed change would in fact restrict the views given the hedging around the field.

Councillor Stevens also confirmed the owners of the barn at the junction of Jenner Lane and Wood Lane applied to convert it to a residential home under Permitted Development Rights but Wealden District Council have advised them that they need to submit a full planning application.

b) Environment North

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

c) Footpaths

Councillor Corfield confirmed the works required to the footpath at Boreham Lane have now taken place.

d) Environment South

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

e) Highways

A dead deer found on Boreham Street was reported to the Parish Council and has since been removed.

It was also noted that verge cutting planned for the parish has yet to take place and the overgrown vegetation at the bottom of Boreham Lane by the telephone kiosk is now obstructing the highway. The Clerk will report this to the County Council.

f) Police

This was covered under the report from the PCSO.

It was also noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner is currently inviting comments from residents about her proposals for the police budget. She is asking residents to pay more Council Tax so the police can invest more resources in protecting children and vulnerable adults and put more resources in the digital forensic capability to retrieve, analyse and store information held on computer, mobiles and tablets.

g) Communication

Councillor Lawrence confirmed this parish is included in the new contract to provide better broadband. Work is expected to be completed by the summer of 2016.

h) Speedwatch

The Speedwatch Team has met for two sessions. The first between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

The second took place between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October. 18 offenders were reported at each session.

Councillor Lawrence attended an outside meeting of Speedwatch Facilitators. Speedwatch teams are to be given new cameras. It was also noted that in the year to October 2015 Speedwatch teams in Wealden have reported 26512 offenders. 21796 letters have been sent out to offenders, 60 were referred for intervention and two persistent offenders have had their cars scrapped.

Wartling Parish Council's Speedwatch Team needs more volunteers though. Anyone who would like to volunteer is asked to contact Councillor Lawrence on [rlawrence.wpc@btinternet.com](mailto:rlawrence.wpc@btinternet.com).

i) Trees

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

75 Reports from Outside Meetings and Courses

Councillors Parker, Lawrence, Stevens and the Clerk have all attended planning training for the new Local Plan.

Councillor Stevens and the Clerk attended the Wealden Parish Conference where subjects covered included Planning and Policing.

Councillor Parker announced the recent McMillan Coffee Morning which was held at the Reid Hall raised £1400.37 and was one of the most successful.

76 Broadband Update

This was covered under 'Communication'.

77 Local Plan Issues, Options and Recommendations

Councillor Lawrence briefed everyone about the first phase of the Issues, Options and Recommendations of the new Wealden Local Plan. The Plan deals with housing need and conservation areas.

Under this new plan Wealden's Objectively Assessed Housing Need is just under 20,000 dwellings by 2037. This plan is backdated to 2013 and will include units already granted permission since April 2013.

In the case of this Parish the new plan requires the construction of 10 dwellings by 2037. Herstmonceux Parish and Ninfield Parish have been allocated an additional 120 and 195 respectively which could impact on the roads in this Parish and could also impact the Pevensey Levels. Hailsham

Town has been allocated over 9000 dwellings. The former Harris garage site development is not believed to be included in our allocation.

There are also proposals to extend the conservation area in this Parish. A small area of Boreham Street and Wartling are now expected to be included.

Wartling Parish Council **resolved** to make the following comments on the extra housing; Wartling Parish Council

- would prefer to see the housing allocation distributed around more towns in the north of the District.
- is concerned about the extra traffic generated from the extra development, particularly that from Herstmonceux and Ninfield, as it will impact the roads in this Parish.
- is also concerned about the impact the new development will have on the Pevensey Levels.

Wartling Parish Council **resolved** to make the following comments about the proposed new conservation areas; Wartling Parish Council would like to ask why;

- the boundaries are so tight and properties such as Batts Hill and Coopers Farm are not included.
- the areas exclude gardens.
- the Conservation Area is property related and not area related.

#### 78 Boundary Review

The Boundary Commission is inviting Town and Parish Councils to formulate a formal response to the electoral review of East Sussex County Council and the five District Councils.

Wartling Parish Council considered the review and sees no reason to change the number of District and County Councillors here.

#### 79 Community Wardens

Sussex Police has to reduce its budget by a further £59m over four years from 2016 and, as a result, policing in Sussex will have to change. The role of the PCSO will change, they will now work in a problem solving way and their numbers will be reduced. Sussex Police is therefore asking Parish and Town Councils to consider employing Community Wardens if they would like a uniformed presence in their communities.

Community Wardens will cost parishes and towns approximately £28,000, not including any transport costs. Part funding for the first two years may be available from the Police and Crime Commissioner up to a maximum £30000. Community Wardens will have no powers of arrest but they can issue fixed penalty notices for problems such as dog fouling, fly posting, littering etc. They will not have the powers to deal with speeding or parking.

Wartling Parish Council **resolved** not to employ a Community Warden either wholly or partly with other parishes. Councillors would prefer instead to retain

the PCSO and if necessary may be prepared to consider making a contribution towards costs.

80 Precept 2016-2017

After careful consideration Wartling Parish Council **resolved** that the precept for 2016-2017 will be £6500 to keep the precept in line with its existing expenditure and allow for its new statutory obligations under The Transparency Code and auto enrolment.

Councillors **resolved** the Clerk can apply for funding towards the requirements of the Code from the Transparency Fund Grant offered from NALC.

81 Questions from Parish Councillors.

Councillor Lawrence announced a new defibrillator training session on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The session starts at 7.30pm, lasts for two hours and will be held at the Lamb in Wartling. Those interested in attending are asked to contact Councillor Lawrence on [rlawrence.wpc@btinternet.com](mailto:rlawrence.wpc@btinternet.com).

82 Planning Applications

The following application was considered by the Parish Council;

WD/2015/2208/LB – Champneys Farm, Jenners Lane – Reinstate former door opening, replacing existing window with double glazed double doors – Wartling Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD/2015/2110/LB – The Forge, Boreham Hill – Repair/replace clay peg tile roof with asphaltic flat roof to rear elevation, replace asbestos roof with pitched clay tile roof, replace/install cast aluminium rainwater goods, raise flat roofed first floor element to rear, repoint chimney stacks and install terracotta chimney cowls, reinstate chimneys, reinstate fireplace, install wood-burning stove, replace existing and install rooflights, replace window with doors and alter fenestration – Wartling Parish Council objects to this application because Councillors do not feel that aluminium sliding doors are in keeping with this property.

There being no questions from councillors, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.