

WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Warbleton Parish Council held on Thursday

23 July 2026 7pm at Bodle Street Green Village Hall

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

Apologies for absence: Cllrs Tom Guyton-Day and Liz Ansell

Other attendees: District Councillor Greg Collins

County Councillor Stephen Potts and District Councillor Diane Gould had sent their apologies

2. **Declarations of Interest:** None

3. **Minutes**

3.1. **It was resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 23 June 2026 and the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 16 April 2026, were a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

3.2. **Matters Arising:** None

4. **Public Participation:** No members of the public were present.

5. **Reports**

- 5.1 **County Cllr Stephen Potts:**

A written report had been circulated and will be published with the minutes as Appendix 1.

The clerk was asked to enquire whether there had been any update to the specific question raised at the last meeting about responsibility for the maintenance of finger posts.

- 5.2 **District Cllr Greg Collins:**

- The Minister had decided not to go with the proposed ESCC boundaries that were last consulted on as part of discussions for Local Government Reorganisation. Brighton has picked up Saltdean, Telscombe and Peacehaven as part of their plan.
Since the changes in Government, devolution has been taken out of the Housing Department and put into the hands of the new Cabinet Office. There will be no District elections in May 2027, just Mayoral. On the 31 March 2028 Wealden District Council will cease to exist.
- The case against using the Crowborough Camp to house immigrants had concluded and the judge has gone away to consider the arguments. It was noted that WDC does not have planning powers over Crown land, which limited its action on this issue.
- Cllr Collins thanked the council for getting the Matellows planning application successfully over the line after he had "called it in". The council in turn thanked Cllr Collins, it had been a team effort.

- 5.3 **PCSO:** No update available.

Cllr Bowdler reported that the area of land mentioned to the PCSOs at the previous meeting had now been cleared but that there had been no formal feedback

5.4 **Reports from Parish Councillors:**

Cllr Turton had attended the WDALC meeting and two items had stood out in the discussions:

- The Crowborough Camp issue is becoming very heated, with local authority staff being threatened, and attending police being spat at and abused.
- The Chair of ESALC has asked that parishes inform them about what they would like to see as part of the new regime of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) so that a collated view can be represented.

The clerk was asked to write to the Chair and ask specifically what and how this should be presented from the parish point of view. It was agreed that the rural voice should be heard.

Although Warbleton Parish has no new build allocation, the impact of nearby developments will still take its toll due to water supply and waste management deficits, and traffic increase. Water security is a major concern, with discharge issues already occurring at the sewage plant at Rushlake Green.

Cllr Waterman updated the meeting from the Focus Group. There had been feedback about the Youth Hub Bus put on by Horam Parish Council. Only three people had used it. They have asked if something could be put on the WPC Facebook to gauge interest of local use. But for now, the service has had to be pulled.

From the Chairmans Forum, there still appears to be lots of conflicting information about finger post funding with some parishes already covering 100% of their maintenance costs

5.5 **Clerk's Report:** A written report had been circulated and taken as read, the following items were discussed:

- Point 2. There had been no action taken by Environmental Health, and the sewage remained on the roads as previously reported. It had also again been brought to the attention of the council by local dog walkers.
It was agreed that the clerk will chase this up and copy District Cllr Greg Collins into the correspondence.
- Point 3. The local company now says that they are unable to make the notice board plaque due to its size. The clerk was asked to revert to one of the alternative providers.
- Point 5. The clerk was asked to look into the terms of its annual grant to the Heathfield & Waldron Responders.
- Point 7. Sidmouth Town Council has offered a meeting on zoom to discuss their pothole repair scheme. Cllr Waterman to follow this up.
- An email had been received from a resident again raising the possibility of households being issued with water butts to help mitigate water shortages. It was noted that the cost for supply only of water butts to each household would be in the region of 25K. South East Water already operate a subsidised scheme as well as a free of charge home-visit to assess how usage savings can be made. The clerk was asked to respond to the resident, and also to display the South East Water links and details onto the website.
- The Bonfire Society had submitted a request to use Rushlake Green for its proposed event in October this year. The papers had been received too late to include as a full agenda item, but had been circulated. It was noted that the proposal included cordoning off the whole green and charging an entry fee. The clerk was asked to verify the legal situation in conjunction to its status as a Registered village Green. Any decision was deferred pending further information.

6. Committee reports

The proceedings of the following committee meetings were noted:

- 6.1 Planning & Development – minutes of the meeting held on 23.06.2026 had been circulated and taken as read.

7. Finance

7.1 **It was resolved** to approve the bills for payment as listed on the July payment list.

7.2 **It was resolved** to approve the Finance Reports at June 2026: bank reconciliation, the budget monitor and reserve movement reports (as circulated).

8. Wealden Community Led Infrastructure Fund (CLIF)

The terms of the grant funding had been circulated. The council was asked to think about potential projects and to note that it would itself need to fund 20% of any project cost, the minimum total grant would be 5K. Project proposals must be well structured. Ideas will be discussed at the next meeting.

9. Water pumps Dog Corner / Spring Hill:

The clerk informed the meeting that on looking into the hardware for the installation of active pumps at these sites, it was evident that this project required a knowledgeable eye.

A question was raised as to whether the water may or not be tanked at Dog Corner, and whether one or both sites could be filtered for potable use. It was agreed to carry out further investigation.

10. Horse Riding sign on Rushlake Green

While generic options are available, the clerk was asked to get a quote from the Wheelright, to supply signs in a style of the finger posts (white background/black lettering). This will be reported at the next meeting.

11. Clock maintenance

The council agreed that Smith of Derby Ltd. would be asked to carry out the maintenance service, and the clerk was authorised to make the necessary arrangements.

Cllrs Bowdler and Turton requested that their abstention from the vote was noted.

12. Traffic data Surveys

It was agreed that a meeting with the ESCC Traffic Data representative will be arranged by the clerk to take place over summer, to discuss potential sites for the survey.

13. Telecommunication Infrastructure in the parish:

Wealden planning responded to the council's concerns:

"Utility companies have permitted rights under The Electronic Communications Code Regulations 2003. As part of this, section 5, they do have to notify the planning authority by giving one month's notice about the works they are intending to do. They do not need planning permission for a significant number of works. The planning authority can make comments on proposals, but ultimately the utility company does not have to take these on board, if the works are permitted development. There is no consultation period by the planning authority when these notifications are received, due to it being permitted development and just a notification, not a planning application. Therefore, the parish council would not be contacted by the planning authority.

The Local Planning Authority could not comment on land ownership notifications or wayleave payments. That would be a civil matter with the utility company. I would consider the responsibility of the equipment maintenance would fall to the utility company. The utility equipment, particularly cabinets, would normally have contact details on these."

It was agreed that Cllr Long would supply location details to the clerk of the telecommunication infrastructure within the parish so that a letter may be written to the utility company regarding maintenance and way-leave.

Open Reach had recently been served with a fixed penalty notice for non-compliance of conditions by closing Marklye Lane on 7 June 2026 with no notice when it wasn't an emergency.

14. Incident Reporting – Rushlake Green Hire

It was resolved to adopt the updated Terms and Conditions of Hire & Reporting Form which will now require reporting to the council of any incident or accident that happens during an event.

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

To include in the next agenda, an item to discuss the choice of potential guest speakers for the 2027 Annual Parish Assembly, the biggest area of residents' concern being highway issues.

16. Date of next Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 24 September 2026 at Bodle Street Green Village Hall 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.30pm