

WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Warbleton Parish Council held on Thursday 26 February 2026 7pm at Dunn Village Hall, Rushlake Green

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

Apologies for absence: Bob Bowdler, Buster Ansell, Liz Ansell, Chris Wells and Tom Guyton-Day

Other attendees: District Councillors Greg Collins & Diane Gould. One member of the public.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Long declared an interest in item 15. This would leave the meeting inquorate to discuss and decide the item, it would therefore be deferred until the next meeting.
3. **Minutes**
 - 3.1. Cllr David Turton wished it to be recorded that he abstained from voting during Item 7 (Telephone Box Refurbishment) at the previous meeting. Subject to this note **It was resolved** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 22 January 2026 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.
5. **Reports**
 - 5.1 **County Cllr Bob Bowdler** was not present at the meeting and the circulated report was taken as read.
It was noted by the meeting that the May elections would now take place. District Cllr Collins confirmed that WDC never stood election plans down, so polling stations are already booked and the elections will all take place in the usual way
 - 5.2 **District Cllrs**
 - Cllr Diane Gould:**
 - The Ward Grant Scheme has some available funds so applications from local groups are still invited. Details had again been circulated by WPC to both village hall committees and Osborne House.
 - Cllr Greg Collins:**
 - Zero increase in Wealden council tax was agreed and confirmed at full council.
 - The result of the High Court judicial review about Crowborough base being used to house migrants is due to be declared tomorrow (27 February 2026). WDC is not the planning authority for Crowborough Camp, the Ministry of

Defence is its own building inspector.

- In response to a question about local government reorganisation and how likely it was to take place; it was noted that whoever gets elected ESCC are powerless to stop the plans for reorganisation as they are top down from Government. It is now expected that District elections will take place in 2027. Even after reorganisation there will still be three tiers of authority which makes it difficult to understand the different layers of responsibility.
- The WDC Local Plan, going ahead for consultation with the deadline for response 20 March 2026, will be assessed under the current NPPF guidelines. Although there are still many steps to take, the goal is to be ready to submit the Plan to the Inspector before 10 December 2026. If successful the Local Plan will still carry weight, despite the proposed future changes to the NPPF. Members requested that planning applicants should be warned about policy changes so that they are aware of possible effects on their applications, it was noted that steps are in place for applications already in the pipeline.

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

5.4 **Reports from Parish Councillors:**

Cllr Jarrold:

- Bodle Street Green village hall committee are back on track looking into the potential of installing solar panels.

Cllr Waterman:

- Attended the recent Rights of Way training day.
- The Chair's Forum mainly focused on encouraging parishes to develop their own Emergency & Resilience Plan, as well as discussing the NPPF. It was suggested that parish councils should develop a draft business plan, in preparation for dealing with the new unitary authority structure, to set out objectives and share this information with residents.

5.5 **Clerk's Report:** A written report had been circulated and taken as read.

6 **Committee reports**

The proceedings of the following committee meetings were noted:

6.1 Planning & Development – minutes of the meeting held on 27.01.26 had been circulated. The draft minutes for 17.02.26 will shortly be circulated.

7. **Annual Parish Assembly 2026**

The event will be promoted via established village led local networks. Cllr Waterman will draft the advertisement this week for use across all media including for roadside Corex boards. There will also be an Ad in the parish magazine. The guest speaker is confirmed, the MP is unable to attend and responses are awaited from other specific invitees.

8. **Social Media**

It was proposed that WPC develop a social media presence in the form of a Facebook account to share information locally in a more effective way. Cllr Guyton-Day had indicated that he could set up the account on behalf of the council and run it for three months until arrangements had been agreed for its ongoing administration.

It was resolved to go ahead for a Facebook account to be set up. The existing social media Policy would be reviewed by the clerk and confirmed for any proposed changes at the next council meeting to ensure it will be fit for purpose. Councillors involved in the account would attend relevant ESALC social media communications training.

Cllr Long abstained from the vote on this item.

9. Speed Watch

It was noted that a minimum of four people must be signed up before volunteers can go onto the next stage of training, so two more people are needed. The clerk was asked to contact the person who had previously expressed an interest. This item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

10. Finance

10.1 **It was resolved** to authorise the bills for payment February 2026.

10.2 **It was resolved** to approve the Finance Reports at 31 January 2026; bank reconciliation, and the budget monitor and reserve movements report (reports circulated).

10.3 After due consideration and in line with the agreed total available budget of £3,000 for 2026/2027, **It was resolved** to award discretionary grants to the following applicants:

i.	Little Arts Festival	£250
ii.	Rushlake Green Big Lunch	£200
iii.	Bodle Street Green PCC	£250
iv.	Warbleton PCC	£250
v.	East Sussex Vision Support	£0
vi.	Dunn Village Hall	£700
vii.	Bodle Street Green Village Hall	£700
viii.	Rushlake Green Bonfire Society	£400
ix.	Villages Lunch Club	£250

10.4 **It was resolved** to appoint Cllr Jarrold as an additional bank signatory to share the online banking payments administration. The clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements with Barclays Business.

10.5 A three-year quote was received for grass cutting which included an additional two cuts each per year at Spring Hill and Dog Corner. This brings the total annual cuts at each of these areas to four, up from the previous two. **It was resolved** to waive the financial regulation to go to tender (Financial Regulations Section 5 refers) and **to resolve** that the current contractor be re-engaged due to their reliability and consistently high quality of delivery over the past three years. The clerk was asked to confirm arrangements with the contractor.

11. Highways/SLR

The SLR meeting had taken place on 24 February 2026. Minutes will be circulated in due course and published onto the website.

12. Wealden Draft Local Plan Consultation

It was resolved that WPC will submit a response to the Wealden Draft Local Plan consultation deadline 20 March 2026. It was agreed that although there appears to be limited housing impact to the parish, it could still feel the effects from other local over-development and the general lack of infrastructure resources. The clerk was asked to circulate information shared by Horam Parish Council following the Focus Group meeting. An item will be included on the next planning committee meeting agenda for councillors to discuss any points they may want to be taken into consideration.

13. Three Cups Inn

It was resolved that WPC will write to Historic England directly about the state of the site. Cllrs Waterman and Long will collate information to draft a letter.

14. Three Cups Corner

It was agreed to defer this item until the original proposing councillor on this concern was in attendance (Cllr Guyton-Day).

15. Rushlake Green Village Notice Board

The council was not quorate to discuss this item due to Cllr Long's declaration of interest.
To be deferred to the next meeting.

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

17. Date of next Council Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 9pm

Draft