

WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Warbleton Parish Council held on Thursday 25 April 2024 7pm at Bodle Street Green Village Hall

1. **Attendance:** Councillors Andy Long (Chair), Charlie Saunders (Vice-Chair), Beverley Saunders, Chris Wells, Peter Sterling, Katy Whymark and Jeanne Peterson (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Councillors Bruce Simpson, Bob Bowdler and Buster Ansell
It was resolved to accept the apologies as given

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 Council meeting held on 28 March 2024, were a correct record and were signed by the Chair. It was agreed to defer the minutes of the Parish Assembly to the next council meeting.

3.2. **Matters Arising:** There had been no feedback over the council's concern raised about the content of the guest presentation at the Assembly meeting.

4. **Guest speakers representing South East Water and Highways**

Representatives had given their apologies and did not attend the meeting. Members of the council expressed their ongoing concern about the imminent water works and lack of viable and even adequately cleared diversion routes. Further questions will be raised with South East Water and Highways. There is a local protest arranged for 8 May 2024 to help publicise the problems and disruption that local businesses and farms will face during the lengthy period of works.

5. **Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

6. **Reports**

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

6.2. **District Councillors - Cllr Greg Collins** was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Osborne made a report:

- Cllr Osborne expressed sympathy for local businesses and farmers as to how they will manage during the disruption to local access routes.
- One consultation date remains for learning more about the Wealden Local Plan; Saturday 4 May between 10am-4pm at Horam Village Hall. There are no development site allocations within Warbleton Parish but the consultation is about a lot more than that including economic and conservation activities.

The Council wished to note that although there are no site allocations within its boundary, this would not stop an influx from the developments elsewhere who will use the parish routes for access. There are also concerns that infrastructure is not being improved to accommodate larger local populations and the road network is not maintained.

- 6.3 **PCSO Megan Driscoll:** PCSO Cathy Gilling has moved to the Rural Crime Team and PCSO Megan Driscoll replaces her as the area's PCSO and hopes to attend a meeting in the near future. A report had been circulated.
- 6.4 **Parish Councillors:**
 - i. **Cllr Beverley Saunders:** A written report of the last Dunn Village Hall Committee meeting had been circulated.
- 6.5 **Parish Clerk:** A written report had been circulated and was noted.
- 6.6 **Council representative on Bodle Street Village Hall Committee:** **It was resolved** that Cllrs Wells, Long and Whymark would share the role. The clerk was asked to obtain a list of committee meeting dates.

7. Committee reports

- 7.1. The proceedings of the following committee meetings were noted:
 - i. Planning & Development – minutes of the 02.04.2024 meeting had been circulated.

8. Three Cups

There were no further additions to the draft letter and the clerk was asked to send it to the agreed recipients.

9. Finance

- 9.1 The two grant applications; from Rushlake Green Big Lunch and Bodle Street Green PCC were considered.
It was resolved to award Rushlake Green Big Lunch £200 and Bodle Street Green PCC £200.
- 9.2 **It was resolved** to authorise the payment of April bills (payment list as circulated).
- 9.3 The bank reconciliation for end of year 31 March 2024 was noted along with final budget monitor & reserve movement. These reports will form the basis of information for the internal audit along with other supporting papers and a review of the cash book.
- 9.4 It was noted that the completed end of year financial reports and submission documents will be presented to council at the meeting on 23 May 2024 for sign off.

10. Policy Updates

- 10.1 **It was resolved** to approve the updated Financial & Management Risk Assessment Register and to submit it as part of internal audit papers.

11. Casual Vacancies

The Notice of Vacancy had been received from Wealden Democratic Services and will be published on both village notice boards on Monday 29 April 2024. Subject to no call for an election, the council may recruit members by co-option and WDC will inform the clerk once that process can begin. **It was resolved** that the two current vacancies will fall within these arrangements.

The clerk was asked to find out any time restrictions on how long the council has to recruit by co-option.

12. Warbleton Emergency & Resilience Planning

The clerk confirmed that both village hall committees have given a positive response to the prospect of having change-over switches installed at the buildings. They are happy to liaise to allow access for the electricians to provide quotes for the council to consider.

13. Speed Watch

There has been no success to date in recruiting new volunteers for the Warbleton Speed Watch Group. Councillors all expressed an interest in undertaking the training themselves and asked the clerk to circulate the information on how to do this.

14. Exclusion of press and public

14.1 **It was resolved** to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting during consideration of item 12.2 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.

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

- It was noted that Warbleton Parish Council has not prepared a response to the Wealden Local Plan with the deadline for comment being 10 May 2024. Other parish members of the Focus Group are preparing their questions to submit and Cllr Whymark will circulate a copy of these to members to help formulate a submission from the council.
- An item on the Spring Hill Well, Punnetts Town will be included on the next agenda

16. Date of next meeting – Thursday 23 May 2024 at Bodle Street Green Village Hall 7pm, which will be the Annual Meeting of the Council.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm