

WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

www.warbletonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Warbleton Parish Council held on Thursday 22 January 2026 7pm at Dunn Village Hall, Rushlake Green

- 1. Attendance:** Councillors Andy Long (Chair), Katy Waterman (Vice-chair), Chris Wells, Buster Ansell, David Jarrold, Liz Ansell, David Turton, Bob Bowdler, Tom Guyton-Day and Jeanne Peterson (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: None

Other attendees: District Councillors Greg Collins & Diane Gould. Two members of the public.

- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None

- 3. Minutes**

- 3.1. It was resolved** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 27 November 2025 were a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

- 3.2. Matters Arising:** None

- 4. Public Participation:** A representative of Rushlake Green Little Arts reported the following in support of their grant application:

- The application is for funding to go toward the cost of replacing the groups exhibition boards which are 40 years old. The boards are also used by many other local groups and stored and transported by Little Arts. A funding award of £250 was recently received from WDC micro grant scheme, and a contribution from WPC would be appreciated.

Cllr Bowdler asked to raise a point in his capacity as a member of the public: If a request was made to permanently park an HGV vehicle on the green would it be approved, the likely response would be no. The point of reference being a vintage military tank permanently parked on land at Turners Green.

The chair responded that it is likely to be ESCC land.

- 5. Reports**

- 5.1 County Cllr Bob Bowdler:** The reports as circulated were taken as read. Members were asked if there was anything to add.

There was concern expressed about the cancellation of local elections, that the county itself had made the request, subsequently approved by government. This denies residents a democratic vote resulting in councillors sitting without a mandate.

Cllr Bowdler responded that there were good reasons from East Sussex, the council is in significant debt with the cost of elections unaffordable. ESCC is applying for 70m of government loan to simply make ends meet in delivering essential services.

It was pointed out that local residents don't necessarily know or understand the financial situation of the county and sharing information, for example by press release, would help that.

5.2 District Cllrs

Cllr Diane Gould:

- Wealden are rolling out its food waste collection from March. Households will have delivered to them a waste caddy along with details of the scheme. It appears bins have been received in some places but timing for collections has been unclear. This is a nationwide scheme imposed by Government. General household waste collections will not be affected.
- Ward grants have been allocated, but applications are still invited as an ongoing process.

Cllr Greg Collins:

- There continues to be local concern about the allocation of accommodation for migrants at the Crowborough Barracks. Government has used Class Q to use the site as permitted development, but Wealden continues to push for scrutiny of the site. A per capita allowance was promised to Wealden to cover the cost of added burden on infrastructure facilities and services, but as yet no details have been received.
- WDC have confirmed their setting of a zero increase on its council tax for 2026/27.
- In regard to local government reorganisation, it is an open question as to whether the 2027 expected District elections still will go ahead, this will be decided in February 2027, but the expectation is that they will be cancelled. Parish elections should be unaffected. Wealden is doing what it can to spend its funds raised in Wealden on projects within the district.

5.3 **PCSO:** There was no report available.

5.4 **Reports from Parish Councillors:**

Cllr Jarrold:

- Projects to install a dog bin at Bodle Street Green, and change-over switches at each village hall had all been completed.
- Bodle Street Green are looking into the potential of installing solar panels

5.5 **Clerk's Report:** A written report had been circulated and taken as read. The following points were raised on:

- Item 2: Pedestrian & equestrian safety when crossing B2096 Battle Road at Three Cups Corner – members were unclear from the ESCC response about whether there had been retention or removal of a road-side mirror as noted. Cllr Guyton-Day (proposer of the original question) stated that discussions were a work in progress.
- Item 4: Water Security – Cllr Wells was asked whether the Warbleton Charity might fund a project to supply water butts to households in the parish, but funds are very limited and their purpose is restricted by the Charity Commission. It was suggested that the enquirer was looking for comment on the proposal from more of a strategic point of view rather than funding. It was confirmed that water butts are already available at a subsidised cost via South East Water. Cllr Collins informed the meeting that there is also a WDC working party currently putting together a trusted contractor scheme so that if help was needed to install water butts it would be available (at a cost to the resident). This was being led by the Environmental & Resilience Team.

There was not much that the parish council could do on a strategic level, although it is looking at opening up water supply from the two spring pumps: Dog Corner and Spring Hill. The water is not potable but would at least provide brown water to help with sanitation.

6 Committee reports

The proceedings of the following committee meetings were noted:

- 6.1 Planning & Development –minutes of the 09.12.2025 and draft minutes of the 06.01.2026 meetings had been circulated.

7. Warbleton telephone box refurbishment

It was resolved that maintenance materials would be purchased within this current financial year and supplied to the volunteers ready to carry out the necessary works. The clerk was authorised to make the purchases and arrange delivery.

8. Annual Parish Assembly 2026

Both village halls are available on the selected date of Thursday 16 April 2026. It was agreed that the Assembly would be held at Bodle Street Green Village Hall 7.15pm start.

Representatives of each hall would be invited to give brief updates to the meeting, along with invitations to attend as guests also extended to the MP, ESCC and WDC councillors.

9. Speed Watch

MP Nusrat Ghani had not yet met with the council to discuss parish speed issues, or to arrange an hour's speed watch at Rushlake Green.

The council was given details of the costs to carry out a week's ESCC 24/7 traffic data survey. This is £422 (excl vat) for one location or £322 (excl vat) each for two or more locations. Previous statistics are now out of date, and it is known that any interventions by ESCC Highways on traffic speed are triggered by percentile results from official surveys and not speed watch monitoring statistics. Monitoring sites would be discussed at a later meeting.

It was resolved to allocate funds into the budget for two speed data surveys to be carried out during 2026/27. Previous data is now very out of date.

10. Finance

- 10.1 **It was resolved** to authorise the bills for payment (December 2025 and January 2026) payment list as circulated. The clerk asked if an additional invoice could be authorised for payment this month from ESALC for Rights of Way training, and this was agreed.
- 10.2 **It was resolved** to approve the Finance Reports on 31 December 2025; bank reconciliation, and the budget monitor and reserve movements report (reports circulated).
- 10.3 **It was resolved** that any interest allocated to the Barclays Business Account would be transferred to the Hinckley & Rigby savings account.
- 10.4 The Asset Report was noted, it was agreed that additional maintenance is needed of the vegetation at Spring Hill and Dog Corner.
- 10.5 Due to the length of the meeting, with the budget discussions still outstanding, **it was resolved** to defer discussion of the individual grant application to the February 2026 meeting. A lump sum allocation will be included in the budget.
- 10.6 **It was resolved** to approve the 2026/2027 budget of £33,288, which considers the following agreed updates to the published draft:
 - i. Clerk's overtime rounded up from £495 to £500
 - ii. Increase amount toward discretionary grants from £2500 to £3000
 - iii. Increase the proposed grass mowing costs budget from £3832 to £4500 to cover additional maintenance that is required at Spring Hill and Dog Corner from two cuts a year to four.
 - iv. Increase to £400 from £250 towards the Annual Parish Assembly costs 26/27
 - v. Agreement to keep in the traffic data survey costs for two locations

It was resolved that the council's obligations of the 2026/2027 budget will be wholly funded by precept and the clerk was authorised to submit to Wealden District Council the completed precept request form which will be signed by the Chair.

11. Highways

Further details have been submitted to ESCC Traffic Control about roads which are unsuitable for diversion of HGVs. A response is awaited, but this point will be included on the agenda for discussion at the SLR meeting to be held later in February.

It was noted that there will now be a new agenda item included for all planning meetings so that members can regularly report any potholes in the same way as issues with trees and hedgerows.

12. Rushlake Green Village Notice Board – Quotes for the new plaque were unavailable. Item to be carried over to the February council meeting

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

14. Date of next Council Meeting

Thursday 26 February 2026 at Dunn Village Hall, Rushlake Green 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9pm