

WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Warbleton Parish Council held on Thursday 26 September 2024 7pm at Dunn Village Hall, Rushlake Green

1. **Attendance:** Councillors Katy Whymark (Vice-Chair), Andy Long, Chris Wells, Bob Bowdler, Buster Ansell, Bruce Simpson (joined the meeting at 7.50pm) and Jeanne Peterson (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: None

Other attendees: District Councillor Greg Collins (District Cllr Cornelie Usborne was unable to attend).

2. **Election of Chairman to the Council**

Following the resignation of Cllr Charlie Saunders in July 2024, nominations were considered by the council and **it was resolved** to elect Cllr Andy Long as Chair. The Declaration of Office was to be signed later.

3. **Election of Vice- Chairman to the Council**

This was not necessary as Cllr Katy Whymark continues in her current role as Vice-Chair.

4. **Declarations of Interest - None**

5. **Minutes**

It was resolved that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26 July 2024 were a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising - None.

6. **Public Participation**

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

- It appears that it could take ten years for the ecological balance to be restored at Furness Brook fisheries. Councillors had visited the site early on after the incident, and multiple people are affected.
- The point was also noted about the ongoing issue of effluent from Rushlake Green; the overflowing sewage works transgressing the stream waterway. The council agreed to investigate this.

7. **Casual Vacancies**

7.1 The application made by David Jarrold to be co-opted as a member of Warbleton Parish Council had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

7.2 The council asked whether there was anything that David would like to add to his application; Having lived in the area for 35 years managing his own business, David felt that his experience as a structural engineer could contribute positively to planning discussions, and the time he now has allows a focus on local concerns. Members made David aware that council meetings were held in public but were not public meetings. Council meetings can lawfully be filmed and he was asked whether as a public figure he could accept that, which he confirmed.

7.3 It was resolved to co-opt David Jarrold as a member of Warbleton Parish Council. David joined other members at the meeting table.

7.4 The Declaration of Office will be signed at the end of the meeting.

8. Reports

8.1 County Councillor Bob Bowdler

- A monthly report had been circulated and there were no questions.
- It was noted that ESCC have tested a new money-saving initiative where waste drop off to amenity tips had been time allocated by appointment to the public. The plan is in its infancy but is intended to be rolled out county wide. The council expressed concern over the impact this could have on fly-tipping.

8.2 District Councillor Greg Collins

- The owner of Three Cups is still talking to the planning team in the pre-application phase.
Work to the fallen tree at the site was not considered a priority by Wealden Enforcement to be warranted a Section 215 Notice. The District Councillors will continue to work with the conservation officers and enforcement team and report back to the parish council about any changes to the site.
- The planned ESCC appointment system for waste disposal will impact WDC which is responsible for removing fly-tipped items. It is felt that the proposed new system will encourage fly-tipping.

8.3 PCSO – No one attended, but the clerk had received contact from Wealden Police and will be following this up for the next meeting.

8.4 Parish Councillors

- Cllr Wells** – After a lengthy period of no change, the Warbleton Charity needs some additional committee members.
Funds are available for more parcels to be delivered at Christmas to those in need within the parish, and members were asked to let Cllr Wells know of anyone who may qualify, the charity committee is meeting next week to discuss this. As much as the goods themselves, the delivery visits show that someone cares and this provides important human contact.
- Cllr Whymark** – Reported back from the Chairman's Forum where concerns had been expressed about the 2027 elections; there is increasing hostility in some parishes which is putting off potential candidates. This usually stems from planning issues. District meetings will now include policing matters and focus groups are to be set up to meet with PCSOs for feedback. Councillors may select not to have their home addresses published if there is cause for concern.
The WDALC meeting had been highways focused and the clerk was asked to circulate those minutes to all members.
- Cllr Ansell** – Reported that there have been a number of quad bike and motor bike thefts in the areas of Laughton and Ninfield, and to look out for anything suspicious within the parish.

8.5 Clerk's Report – Taken as read and there were no questions.

9. Committee reports

9.1 The proceedings of the following committee meetings were noted:

- Planning & Development – minutes of the 06.08.2024 meeting had been circulated
- Staffing Committee – a meeting had taken place prior to this meeting and will be reported at the October Full Council.

