



Warbleton Parish Council

THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2024

Minutes of the Warbleton Annual Parish Assembly held on
Thursday 21 March 2024 at the Dunn Village Hall, Rushlake Green 6.30pm

Present: There were 13 people in attendance:

Councillors Andrew Long (Chairman), Peter Sterling, Katy Whymark, Bob Bowdler, Chris Wells, Charlie Saunders, Buster Ansell and Jeanne Peterson (Parish Clerk)

Five members of the public

Dee Thornton – Guest Speaker on Emergency & Resilience Planning

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed those attending the meeting. The Parish Assembly is a statutory meeting for all parishioners which allows the parish council to give an account of what it has done over the last year and to listen to any comment or concerns raised by the community.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 9 March 2023

These were agreed and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council

3. Update from the Chairman on Parish Council Activities

Over the last year there have been thirty council meetings which includes seventeen planning committee meetings.

A new council was elected in May 2023, with reduced numbers so other councillors have since been co-opted with one remaining vacancy. A new Clerk was also installed in October.

Councillors continue to take on other duties representing Warbleton Parish in the community and these details are fed back into the full council or planning committee meetings.

In January the annual Asset Register check took place to assess the condition of all the listed items, and the Rushlake Green notice board will be replaced.

A Finger Post survey was also carried out – WPC does not own the posts (ESCC does) but in the latest parish survey it was clear that parishioners wanted to see them retained. The parish council shares repair funding with ESCC where it can and is committed to retaining the original posts.

Cllr Sterling had completed training to enable him to carry out tree condition surveys within the parish.

The council is working toward developing a parish Emergency & Resilience Plan and the evening's guest speaker will share information on this topic.

Applications are being made by the council to retain Asset of Community Value status for the two pubs in the parish; The White Horse and The Horse & Groom.

The memorial gate has been renewed next to the Dunn Village Hall.

A commemorative plaque dedicated to Bryan Whitton was installed on a bench at Osborne House forecourt.

The council continues to support the update of lockable cabinets for the defibrillators. It is necessary to dial 999 for an access code to open these. Mobile phones will find and link to any available network signal to make this emergency call.

The council has increased funding to the two village halls in recognition of their increased running costs.

There have been briefing meetings with South East Water regarding their proposed works to install 6.3K of new water pipe over a 16 month period from May 2024. This will cause major disruption to local parish roads.

The council continues to apply pressure on Wealden District about the Three Cups site and plans to write enquiring what measures are being taken to address the issue. There will be a boundary change for up and coming elections which will place Three Cups in a different constituency.

One further thing to add was that the council is looking into the possibility of installing delineation lines on its land outside Osborne House to stop moving cars roaming onto the car park.

4. Attending members of the public were asked if they had any questions

Q: How is the council determining how unallocated CIL funds will be spent? Will there be another survey or continue with identified projects?

A: The council is still working within agreed aims and goals of the previous survey and there are not enough remaining funds to warrant another. Finger post renewal work will continue, benches have already been provided at Bodle Street and on Rushlake Green and the car park resurfaced during 2023. The council will use the funds for small projects as they crop up.

Q: What is the parish council doing to ensure safety on parish roads?

A: When the council met Highways at the Strengthening Local Relations (SLR) meeting at the end of February it impressed on the county representatives the urgency to maintain infrastructure repairs.

Priority is given by ESCC to those areas that need help the most, and most funding goes toward pot hole repairs.

In light of questions raised at the January Warbleton Parish Council meeting, ESCC confirmed that data collected locally via speed watch is not taken into consideration when assessing traffic controls. They only use their own data collected via 24/7 speed surveys. Speed watch collects data during a limited time frame so does not tie up with ESCC reports.

Roundels were installed at Bodle Street, but the decision not to install at Rushlake Green cannot be reconsidered for six months. ESCC data would not back funding for an installation.

The best speeding deterrent is to have an active parish wide Speedwatch group, and the council have just agreed to advertise for new volunteers.

Q: A reason why people dropped out of volunteering over the years was because the results were not getting anywhere and it was demoralising. Also a number of people were seriously rude to volunteers.

A: The parish council does take speeding seriously and are trying to be proactive to reintroduce a Speedwatch group. Sometimes it appears thankless but it does help. An option for best interest may be to pay for a presence which would avoid the abuse to local resident volunteers. All options will be considered by the council.

5. Guest Speaker Dee Thornton addressed the meeting on Emergency & Resilience Planning

The following points were noted for consideration in drawing up a local plan:

- ESALC was keen that a plan template was drawn up which could be used flexibly by parish councils as a lot of those available online were not targeted to local needs
- It was noted that Responders take longer to attend to parish situations (e.g. water, power) so a plan at a lower level would allow manageability within the community.
- First steps would be to identify the types of hazard which could occur and look at the impact of those. Draw a map of location points
- How can vulnerable people be identified and consider whether in certain circumstances is it safer for them to remain in their own homes or move to a safe haven?
- What skills are there in the community which would be useful for enacting the plan e.g. medical, carpenter
- People – drivers and co-coordinators – find out who is willing to volunteer and in what capacity
- Manage the plan by “settlement” to cope with more localised emergencies
- If the village halls or local pubs were to be safe havens – what infrastructure and/or materials would need to be installed or allocated at those locations e.g. generators, emergency radios, water supplies
- Look at what County and District Councils are offering and become familiar with those higher authority plans so that during widespread emergency there can be cooperation between locations
- Who will activate the plan in the case of emergency
- Funding is available for local farmers when triggered to come out and help on the roads with their vehicles, and other potential grants to support plan delivery
- There was some concern about the question of insurance cover for people involved in implementing the plan. It was noted however that Named people in the plan would be covered by the Parish Council policy. It was to be checked whether this extended to ex doctors or nurses acting in medical capacity.

The Chairman thanked the Speaker, and there were no further questions.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm