

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

7th January 2015

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

84 Present

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

County Councillor L Keeley, County Councillor B Bentley, PCSO S French, A Hillman (Clerk) and eighteen members of the public were also in attendance.

85 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Parish Councillor Holbrook and District Councillor Mrs P Doodles.

86 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 5th November 2014 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

87 Appointment of New Councillor

Having considered her application, Councillors **resolved** unanimously to co-opt Shalagh Huntbatch as a Councillor to Wartling Parish Council.

88 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

All matters' arising are covered elsewhere in these minutes.

89 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.

90 Report from PCSO

PCSO Simon French reported;

- there have been three road traffic accidents on the Wartling Road, two resulting from black ice and one as a result of drink driving. PCSO French said he would contact ESCC to see if anything can be done to stop the water flowing across the road there.
- St Mary Magdalene Church was broken into, an arrest has been made, damage was caused but nothing was stolen.

- purse bells are available from PCSO French. The bells can be attached to purses and will ring if someone tries to snatch the purse.

Councillor Lawrence said there are been at least three further accidents on the Wartling Road.

PCSO French left the meeting at attend duties elsewhere.

91 Reports from District and County Councillors.

County Councillor B Bentley said:

- there is little to report from ESCC over Christmas.
- that before Christmas, the County Council made a number of changes to its supportive bus services but there will be no immediate local impact.
- ESCC has yet to hear from Central Government how much its funding will be reduced by, over the next four years.

County Councillor L Keeley reported that;

- the hedge at Jenners Lane has now been cut by residents.
- drain and ditch clearances remain a problem and he continues to chase the County Council. He is due to meet officers again shortly and councilors agreed Councillor Stevens should go to.
- ESCC is expected to support Gatwick's plans for a second runway at its meeting on 27th January.

92 Questions from Members of the Public

Mrs Jones and Mrs Dagleish said lorries using Jenner's Lane are churning up mud which causes the ditch to overflow onto the road.

Mrs White reported that paths in Boreham Street are now dangerous because they are too narrow and this is a result of poor maintenance. County Councillor Keeley will talk to the County Council about this at the afore mentioned meeting.

The meeting was then re-opened.

93 Reports

a) Planning – Councillor Stevens reported;

- the Parish Council understands that an application to appeal the Wartling Wood planning application has been made.
- the picket fence at Cooper's Farm requires planning permission and is not, at this stage, an Enforcement issue.
- the caravan in the field at the Wellhouse is there because a horse has been taken ill and needs looking after. It is expected to go once the horse is better.

- the works proposed at Meridian Farm are within the permitted development rights.

b) Environment North

There was nothing new to report on this occasion although Councillors noted that the new bus shelter looks clean and tidy and this is thanks to Mr and Councillor Mrs Parker.

c) Footpaths

Styles by Coopers Farm are reported to have been damaged. ESCC has been notified.

d) Environment South

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

e) Highways/Police

Councillor Lawrence reported;

- that the new bollards on the Wartling Road are still covered in mud and are therefore becoming ineffective. The Highways
- Steward has confirmed to the Clerk that he will clean them.
- two bollards have also since been knocked down.
- police have cleared a fallen tree in Boreham Lane.
- Speedwatch is to meet later this month. He also explained how Speedwatch works.

f) Communication

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

Work is expected to start on the Herstmonceux exchange in May after which residents should receive better broadband speeds. It was suggested Councillors could look into other options but they agreed that they did not want to prejudice our position in the ESCC project.

g) Trees

The County Council has been to look at a reportedly dangerous chestnut tree at Millhurst and say it is not a potential danger to road or pathway users.

The banks of the layby opposite Harris' garage are still reported to be dangerous. County Councillor Bentley is looking into the matter.

94 Reports from Outside Meetings and Courses

There have been no outside meetings or courses since the last Full Council Meeting.

95 Precept 2015-2016

Wartling Parish Council **resolved** that, the precept for 2015-2016 will be £5,500. This increase keeps the precept in line with actual expenditure and allows for the possibility of taking over some services from the District and County Council.

96 First Aid Training - update

A defibrillator has been now been fitted at The Bull's Head in Boreham Street, thanks to money awarded from the Wealden District Council Community Dividend.

Wartling Parish Council has been awarded a further £759 towards a second defibrillator which it plans to fit at The Lamb in Wartling when it re-opens. The Parish Council will organise defibrillator training for residents once a date has been agreed with the Community First Responders.

Wartling Parish Council would like to thank District Councillor Doodes, the staff at Wealden District Council and the Community First Responders for all their help.

97 Local Action Team

Sussex Police has invited the Parish Council to attend the first of what it is hoped will be, regular Local Action Team (LAT) meetings. These LAT meetings will feed local priorities into the Wealden Joint Action Group (JAG).

Councillors **resolved** that Councillors Paterson and Lawrence can attend on behalf of Wartling Parish Council.

98 Average Speed Camera

Maresfield Parish Council reportedly has problems with speeding in its parish and Councillors are considering buying a radar system at a cost of £13000 initially and £1500 a year to maintain. It is asking other parishes to consider jointly buying and sharing it.

Councillor Stevens is to attend a Wealden District Association Meeting where he will find out more and this and report back at the next meeting.

Councillors expressed concern about the costs and the high risk of vandalism. Councillor Bentley suggested they look at Wealden's Safer Roads Report in the meantime. This report can be found on the Wealden District Council website.

Councillor Stevens added that Sussex Police has to cut its budget by £55m

over four years from 2016 and parishes may have to fund items such as the cost of PCSOs, PCs and Speedwatch cameras. He said the latest speed cameras cost just under £1000 including VAT but there are no ongoing costs and the new camera could be used more often and in more locations.

Councillors **resolved** that if funding can be sought for 75% of the cost they will buy a speed camera for this parish.

99 Maintenance of Fingerpost Signs

Councillors **resolved** to replace the broken fingerpost sign in Wartling at a maximum cost of £1212.40 if ESCC will match fund it.

Councillors also **resolved** to seek prices to repair all the fingerpost signs in the parish which they will consider at the next meeting.

100 Questions from Parish Councillors.

There being no questions from councillors, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.