9.2 Cllr Wells expressed an interest in joining as a member of the Staffing Committee. He wasn't able to be present at the May 2024 meeting when membership was decided. **It was resolved** that Cllr Wells join the Staffing Committee.

10. Speed Watch

It was agreed that no resolution was required and further discussion will be deferred:

- The clerk was asked to circulate the link to sign up for the speed awareness training after members confirmed their commitment to engage with the training.
- The clerk was asked to circulate the details of ongoing Speed Watch information awareness sessions which councilors can attend via zoom.
- The clerk was asked to liaise with Speed Watch and ESCC Highways to obtain clarification between the two sets of data [ESCC 24/7 and Speed watch on limited time watch] and how these could tie up to agree an onward plan to manage speed control in the parish.

11. Finance

- 11.1 It **was resolved** to authorise the payments for August and September 2024 (payment list as circulated).
- 11.2 It **was resolved** to approve the bank reconciliation, the budget monitor & reserve movement reports at 31 August 2024.
- 11.3 It **was resolved** to return the deposit of £200 to the Horticultural Society for the use of Rushlake Green during summer.
- 11.4 Reserve Fund Accounts - It was agreed to defer this item until a future meeting. Information had been gathered by the clerk and Cllr Whymark on potential providers of higher interest accounts to deposit reserve funds, but no assessment or report had yet been completed.

12. Appointment of Representatives to outside bodies

- 12.1 It **was resolved** that Councillor David Jarrold will represent the council at the Dunn Village Hall and the Bodle Street Village Hall committee meetings. The clerk will provide details of the meeting dates.

13. Warbleton Emergency & Resilience Planning

- 13.1 One quote had been received to install the change-over switches at each hall. The clerk was asked to obtain two more quotes. It was noted that generators could be sourced locally in an emergency, and once plugged to the switch would feed that facility with power.
There was discussion that electricity suppliers, in time of outage, were stretched to provide ancillary power, and that having its own local resource would enable the community to provide a hub of warmth and facilities to cook and provide refreshment.
- 13.2 Quotes received and presented on water testing at the Spring Hill Well were varied both in price and analysis specification. It was agreed to defer a decision and Cllr Whymark will refer back to the contractors and ask them all for a quote to carry out a full water analysis as a basepoint so that comparison can be made like for like.
The clerk was asked to check with the mowing contractor when the last cut had been made at Spring Hill, and when is it next planned. There are two scheduled for each year.

14. Highways maintenance

- 14.1 There had been no response still from ESCC to WPC's request for information on a temporary transfer application for the management of hedgerows and trees. The council will raise this at next week's SLR meeting on the 1 October 2024.
- 14.2 A response had been received from ESCC and circulated as to the work protocols on managing pot hole repairs [jet patching]. The council will raise this at next week's SLR meeting on the 1 October 2024.

15. Review of the Application Process and Terms & Conditions for use of Rushlake Green

It was noted that there are a number of grammatical errors to be corrected.

The clerk was asked to send a note of apology to the Horticultural Society for the lateness of the return of their deposit. A return of deposit should only be discussed at full council if there is a reason to question the return.

There have been problems with parking during events at the Green. However the responsibility on applying for a traffic order is with the event organiser, not the parish council which simply facilitates use of the green. But it was agreed the important thing to include in the Terms is that event parking should not create any obstructions, the adjacent roads should be accessible at all times for the passage of emergency and farming vehicles.

It was resolved to extend the £200 deposit scheme to apply to the use of **all** green areas owned by the council.

The clerk was asked to update the Terms & Conditions.

16. Rushlake Green Notice Board

It was resolved to reinstate the second plaque to the board, as part of local history and in recognition that the Warbleton Charity has in the past provided funds to maintain a notice board at Rushlake Green.

It was recognised by the council that the new board was only costed and charged for materials, all labour was free. The repair works to the surrounding paving had also been carried out free of charge by a local firm.

The clerk was asked to send letters of appreciation and thanks to Proctor Taylor (for the construction of the notice board) and to the company that had repaired the hard standing (Cllr Bowdler to supply contact details).

17. Exclusion of press and public

17.1 **It was resolved** to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting during consideration of item 17.2 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.

18. Urgent matters at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda - None

19. Date of next meeting – Thursday 24 October 2024 at Dunn Village Hall, Rushlake Green 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm