

Minutes of a meeting of **WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL** held on Thursday 17th June 2021 at 7pm at the Bodle Street Green village hall

PRESENT: Councillors A Long (Chairman), Mike Smythe (Vice-Chairman), Steve Williamson, Keith Graham, Roy Iremonger, Celia Davis and Karen Cook

Also present: Wealden District Councillor Bob Bowdler
2 members of the public
Jackie Cottrell – Parish Clerk

00333 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Wells – Not available for face-to-face
Cllr Powell – Not available for face-to-face
Cllr Reading – Not available for face-to-face
WDC Sue Stedman – personal reasons

00334 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Long – Prejudicial interest in item 10. Cllr Smythe to chair item 10 on the agenda.
Cllr Long to leave the room.

MINUTES

To resolve that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd April and the ASM meeting held on the 6th May 2021 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

00335 RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd April and the ASM meeting held on the 6th May 2021

Matters arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda - **NONE**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public spoke regarding item 10 on the agenda. She thanked the Parish Council for raising her concerns as an agenda item. She stated, as a resident of the Parish for many years, Marklye lane had now become too dangerous to walk along due to the increase in traffic and the speed the vehicles travel at. She asked Members to note she believed there had been an increase in footfall in recent years too. Marklye Lane featured in 39th place in the top 75 crash sites in East Sussex on the East Sussex County Council website over a 3 year period. Over that period there had been 4 accidents of which 3 had been classed as serious. 5 people had suffered injuries as a result, 4 of those seriously. The member of public believed this was a reflection on how dangerous the road had become. There needed to be signage to encourage drivers to slow down as there is no safe space for pedestrians to escape speeding traffic. She asked members to note her concerns had been emailed to the Clerk.

REPORTS

5.1. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Wealden District Councillor Bob Bowdler added to his report which had been previously circulated. He assured Members that local MP's are concerned with the increased level

of new housing in the area and are working hard to reduce this. He confirmed statutory meetings were being held face-to-face with reduced members.

5.2. To receive reports from PCSO Catherine Gilling

None received.

5.3. To receive reports from Parish Councillors

Cllr Davies reported that CIL meetings in July and August were currently being organised.

5.4. To receive reports from Cllr Smythe – Wealden Planning and Focus group

Cllr Smythe attended the Focus group meeting on the 21st May. A list of questions was posed to Chris Bending and the effectiveness of the Enforcement Policy queried. A promised reply from Stacey Robins had yet to be received. The group had been assured the Direction of Travel comments would be taken into account when compiling the new Local Plan. Cllr Smythe had sent back the Parish Council's responses to the Wealden Settlement Sustainability Survey which had asked for information on the assets and facilities in the parish in order for WDC to spread out the building requirement. Cllr Smythe would be unable to attend the next meeting on the 21st June but he would circulate any notes received.

5.5. To receive reports from the Parish Clerk

The Clerk referred to the report circulated to all Members prior to the meeting. She added she had received a letter from the Warbleton Housing Association which had highlighted the poor state of repair to the surfaced forecourt area of Osbourne house. This item would be on the next Environment agenda but lack of Members able to meet face-to-face meant the Clerk was unable to arrange one at the present time.

The Chairman updated Members on the Horse & Groom pub. He read the reply from Stacey Robins at Wealden District Council and instructed the Clerk to circulate it to all Members. He expressed disappointment with the lack of involvement of the District Council in the decision to allow an ACV exemption. He questioned the impartiality of the determining authority of ACV exemptions and asked for clarity over who was the determining authority in this instance.

The Chairman stated the legislation Section 95(5) of the Localism Act was ambiguous regarding whether the sale of the freehold should be included in the sale of the business as a going concern. In this instance the business was not for sale but the freehold of the land. He requested Wealden clarify the matter with the Parish Council. The Clerk to email WDC Bob Bowdler for clarification.

A Councillor queried the time frame the ACV needed to remain as a going-concern under the exemption legislation. The Clerk to investigate.

The Chairman confirmed it is the ownership that is changing not the tenants.

The Chairman requested the Clerk prioritise organising an SLR meeting.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

6.1. To receive the acts and proceedings of the following committee meetings:

- (a) F&GP – 7th April 2021
- (b) Planning & Development 27th April 2021
- (c) Planning & Development 18th May 2021
- (d) Planning & Development 8th June 2021

The Clerk asked Members to note the Planning & Development minutes from the 8th June would be circulated shortly. **Noted.**

FINANCE

7.1. To authorise the bills for payment

Cheque No.	Payee	£	VAT	£ Total	Purpose
	Wealden District Council	65.00	13.00	78.00	Dog bin quarterly emptying charges April-June 21
	Jackie Cottrell				Clerk salary June 21
	HMRC	269.40		269.40	Payroll pay period April-June 21
	Jackie Cottrell	14.39		14.39	Zoom subscription inv87024754

00336 It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the payments listed above

7.2. To note the Finance Reports, bank reconciliations for May 2021 and budget monitor for April and May 2021

The Clerk read the report circulated to all Members from the Chairman of F&GP. She re-iterated that all future payments would carry a reference number which would also appear on the cashbook allowing easier cross-referencing. The numerical sequencing would be backdated to the 1st April. – **Noted**

8. UPDATE ON THE COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Clerk confirmed she had received one application. The advert for the vacancy was on the Parish Council website and noticeboard. The Clerk to advertise the vacancy on the Punnetts Town Facebook page and request the Village Leaf advertises the vacancy too.

The Chairman requested clarification on how the alerts work on the Parish Council website. He suggested on the vacancy adverts on the social media platforms that the public were encouraged to sign up for these alerts.

9. TO CONSIDER ADDING A POSITIVE PC STATEMENT AT THE END OF ALL PARISH COUNCIL EMAILS

Cllr Smythe encouraged Members to agree this item. He stated lots of other Parish Councils and other organisations have adopted a positive statement to add to their logo.

Cllr Williamson entered the meeting at 19.26pm.

00337 It was **RESOLVED** the Parish Council would support a statement to be added to the Parish Council logo. Cllr Smythe to work with the Clerk to agree wording for approval

Cllr Long left the meeting at 19.28 to allow Cllr Smythe to chair item 10.

10. VEHICLE SPEED THROUGH MARKLYE LANE

10.1. To agree the Parish Council would contact East Sussex Highways to request a visit to the Marklye Lane speed terminal point and consider its impact on current and potential road usage supporting implementation of appropriate measures to better manage vehicle speeds

The Vice-Chairman Informed Members that speeding traffic through Rushlake Green was a known problem. He clarified he has been a very active member of Speedwatch in the

village for 3 years and had been pressuring the police for action for some time. The group who only work 3 hours a week had reported 5000 vehicles speeding through the village in the last year. He had already attended several meetings with the police but had also arranged a meeting with the Chief Inspector who is the uniformed Head of Road Safety in East Sussex in an attempt to set up a holistic approach to the problem.

He encouraged councillors to support the member of public who had brought item 10 to their attention. He clarified that presenting the roads to the driver is how road signs were designed and agreed. Another councillor added the 30mph Cowbeech signs were too close to the bend, the Vice-Chairman asked Members to note moving existing signage was very costly.

Other Councillors were in agreement and noted the range of current traffic issues and road issues that needed addressing including the poor drainage on Marklye Lane. Concerns were also raised about speeding traffic in Bodle Street Green.

The Vice-Chairman re-iterated the importance of organising an SLR meeting where all the above issues would be raised.

- 00338** It was **RESOLVED** the Parish Council would contact East Sussex Highways to request a visit to the Marklye Lane speed terminal point to investigate more appropriate measures to better manage vehicle speeds as part of the overall road safety concerns in the parish

11. PRIVATE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ON RUSHLAKE GREEN VILLAGE GREEN

11.1 To consider allowing a resident of Rushlake Green to hold a birthday picnic for approximately 50 people on the 1st August

Councillors raised the following concerns regarding the usage of the village green: possible barbeque debris, loud music, length of time the celebration would last, parking on the green and the need for signage to indicate permission had been agreed by the Parish Council. The new Conditions of Hire which had been prepared by Cllr Smythe would be an item on the next Full Council agenda.

- 00339** It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk and Chairman of the Parish Council would have delegated authority regarding the arrangements for the celebration taking note of Councillors concerns.

12. UPDATE ON THE USE OF ZOOM

12.1 To consider ending the monthly zoom subscription

A short discussion took place regarding the advantages and disadvantages of cancelling the subscription. The Chairman of F&GP asked Members to note the Clerk would use delegated authority if there was an urgent need to re-start the subscription.

- 00340** It was **RESOLVED** to cancel the monthly zoom subscription

13. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING and/or INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

The Chairman asked Members to note there was an order for a dangerous structure on the 3 Cups pub. An update on the pub would be an item on the next Full Council agenda.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

15th July Bodle Street Green Village Hall 7pm

The meeting closed at 7.53pm

