

Minutes of a meeting of **WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL** held on Thursday 17th March at 7pm at the Bodle Street Green village hall

PRESENT: Councillors A Long (Chairman), Keith Graham, Steve Williamson, Caroline Thompson, Chris Wells and Roy Iremonger

Also present: WDC Councillor Sue Stedman
ESCC & WDC Councillor Bob Bowdler
2 members of the public
Jackie Cottrell – Parish Clerk

00477 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllr Davies – Work commitments
Cllr Smythe – Prior engagement
PCSO Cathy Gilling – Annual leave
Cllr Cook - Holiday

00478 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - NONE

MINUTES

To **resolve** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17th February 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

00479 RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17th February 2022. The Clerk to correct a spelling mistake on Item 12.

Matters arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda
NONE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public spoke regarding the condition of the White Horse Pub in Bodle Street Green. The recent storm had blown the fencing down which was positioned on top of a 6ft retaining wall. There was also a chimney pot which was leaning dangerously against the roof. The member of public also expressed disappointment that a pub which was thriving 6 months ago had now been deserted. She had been in contact with WDC and reported the building as a dangerous structure and they were due to complete a survey.

The Chairman advised the member of public to include WDC Sue Stedman and WDC & ESCC Bob Bowdler in their correspondence. The Clerk stated the chimney pot had already been reported to WDC by the PC.

REPORTS

5.1. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Members noted the report from ESCC & WDC Bob Bowdler which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He added that officers had now returned to County Hall instead of working from home. The situation in Ukraine was being discussed but no guidance had yet been received from central government. He reiterated there was approximately £750,000 of unused money from the ESCC Community Match programme if the PC wished to consider applying for further funds.

WDC Sue Stedman reported WDC were also waiting for guidance from central government regarding the situation in Ukraine. WDC were also waiting for a response from Rt Hon Michael Gove MP regarding the Local Plan which was now delayed by approximately 3-6 months.

5.2. To receive reports from PCSO Catherine Gilling

The Clerk stated the PCSO would be circulating a report in due course.

5.3. To receive reports from Parish Councillors

None

5.4. To receive reports from the Parish Clerk

The Clerk added to her previously circulated report that the owners of Pond Cottage thanked the Parish Council for consulting with them regarding the tree planting item. The Clerk to contact the family who had recently donated the bench in memory of Mr Knibb. It has been locked to the post and the PC would need a key. The Clerk to investigate if it would be possible to list the finger posts in the parish. The Clerk to chase East Sussex Highways re the Iwood Dip and to include ESCC & WDC Bob Bowdler in all correspondence.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

6.1. To receive the acts and proceedings of the following committee meetings:

- (a) Planning & Development – 27th January 2022
- (b) CIL – 24th February 2022
- (c) Planning & Development - 8th March 2022

Members noted the Planning & Development minutes from the 27th January 2022. The Clerk requested Members note the CIL minutes from the 24th February and the Planning & Development minutes from the 8th March would be circulated shortly.

FINANCE

7.1. To authorise the bills for payment

Cheque /BACS No	Payee	£	VAT	£ Total	Purpose
71	Jackie Cottrell				Clerk Salary – March 2022
72	Jackie Cottrell	9.99		9.99	Printing cost invoice 4865186548 18 th Jan 22 – 17 th Feb 22
73	Jackie Cottrell	138.60		138.60	Mileage to PC meetings 23.9.21 – 17.3.2022
74	Wealden District Council	65.00	13.00	78.00	Quarterly dog bin emptying charges 1 st Jan- 31 st March 2022
75	ESALC Limited	40.00	8.00	48.00	Cllr Chairman training
76	HMRC	424.63		424.63	Payroll pay period January 22 – March 22
79	Graham Long	40.00		40.00	Mole removal Rushlake Green

00480 It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the payments listed above.

7.2. To note the Finance Reports, bank reconciliation and budget monitor for February 2022

The Chairman of F&GP referred Members to his previously circulated report. He reiterated the PC would need to be mindful of the Clerks overtime costs and manage expectations accordingly. The Clerk confirmed she completed a detailed time sheet on a weekly basis which is circulated to the Chairman of F&GP and would be available if necessary to look at her time allocation in the future.

Lastly the Chairman of the PC referred back to the Finance report and emphasised the Council would need to be mindful of the potential cost of replacing the defibrillator cabinets in the future, although all cabinets were in good condition at the present time. A new location for the defibrillator located at the White Horse Pub at Bodle Street Green might need to be considered in the future.

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN APPLICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR AND TO CO-OPT A CANDIDATE FOR ONE THE TWO EXISTING VACANCIES

Cllr Wells declared a non-prejudicial interest in item 8.

8.1. To receive applications forms from prospective councillors

The Clerk confirmed one application had been received and circulated.

8.2. Co-option interviews

The applicant introduced himself and Councillors were invited to ask the applicant for any further information they required in order to make a decision.

8.3. To resolve the successful candidate

A vote was taken and the candidate was successful.

00481 **RESOLVED** Mr Charles Saunders as the new Councillor for Warbleton Parish Council.

8.4. Successful candidate to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Charles Saunders signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

8.5. To resolve committee membership of the new councillor

The Chairman deferred this item to the next Full Council meeting in May to allow Cllr Saunders to attend individual committee meetings in the interim period to aid his decision.

8.6. To resolve extended dates for any remaining co-option vacancies

The Clerk to investigate the possibility of a rolling date for the remaining councillor vacancy.

RECOGNISING THE PREVIOUS MOTIONS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WHICH LED TO FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND CONSULTATION. THE PARISH COUNCIL TO AGREE PLANTING AN ORNAMENTAL CHERRY TREE BEHIND THE BENCH ADJACENT TO THE DUNN VILLAGE HALL

9.1. To agree to plant a cherry tree behind the bench adjacent to the Dunn Village Hall

The Clerk informed the Council she had written to the owners of Pond Cottage. The owners had listed several reasons why they believed a tree planted in this location would not be a good idea. As a result, the Chairman of CIL concluded that the idea of planting a tree outside Pond Cottage was no longer viable and advised that due to the lack of other potential sites available the original location suggested was now the best option.

The Clerk advised Members despite endeavouring to obtain 3 quotes for the sapling and it's planting only 2 had been received.

9.2. To agree the amended costs of the tree itself, the planting of the tree and the plaque

The Chairman of the PC requested both items be considered together.

A detailed discussion took place.

00482 It was **RESOLVED** that a tree of some description would be planted behind the bench adjacent to the Dunn Village Hall. The species of tree would be agreed at the Environment meeting in March.
The total costs set aside for the tree itself, the planting of the tree and the plaque would be £250.00.

TO AGREE THE CIL COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PICNIC BENCHES AT RUSHLAKE GREEN AND BODLE STREET GREEN

WDC Sue Stedman and ESCC & WDC Bob Bowdler left the meeting at 8.03pm.

The idea of additional benches on The Green was discussed at great length.

The Clerk stated the present contractor confirmed they would be agreeable to moving the benches when The Green was mowed for no extra charge.

The Chairman of the PC advised Members there was already an existing problem with overflowing bins which often resulted in residents emptying surplus rubbish into their own domestic bins. Extra seating would generate extra rubbish.

The item was deferred to the next Full Council meeting to allow the Chairman to consult with residents overlooking The Green and in the immediate area. It would also allow the two councillors driving the idea forward to be available at the next meeting to answer any further questions the council might have.

It was noted careful consideration would be needed with the consultation process.

It was noted the minutes of the recent CIL meeting where the items were discussed had not been available to councillors when debating this item.

Members noted that Bodle Street Green Village Hall would also be approached regarding picnic benches.

WALKING AND CYCLING ROUTE UPDATE

The Clerk summarized the update report which had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk requested feedback from the Council as to how supportive they were of the idea in general. The Chairman of CIL who unfortunately could not attend the meeting had concerns that many hours had already been spent on the project and did not want to waste further hours unnecessarily.

The cost of the project was expected to be in the region of £3-5000.

The biggest obstacle was obtaining access to the OS maps.

The Clerk confirmed this project was in the top three ideas from the community survey and potential savings could be made if outside companies employed by the PC could advertise their business or copies could be sold.

The success of the Herstmonceux walking guide was highlighted as well as the importance of the additional information regarding route associability, height of stiles, terrain, local wildlife and historical information that OS maps could not provide. The Chairman supported these views.

The PC noted the usefulness of the update report. However, the Chairman deferred the item to the next Full Council meeting to allow the Chairman of CIL to present a clear outline of the project with estimated costings.

The Chairman suggested its completion should be before the next parish council elections.

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN-25th March-10th 2022

12.1. To consider whether the Parish Council will arrange a litter pick in the parish

The Parish Council **AGREED** to not arrange its own litter pick.

CARERS ALLOWANCE FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS

13.1. To consider writing a letter in support of providing a parish councillors with a carers allowance if required

The Clerk clarified the motion to the Council and it was agreed NOT to support the idea.

TO REVIEW THE IMPACT OF THE STORM ON THE PARISH

The Parish Council noted their disappointment regarding the immediate response rate from WDC and ESCC during and after the recent storm. It had been recently highlighted that Warbleton Parish was one of the three most remote parishes in the country. Large parts of the parish were without water and electricity for several days which was found unacceptable considering the actual storm was not particularly severe. The Chairman and another councillor had taken on the responsibility of providing water to the local community during this period.

It was agreed that due to the poor internet access in the area whatever action the PC decided to take the information would need to be available in paper form rather than just online.

It was noted Southern water did not have a generator to pump water to the area resulting in two days of backed up sewage.

It was noted UK Power had not communicated fairly as some parishioners were offered food and hospitality vouchers and some had not.

The Chairman requested each parish councillor produce a report on the storm for the Clerk to amalgamate. The Clerk to also request feedback from the public on the PC website.

He Chairman suggested the council should approach the utility companies regarding their lack of response and to establish why the information on their website was incorrect. The PC should also write to WDC and ESCC raising its concerns on the above. Huw Merriman would be included in all correspondence. It was noted he was active in the area helping the community but Warbleton parish did not receive any of this help. The idea of contacting the local media was considered. The possibility of discussing the issues with NALC and ESALC was also considered. It was agreed the PC should have their own emergency plan even if it was in the form of a list of local people who had the ability to offer help to those more vulnerable.

The Clerk to obtain the template of Heathfield & Waldron's PC's Emergency Plan. After obtaining all the above information the PC would then formulate a structured approach.

WHITE HORSE PUB UPDATE

The dangerous chimney pot had been reported to WDC and the Clerk was awaiting a response regarding any action the PC could take in relation to enquiring about the existing tenancy. It was believed the lease ended in December 2021.

It was agreed the Clerk would write to the owners of the White Horse pub enquiring about their future plans and the condition of the building.

It was noted the ACV status expires in August 2023.

14. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING and/or INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

ASM – Thursday 19th May 2022 at 7pm at the Bodle Street Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.53pm