

WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Warbleton Parish Council held on Thursday 27 June 2024 7pm at Bodle Street Green Village Hall

1. **Attendance:** Councillors Charlie Saunders (Chair), Katy Whymark (Vice-Chair), Beverley Saunders, Andy Long, Chris Wells, Bruce Simpson, Bob Bowdler, Buster Ansell and Jeanne Peterson (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: None

Absent: Peter Sterling

Other attendees: District Councillor Cornelie Osborne

2. **Declarations of Interest**

2.1. None

3. **Minutes**

3.1. **It was resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 23 May 2024, were a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

3.2. Matters Arising: None

4. **Public Participation**

Five members of the public were present and raised the following points:

- There has been a devastating environmental disaster at Furnace Brook Fishery, where the lake has been polluted causing death to all the fish as well as to other wildlife and birds in the surrounding areas. The facility has had to close and is now in the hands of the Environmental Agency. The owners wished to raise awareness of the incident and its impact, and will also be reporting to other local parish councils.
- The council was thanked for its grant donation to the Little Arts Festival which will take place between 2-24 August. Arrangements are well under way. A potential problem regarding parking on 10 August was raised as there is a village wedding in addition to the festival events. Dunn Village hall will be coned off which will provide a clear drop off point and turning circle but it was agreed to consider at the next meeting the possible provision of an overflow car park.
- At the January council meeting a baseline for investigation into the council's emergency plan and speed watch was agreed and there was now an enquiry into the progress of these items. The council reported that arrangements have been made to investigate the installation of change-over switches at the village halls to enable the use of a generator in the cases of local power failure. A draft overall plan is also in hand with a focus on what is applicable for the parish villages, and using work flow processes for each potential emergency scenario. Regarding speed watch, the council is looking into the relevant training and plans to update its advertising to recruit volunteers.

5. **Reports**

5.1. **County Councillor Bob Bowdler:** A monthly report had been circulated and there were no questions.

5.2. **District Councillors - Cllr Greg Collins** was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Osborne's report had been circulated and noted. The following question was raised:

- The site at Three Cups remains a serious concern. The response to the council's questions from Planning & Environmental had been circulated and was read out again by Cllr Osborne. However there still appears to be no work in hand to mitigate continuing damage to the building which is open to the elements. It was considered that at the least there should be protective

scaffolding with covering and a tin roof. The clerk was asked to email Cllr Usborne with these details which can be passed on.

5.3 **PCSO Megan Driscoll:** No report was available.

5.4 **Parish Councillors:**

i. **Cllr Beverley Saunders:** A written report of the last Dunn Village Hall Committee meeting had been circulated and was noted.

ii. **Cllr Andy Long:** It was confirmed that the notes taken were an informal interpretation as there had been no minute taker attending the meeting. Points had been raised to discuss with ESCC the concerns surrounding the South East Water works and diversion routes, and the unpreparedness of the highways. There would be further discussion at agenda item 10.1

5.5 **Parish Clerk:** A written report had been circulated and was noted. Councillors were encouraged to sign up to the speed watch training so that they have a full understanding of what is involved.

6. Committee reports

6.1. The proceedings of the following committee meetings were noted:

i. Planning & Development – draft minutes of the 04.06.2024 meeting had been circulated.

7. Finance

7.1 **It was resolved** to return the £200 deposit to Rushlake Green Big Lunch. A suggestion was put forward that as there had been a few issues with cars parking on the green corners which restricted access, it would be helpful for a traffic marshal to be engaged for next year's event.

7.2 **It was resolved** to authorise the payment of the June bills (payment list as circulated) and to include the deposit return as noted in item 7.1.

7.3 **It was resolved** to accept the bank reconciliation, the budget monitor & reserve movement reports for 30 June 2024.

7.4 **It was resolved** that Buster Ansell would be added to the bank mandate as signatory. Cllr Long will remain until that process has been completed.

8. Casual Vacancies

It was noted that there are no specific time restrictions on how long the council has to recruit by co-option, simply as soon as is practicable. The clerk had sent information to one interested party earlier in the week and will prepare information to be shared via social media and the website. The clerk was asked to contact Cllr Sterling to enquire whether he intended to remain as councillor.

9. Warbleton Emergency & Resilience Planning

9.1 An electrician has visited both village halls and referred questions back to the council as to the likely capacity use of a generator including potential additional equipment. The council agreed that the maximum electrical draw capacity would be shown on each hall main fuse board. This would be the limit of use; the main fuse board cannot supply more than the fuses can take. This information would inform the electrician who can then quote for the appropriate manual change-over switches at each hall.

The clerk was asked to obtain photos of the main fuse boards and let the electrician know.

9.2 Quotes are still waited for water testing at Spring Hill Well, but this is in progress. It was agreed that the overgrown shrub area at the Well would be cleared.

10. Highways maintenance

- 10.1 The maintenance of parish trees and hedgerows is left wanting due to the limited funds and resources of ESCC, also individual landowners not cutting back at their own property frontages. WPC is currently limited by law as to what it can do itself, ESCC is the responsible Highway Authority, but it wants to push forward with investigating how it might be able to make improvements. ESCC has already been asked to send over the latest letter templates to approach individual owners, and the clerk will draft wording to highlight landowner responsibilities to be published on the website and via parish social media. The clerk was asked to research details about the process of negotiating an agreement with ESCC for a temporary transfer of responsibility. This will then be on the agenda for discussion again at the next meeting along with agreeing a process for approaching landowners.
- 10.2 Pot holes have been repaired in some areas so it was not considered necessary to plan an itemised review of the parish. However, the spray technique repair method was questioned as it had been witnessed that steps can be missed out at the preparation stage. The method is used to avoid closing roads but the longevity of the repairs is unknown. The contractors should be working with ESCC to an agreed specific protocol and method of application and the clerk was asked to find out what that is, also the design life.

11. Exclusion of press and public

- 11.1 **It was resolved** to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting during consideration of item 11.2 pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the exempt nature of the business to be transacted due to legal and confidential considerations.

12. Urgent matters at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda

- 13. Date of next meeting** – Thursday 25 July 2024 at Bodle Street Green Village Hall 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm