



Warbleton Parish Council

## THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2023

Minutes of the Warbleton Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly held on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm** at the **Dunn Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** There were 16 people in attendance:

Cllrs Long, Williamson & Graham

ESCC & WDC Bob Bowdler

WDC Sue Stedman

Two defibrillator trainers from the Heathfield & Waldron First Responders

Eight members of the public

The Parish Clerk

### **APOLOGIES:**

PCSO Cathy Gilling

### **MINUTES OF THE APA HELD ON TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022:**

Agreed and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council

### **CHAIRMAN INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman of the Parish Council gave a short speech to the electorate. He confirmed the Council had met 27 times in the last year. The term of office for current councillors would end in May of this year. He stated that during the last year extra hours had been agreed for the Clerk for special projects which she was still working on.

### **UPDATE ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

The Chairman stated there had been many successes so far that year which included the car park re-surface at Osborne House, a tree planting for the Queens Green Canopy, one of the parish's defibrillators had been successfully relocated and new signage erected, a new bench had been installed adjacent to the Dunn Village Hall donated by the Rushlake Green Horticultural Society, the Rushlake Green village sign had been refurbished, new picnic benches for Bodle Street Green Village Hall had been ordered and the Osborne House clock had been serviced.

The Royal Proclamation the previous September had taken place at Rushlake Green, Warbleton Church and Bodle Street Green and had been very well attended.

## **WHAT MAKES A GOOD PARISH COUNCILLOR – YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!!**

A short video was played

The Clerk addressed the meeting and gave a speech on the qualities needed to be an effective councillor. She highlighted the following attributes:

- An active interest in your local community including knowledge of areas of concern or areas where parishioners were very content.
- The importance of having time to really get involved with the work of the parish council as well as ensuring all the papers for the meetings had been read to enable effective voting.
- Patience – be prepared for a long journey before a successful outcome.
- Resilience – be prepared to stand your ground as sometimes a vote could put you in an uncomfortable and difficult position. A councillor needs to impartially consider local concerns from the diverse community in the parish.
- Be available to attend evening meetings, training webinars and have an up-to-date knowledge of the governance surrounding a Parish Council.

The Chairman added finding volunteers for the role of a parish councillor was never an easy task especially in a world where most people have very full and busy lives.

A member of the public enquired about the recruitment process which the Clerk explained.

## **THE UPCOMING LOCAL ELECTIONS – PHOTO IDENTIFICATION**

Cllr Williamson explained to the attendees the role of photo identification in the upcoming elections including the relevant official documentation that could be used and who to contact if someone did not have any of these forms of photo ID.

## **THE PARISH PRECEPT FOR 2023/24**

Cllr Williamson summarised how the parish precept had been agreed highlighting areas where costs had increased and the overall effect this would have on the electorate.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

A member of the public raised his concerns about future changes from 2026 regarding heat pumps as oil and gas would be disbanded. He had already written to MP Huw Merriman. He referred to government legislation and the potential costs for all parishioners in the near future.

Another member of the public raised his concerns regarding the lack of female councillors at Warbleton pc. He felt without a female input there would not be a balanced perspective. An all-male council could put off potential new female councillors from joining. He also highlighted evening meeting times would be difficult for councillors with young families and suggested some changes should be made. He stated the parish council's CIL survey results should detail a financial and time plan to clarify projects to the community.

Another member of the public requested the council remove the tree label on the sapling planted for the Queen's Green Canopy and to consider cutting back the large tree which had been planted by the Council to commemorate the Queens Jubilee many years previously.

## **DEFIBRILATOR TRAINING**

Two members of the Heathfield & Waldron First Responders carried out defibrillator training.

There were no further questions.

The meeting finished at 19.55