

WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Warbleton Parish Council held on Thursday 27 November 2025 7pm at Dunn Village Hall, Rushlake Green

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

Apologies for absence: It was resolved to accept apologies from Councillor 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 12 and will leave the room when this is discussed.

3. **Minutes**

3.1. **It was resolved** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 23 October 2025, were a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

3.2. **Matters Arising:** None

4. **Public Participation:** The following point was raised:

- There had once again been a multiple user broadband outage in the parish, this time in Flitterbrook Lane which had continued on and off over a number of days. Communication with BT and Openreach had been unsatisfactory and local operatives refused to acknowledge the cause of the second outage which was due to a fallen tree, subsequently cut down by ESCC and severing the BT wires. The council was asked if it could help in any way to represent the affected households, and a timeline of the events was handed to the council. The member of public present, was asked to provide, if possible, a first-hand witness account of the events around the tree felling along with pictures to be sent to the clerk, it could then put together witnessed information to make a further complaint to Openreach.

5. **Reports**

5.1 **County Cllr Bob Bowdler:** ESCC is busy with matters around its proposals on the process of local government reorganisation, and a public consultation has been recently published. On another matter, there continues to be local break-ins resulting in the theft of farm vehicles.

5.2 **District Cllrs**

Cllr Diane Gould:

- The Wealden ward councillor grant scheme is open, and members were asked to sign- post any interested local groups. The maximum award can be 5000K. The council asked whether a contribution to the church roof would be considered, also support for the Bonfire Society and the Little Arts Festival. It was noted that all interest should be submitted to Cllr Greg Collins by email cllr.greg.collins@wealden.gov.uk

Cllr Greg Collins:

- There is local concern about the potential allocation of accommodation for migrants at the Crowborough Barracks. It is known that the site infrastructure and facilities are not up to accommodating the number of people being suggested. WDC has issued a planning contravention notice to try and push for scrutiny of the site.
- WDC are recommending a zero increase on its council tax for 2026/27.
- There was some discussion about the allocation of CIL funds under a revised council structure and whether they would stay within the district. Although the principles of CIL fund allocation remain unaltered at this stage, nothing can be assured.

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

5.4 **Reports from Parish Councillors:**

Cllr Waterman:

- Cllrs KW & AL attended the ESALC AGM on 4 November 2025. An update on local government reorganisation is expected before Christmas.
- Back Lane treatment plant – Cllr Waterman had attended a Southern Water drop-in discussion and raised again about the stream pollution. Cllr CW is happy to send videos of the witnessed pollution emanating from the plant into the stream behind his property. It has been suggested to put dye into the system to see where the system is breaching. Cllr KW plans to speak with local residents. This will take a few weeks but is an ongoing project.

Cllr Long:

- Cllrs AL and KW had attended the first stage of online training for Speedwatch volunteers. The clerk was asked to check with the Co-Ordinator that this had been properly registered on their system.
- There has been a suggestion by ESCC to install a mirror at Three Cups Corner to ease visibility for drivers. But it was unknown where responsibility would lie in the case of any accidents/ issues caused by its installation.
- It was agreed that the response already received from Openreach regarding an earlier outage did not acknowledge or accept the extent of the recent problems suffered within a rural community. They also did not then communicate effectively with residents either about the issue. It was agreed to collate as much information and dates as the council could about the interrupted services and submit a follow up written complaint.

Cllr Jarrold:

- The dog waste bin had been installed at Bodle Street Green
- A date has been arranged for the emergency electrical change-over switch to be installed at Dunn Village Hall/.

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

6 Committee reports

6.1 The proceedings of the following committee meetings were noted:

Planning & Development – draft minutes of the 11.11.2025 meeting had been circulated.

6.2 The Staffing Committee report was discussed under Item 12.2

7. Warbleton telephone box refurbishment

It was resolved that local volunteers will manage and carry out the refurbishment of Warbleton telephone box. The clerk will cost the repairs within the current year budget, based on the list of required materials, and this will be presented at the January council meeting.

8. Annual Parish Assembly 2026

It was noted that Katy Bourne, the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner had been invited as guest speaker to the WPC Annual Parish Assembly 2026, and that the invitation had been accepted. A date will be agreed in liaison between the clerk and the Commissioner's Office. It was agreed to include into the 2026/27 draft budget an amount £500 to cover costs of refreshments and promotion.

9. Finance

9.1 **It was resolved** to authorise the bills for payment (November 2025 payment list circulated).

9.2 **It was resolved** to approve the Finance Reports at 31 October 2025; bank reconciliation, and the budget monitor and reserve movements report (reports circulated).

9.3 The draft budget 2026/27 had been circulated. As agreed £500 will be added to cover costs for the Annual Parish Assembly.

It was also agreed to include £500 for a Remembrance Sunday 2026 commemoration.

The parish asset check will take place before the next meeting and any budget implications will be included then for discussion.

As part of emergency planning the council would like to look into the costs of installing hand pumps to the wells at Dog Corner and Spring Hill. This would allow the use of "brown water" by residents in times of emergency to maintain adequate sanitation by keeping use of the toilet flushes.

10. Speedwatch

It was agreed that Cllr Bowdler would approach MP Nusrat Ghani to invite her to attend a meeting with the council to discuss a number of things around parish speed issues. It was noted that decisions can only be made by obtaining relevant traffic data and that the MP had agreed to arrange a one-off hour police speed check which WPC is to pursue. Ongoing discussions are being held between Warbleton and Heathfield & Waldron Parish Councils with ESCC about the traffic data collection via signs at Punnetts Town. Cllr AL will update the council as this progresses.

11. Highways

Council members agreed to email the details of and pictures to the clerk of where it is deemed unsuitable within the parish for HGVs to be diverted. These will be reported to ESCC Highways.

12. Rushlake Green Village Notice Board – Cllr Long left the meeting during this item and Cllr Waterman Vice-Chair took the chair.

At the last council meeting 23 October 2025, it was agreed that the existing plaques should remain and an additional plaque be installed to reflect a time line of local history.

The wording for the new plaque was agreed as " This board was replaced July 2025 with help from local parishioners".

Cllr KW and the clerk will obtain quotes for a new plaque, to be discussed at the January meeting.

13. Council Policies & Procedures

13.1 **Rushlake Green Byelaws** – The design for the new signs to prohibit horse riding on Rushlake Green will be assessed during the asset check.

14. Requests to use Rushlake Green

- 14.1 Rushlake Green Big Lunch - **It was resolved** that the Big Lunch can take place on Rushlake Green on the 7 June 2026.

15. Exclusion of press and public

- 15.1 **It was resolved** to exclude the press & public for Item 15.2 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the exempt nature of the business to be transacted due to legal and confidential considerations.
- 15.2 A report from the Staffing Committee regarding the Clerk's Terms & Conditions of Employment was reviewed. **It was resolved** that the clerk's wages will increase by one scale point from 1 April 2026.

The Staffing Committee agreed that it could benefit from the attendance of the vice-chair as an additional and fourth member. This will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2026.

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 22 January 2025 at Dunn Village Hall, Rushlake Green 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm