

WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Warbleton Parish Council held on Thursday 26 June 2025 7pm at Bodle Street Green Village Hall

1. **Attendance:** Councillors Andy Long (Chair), Chris Wells, Buster Ansell, and Jeanne Peterson (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Councillors Katy Waterman, Bruce Simpson, Bob Bowdler, Tom Guyton-Day, David Jarrold.
It was resolved to accept the apologies as given
2. **Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest
3. **Minutes**
 - 3.1. **It was resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 May 2025, were a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
 - 3.2. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Public Participation**

Two members of the public were present. The following points were raised:

 - Susan Stedman introduced herself to the meeting as one of the candidates that will be standing in the forthcoming District Council election for the Ward vacancy. A question was asked as to how the current planning brief could be dealt with in a two member ward when only one member specifically holds that role. The response was that a plan can be called in by either district councillor as long as the reasons can be explained to the planning officers.
 - The second speaker had written to the clerk with a letter to circulate to members expressing his grave concern about the proposed reorganisation of the county and district councils. The clerk will look for the email and send it on to members.
It was noted that there is not a lot the parish can do at this stage other than relay information on the process as and when it becomes available.
5. **Casual Vacancies:** There were no applicants attending so it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.
6. **Reports**
 - 6.1. **County Cllr Bob Bowdler:** The May monthly report had been circulated and there were no questions.
 - 6.2. **District Cllrs:** Cllr Greg Collins was unable to attend.
 - 6.3. **PCSO:** There was no report available.
 - 6.4. **Cllr Wells:** Reported that he had spoken with the owner of Ladderstyle Cottage and they are going to be cutting back the overgrown hedge within their ownership boundary. Cllrs Wells and Long would then review other overgrowth on adjacent properties and inform the clerk as to where letters should be addressed.
 - 6.5. **Clerk's Report:** A written report had been circulated and was noted.
7. **Committee reports**
 - 7.1. The proceedings of the following committee meetings were noted:
Planning & Development – minutes of the 03.06.2025 meeting had been circulated.
8. **Finger Posts:**

The finger post condition report had been circulated and was noted. It was agreed that the

posts numbered 9, 10 and 19 were in most need of urgent attention. The clerk was asked to obtain maintenance quotes and to confirm whether the ESCC match funding scheme was still operational.

9. Finance:

9.1 It was resolved to authorise the bills for payment (June 2025 payment list circulated).

9.2 It was resolved to approve the Finance Reports at 30 June 2025; bank reconciliation, budget monitor and reserve movements (reports circulated).

10. Council Policies & Procedures:

10.1 **Rushlake Green Byelaws** –Following research at The Keep by the clerk, it was reported and evident that up until March 1984 the current version of Byelaws was operational (details as circulated to members). But there was still one further archived minute book to investigate.

It is also now in question whether the notice to prohibit horses on the green was even related to the Byelaws. The possibility of it simply being installed by a previous council was discussed.

As the Byelaws are outdated it was agreed to set up a working party to look into their potential revision. The working party will report back to the council via full council meetings. Cllrs Wells and Ansell expressed an interest in being part of the group, and the clerk was asked to email all other councillors to see who else would like to be involved.

The clerk was asked to complete the research into the remaining archived minutes to be completely sure that no changes to the Byelaws have been recorded.

10.2 **Practitioners Guide 2025** – It was proposed and agreed to go ahead with the required mandatory changes to have an authority-owned website domain (.gov.uk) and a generic email account for the clerk hosted on the same (.gov.uk).

This will ensure the parish council is compliant for next year's internal and external audit. The clerk will seek further advice on whether all members will need to have email address changes. In the meantime, once set up, only the generic email address for the council [clerk] will be shown on the council's website.

The clerk was authorised to make the necessary arrangements.

11. Water Conservation:

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting as the presenting Councillor was not present.

12. Spring Hill Tree:

It was noted that tree planting should be delayed until later in the year, when weather conditions are more attuned for the plant's survival.

The clerk was asked in the meantime to obtain a quote for the purchase of the already agreed tree species, and advice on planting.

Discussion on the commemorative plaque will be deferred until the next meeting.

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

The Chair informed the meeting that Cllr Bruce Simpson had tendered his resignation as Parish Councillor.

There had been no further progress on building a speed watch team within the parish. The Chair asked the clerk to obtain quotes from ESCC on carrying out a revised traffic speed survey in each of Rushlake Green and Bodle Street Green so that the council has up to date data.

14. Date of next Council Meeting – Thursday 24 July 2025 at Bodle Street Green Village Hall 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm