WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Warbleton Parish Council held on Thursday 24 September 2026 7pm at Bodle Street Green Village Hall

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

   Apologies for absence: Cllr Bob Bowdler

   Other attendees: District Councillors Greg Collins & Diane Gould, and four members of the public.

2. **Declarations of Interest:** None

3. **Minutes**
   3.1. **It was resolved** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23 July 2026 and the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 20 August 2026, were a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
   3.2. **Matters Arising:** None

4. **Public Participation:**
   - A representative of the Little Arts Group reported that a very successful mini festival had taken place, with a range of cultural activities including dance and open-mic sessions. The Group's annual grant had been awarded to a young person in support of their attendance at a course in costume design. Thanks were extended to Cllr Waterman for attending as part of the award panel. It was noted that the new display boards have been received and are available for other local groups to use.
   - The Chair asked for it to be noted that all local groups should let the council know if they wanted to display promotional boards on Rushlake Green. This would prevent a plethora of signs on the green at any one time.
   - A representative of the Bonfire Society was available if there were any questions from the council; arrangements appeared in hand and will be discussed at Item 9. They also thanked the council for allowing use of the green for parking vehicles during a family wake.
   - There is a high grown hedge in Middle Lane which is causing problems. It was confirmed that the council could send a letter to the landowner if the address details are sent to the clerk.

5. **Reports**
   5.1 **County Cllr Stephen Potts:**
   A written report had been circulated. The council was concerned that by not regularly attending council meetings Cllr Potts was missing important local information, and members were unable to raise issues to discuss directly. The clerk was asked to write to Cllr Potts to raise their concerns.
   5.2 **District Cllr Diane Gould:**
   - Reiterated that money was still available through the ward grant scheme to support local community projects.

District Councillor Greg Collins:

- From 31 October, under the new NPPF scheme of delegation, district councillors will not be able to call-in minor planning applications. These will be dealt with by Planning Officers. WDC will be emailing parishes with details of relevant training available to bring councillors and clerks up to date.
- Due to the pause in implementation of local government reorganisation, local District elections are back on for May 2027, but the term of appointment is unknown. There will not be unitary authority elections, and there are no details yet on whether there will be shadow authority elections.
- The draft WDC Local Plan has gone to regulators for consultation. A few errors in the document were brought to the attention of Cllr Collins who will take it up with the plan development team. It could be that an earlier version had been uploaded to the WDC website. Cllr Collins will also look into the 28-day planning notice for farmers, to confirm whether this process remains as any note of it could not be found in the plan document.

5.3 **PCSO:** No update available. There had been a recent spate of local burglaries, and members agreed that it would be helpful to have a PCSO in attendance at the council meetings.

5.4 **Reports from Parish Councillors:** None

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

- Fingerposts - There still appears to be conflicting information on how parishes should manage post maintenance. It was raised for discussion during a recent Chair's Forum meeting; some councils pay for all repairs, and one council adopted all the posts in their parish (paperwork will be sent over to Cllr Waterman for information on how that process was managed). In the meantime, the council will strive to find out the definitive position to help it decide on its own process. Currently the posts are owned and insured by ESCC.

6. Committee reports

The proceedings of the following committee meetings were noted:

6.1 Planning & Development – minutes of the meeting held on 25.08.2026 had been circulated and taken as read.

7. Finance

7.1 **It was resolved** to approve this year's insurance payment, it being year two of a three-year agreement and covering the council's requirements.

7.2 **It was resolved** to approve the bills for payment as detailed on the September payment list.

7.3 **It was resolved** to approve the Finance Reports at 31 August 2026: bank reconciliations July and August, the budget monitor and reserve movement reports at August 2026 (as circulated).

7.4 **It was resolved** to note that the annual National Pay Award for clerks had been agreed and approve the back payment of the increase to be paid in October payroll.

8. Wealden Community Led Infrastructure Fund (CLIF)

Councillors were asked for ideas of potential projects to apply for funding, it was agreed to defer discussion to the next meeting.

Cllr Collins reported that applications were already in the pipeline, but there is likely to be another 2m fund allocation made available. WDC will continue to consider project applications, but it should be noted that funds are now likely to be allocated in a year to eighteen months' time. Help is available should the council need it, for the completion of funding application forms. It was also noted that a multi-line application can be submitted to cover a number of projects. WDC retains its normal level of general reserve funds while able to release money for grant applications.

9. **Warbleton Bonfire Society event request Rushlake Green**
It was noted that WDC Licensing have corresponded with the Society to say that there was no event license application required from their part as the music element was considered incidental to the main event. Road closure arrangements however, are already authorised and in place. Outstanding from WPC point of view was a copy of the insurance policy.
It was discussed and agreed that a larger area of turf would be cut out on the green to accommodate the bonfire.
It was resolved to agree the event application, subject to receipt of a copy of the insurance certificate.

10. **Horse Riding sign on Rushlake Green**
A quote was noted, but it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting when additional options and costings will be available.

11. **Clock maintenance**
The council agreed in principle that it would pursue the restoration of the village clock face to maintain it as a local heritage asset. The item will be deferred for further discussion pending information about the timeline of the existing quote, and information on potential funding options.

12. **Complaints Policy & Data Protection Complaints**
It was resolved to adopt the revised policy and the clerk was authorised to update the website.

13. **SLR Meeting:**
The agenda had been circulated to members, and they were asked for any further input. Responsibility of fingerpost repairs was raised, along with overgrown hedges in Middle Lane.

14. **Community Volunteer**
It was noted that a local resident voluntarily, and diligently, maintains the flower beds on Rushlake Green, and also keeps the edges of the Green cut back and tidy. It was agreed that a letter of appreciation would be sent by the clerk on behalf of the council to the volunteer.

15. **Annual Parish Assembly 2027**
It was agreed that the most pressing issue within the parish is about the condition of its Highways. In preparation for booking guest speakers, the clerk was asked to extend invitations to the MP, and representatives from Balfour Beatty and East Sussex Highways to look at potential dates of their availability during weeks commencing 5th, 12th and 19th April 2027.

16. **Urgent matters at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda:**
Cllr Tom Guyton-Day was asked to report on and circulate their latest list of community organisations & contacts to all councillors.

17. **Date of next Council Meeting**
The next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 22 October 2026 at Dunn Village Hall, Rushlake Green, 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.10pm