

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF 6th March 2013

held at The Reid Hall, Boreham Street

123 Present

Councillors K Stevens (Chairman), R Lawrence, C Paterson, D Permaul and A Holbrook.

County Councillor R Thomas, District Councillor Pam Doodes, Sgt Mark Ritchie, WPC Jackie Baldwin Charles, Gaidagh Chapman (East Sussex Fire and Rescue), Brian Banks (ESCC), Alison Hillman (Clerk) and 25 members of the public were also in attendance.

124 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from County Councillor B Bentley.

125 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 9th January 2013 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

126 Clerk's Report

Mrs Shelagh Huntbatch has formally resigned a Parish Councillor and the Parish Council now has permission from Wealden to co-opt. The Parish Council hopes to fill the vacancy at the next meeting.

127 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.

128 Sgt Mark Ritchie and WPC Jackie Baldwin Charles

Sgt Ritchie and WPC Baldwin Charles told those present about the following initiatives;

- i: Operation Crackdown – residents can report anti social driving via www.operationcrackdown.org. Complainants will need the car registration number.
- ii: the non emergency number is now 101, it was formerly 0845 60 70 999.
- iii: Operation Creosote – residents are encouraged to get all outside property marked by Sussex Police.

Residents questioned why Wartling is grouped with Ninfield and not Hailsham on the police website but the reasons for this are historical.

129 Glaidagh Chapman – East Sussex Fire and Rescue

Ms Chapman introduced herself and said the new Borough Commander, Mani Gilbert King, is initiating a publicity campaign to get to rural boroughs. ESFR is offering to visit all residents in East Sussex and offer free fire safety advice and smoke alarms.

Councillor Stevens suggested the Parish Council sets aside a day for its residents and invites residents to contact the Parish Council if they would like a visit. This service is on offer as long as funding continues.

130 Brian Banks, Team Manager, Road Safety ESCC

Mr Banks introduced himself and invited questions from the floor.

Residents asked for the 30mph speed limit on the Wartling Road to be extended. ESCC are to consider an extension as part of the Village Review although it was admitted the road has a low priority given the accident record and lack of funding. External funding is also being looked at as a possible means of getting the work carried out sooner.

Residents asked if countdown signs and speed reactive signs can help but the effect of countdown signs is minimal and speed reactive signs are not suitable for all locations.

Councillor Holbrook asked why no action has been taken despite a petition being handed to ESCC Executive Committee in 2009. This is a funding issue and the criteria for qualifying is the number of people killed or seriously injured.

Councillor Thomas pointed out that Wartling has a higher percentage of work carried out than anyone else in the County.

Councillor Stevens asked why Boreham Lane has a 60mph limit when it is a narrow road. The Government was considering a nationwide review of speed limits but has decided not to and drivers are being asked to drive to the conditions instead. Traffic calming would cost approximately £250,000 as lighting is required. Temporary signage can be used and signs are available from the Parish Council.

Residents were also reminded that they can report all potholes direct to ESCC or to the Parish Council.

131 Reports from District and County Councillors.

District Councillor Doodes said Wealden has agreed there will not be an increase in the Council Tax for 2013-2014 and reminded residents to register by 31st March if they want to have their garden waste collected after 1st July.

District Councillor Doodes also said that owners of listed buildings may no longer need planning permission but will need listed building consent if they want to fit solar panels to their properties and recommended potential applicants talk to the Duty Planning Officer at Wealden first.

County Councillor Thomas said County are currently filling 80 to 100 potholes a day and ESCC has also agreed not to increase Council Tax. Councillor Thomas sits on the Fire Services Authority and also reported that the Fire Service is recommends the fitting of sprinklers in all new houses.

He is also helping to lead the James Avenue Development Fight.

132 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from member of the public.

The meeting was then re-opened.

133 Reports

a) Planning

Councillor Stevens reported that the hearing about Pevensey Marshes has had to be rearranged because the judge was ill. A new date is to be agreed.

b) Environment South/Reid Hall

There have been two instances of rubbish dumped in and these have now been cleared. Rubbish has also been dumped on private land at Horsewalk but this is expected to be cleared soon.

The Reid Hall Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 13th March.

c) Footpaths and Environment North

Despite requests to ESCC the paths from the Village Hall remain uncleared. The Clerk will report this again.

Roofing felt was dumped in Jenner's Lane and cars continue to block Jenner's Lane.

The ditches in Boreham Lane have now been cleared.

d) Communications/Speedwatch

A new page has been added to the website advertising village events and it has already received 280 hits. Residents would like to continue to receive news of events by email.

BT is reported to have upgraded the local exchange on 28th February

and broadband speeds in the Parish should now increase.

Speedwatch continues and Councillor Lawrence recently received a special Community Award from the police for his Speedwatch work.

e) Highways/Police

Potholes in Horsewalk are increasing in size and this has been reported to ESCC. Councillor Holbrook offered to chase ESCC if residents get no response.

Flooding at Coopers Farm/Brookes Barn has been reported. Mud on the roads is causing increasing concern because it can be dangerous. Farmers can now be held to account and residents are encouraged to report any problems to Councillor Holbrook.

Councillor Holbrook also made residents aware of two consultations. The government is proposing to increase speed limits for HGVs on single carriageways from 40 to 50mph and that all HGVs meet European limits and increase from a 44 tonne 6 axle maximum to 50 tonne 8 axle maximum.

Councillor Holbrook noted the new non emergency police number, 101, is not free but there is a free number on the police website. He also said that the new Police and Crime Commissioner has not set road safety as a priority because Operation Crackdown is now in place.

134 Reports from Outside Meetings and Courses

Councillors Stevens and Paterson attended the Wealden District Association of Local Councils (WDALC) Meeting of 13th February, Councillor Stevens also attended the WDALC Coffee Morning on 22nd February and the Fire Service is attending this meeting as a result.

Councillors Paterson, Lawrence and Stevens attended Parish Planning Training and Councillor Stevens attended the Parish Planning Panel Meeting of which the minutes will be available in due course. Planning regulations have been greatly relaxed, Design and Access Statements are to be reduced and Permitted Development Rights are causing concern. Shops could soon easily change to offices and then to dwellings, and barn conversions are also easier.

Councillor Stevens attended the ESCC Health and Wellbeing Conference. From 1st April Public Health will be the responsibility of ESCC and there will be significant changes to the way GP Services are managed. Councillor Stevens also attended the ESCC Flood Meeting.

Councillors Lawrence and Holbrook agreed to join Councillor Stevens and attend Neighbourhood Plan training on 20th March.

135 Proposed 40mph speed limit A271 Windmill Hill

Wartling Parish Council **resolved** that it accepts the proposed 40mph speed limit on the A271 at Windmill Hill.

136 Proposed Section 278 Highways work from the centre to Joe's Lane

Councillors **resolved** that they would like the Newstead Shelter as long as it does not obstruct the pathway or encroach on the land beside the path which they understand is privately owned.

137 Questions from Members.

There were no questions from members.