

# WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Warbleton Parish Council held on Thursday 23 April 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, Bob Bowdler, Tom Guyton-Day, and Jeanne Peterson (Clerk)

**Apologies for absence:** None

**Other attendees:** District Councillor Greg Collins

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Long declared an interest in Item 11 and will leave the room while that is discussed.

3. **Minutes**

3.1. **It was resolved** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 26 March 2026 were a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

3.2. **Matters Arising:** None

4. **Public Participation:** No attendees

5. **Reports**

5.1 **County Cllr Bob Bowdler:** A written report had been circulated and taken as read. Due to upcoming elections, there was nothing else to report.

5.2 **District Cllr Greg Collins:**

- A Cllr asked about how the new food recycling waste collection was going. There had been a sticky couple of weeks bedding in but it appeared to be going ok. The reporting system had experienced issues, but feedback was now more positive. A few individuals are ideologically opposed to the scheme.
- It was questioned whether people understood the purpose of the scheme and that perhaps more public education could assist with this. There also appears to be some confusion about which type of bags to use in the food bins. Fully compostable bags should be used and should have been distributed with the bins.
- Cllr Collins had been unable to attend the council's Annual Parish Assembly, and had sent apologies. It was noted by members that in general terms, district councillors had been absent at local Assemblies which was unfortunate as there had been public questions relating to district work.
- Cllr Collins was asked whether there are plans to reduce regular waste collections due to the practical changes in recycling. There had been no discussion at WDC Cabinet level about changing frequency and no awareness of any discussions.
- WDC continues to subsidise the cost of using biofuels to run the waste vehicles. Cllr Collins will check current arrangements and report back to the council.

5.3 **PCSO:** The Clerk reported that the PCSO hoped to attend a future meeting, and that there had been no issues of significance reported from within the parish.

#### 5.4 Reports from Parish Councillors:

##### **Cllr Waterman:**

- Had attended Social Media training which included information on how different platforms can be used, Facebook (FB) being the most popular for giving out/sharing information. This will be the most beneficial outlet for the council and a decision needs to be made on how a FB page will be managed. Cllr Guyton-Day updated the meeting that an account had been set up, as previously agreed, but is currently invisible to the public pending further information to be added.
- At the recent WDALC meeting discussion was focused on the potential transfer of assets from WDC to town and parish councils. The apparent reluctance of Wealden Officers to engage with parishes was another point of concern – the example of WDCs refusal for a site meeting at Three Cups Inn was noted as an ongoing example of an unresolved issue within Warbleton Parish. The clerk reminded the meeting that as the next step, members had already agreed that a letter should be drafted and sent to Historic England about this site and its dilapidation.

##### **Cllr Guyton-Day:**

- Attended a Wealden Environmental Network meeting. The purpose of the group is to establish a network of civic organisations that can share information for mutual benefit.

##### **Cllr Wells:**

- Reported that EDF Energy needs to put new cables across Warbleton Charity land and the way-leave is being negotiated.

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

The clerk added that the process of setting up the clerk.gov.uk email address was in hand.

Correspondence had been received from the Horticultural Society about the reservation of car parking spaces at Osborne House on the day of their event. As last year, the council recommended that they discuss this directly with Osborne House.

### 6. Committee reports

The proceedings of the following committee meetings were noted:

6.1 Planning & Development – minutes of the meetings held on 10.03.26 and 31.03.26 had been circulated and taken as read.

### 7. Annual Parish Assembly 2026

The event had gone really well with 33 members of the public attending as well as councillors. Thanks were extended to Cllr Waterman for initiating a change in style of the event, and to Cllrs Ansell for providing the refreshments. The clerk had written to the office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner to extend the council's thanks for her attendance as guest speaker.

Public questions fielded by the East Sussex County Cllr Bowdler strongly focused on the state of local roads and Highways issues. The subject obviously touched a nerve with residents and so alternative arrangements could be considered by the council for holding a separate public meeting where these could be debated with representatives from Highways. This idea will be further explored at a future council meeting.

### 8. Finance

8.1 **It was resolved** to authorise the bills for payment April 2026.

8.2 **It was resolved** to approve the transfer of 2025/26 budget funds for incomplete projects to be carried forward as ear marked reserves [Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)]. This subject to the following corrections to agenda items 8.2i and 8.2iv:

- i. Dog Bin Bodle Street Green – the balance corrected from 1209 to 1062.50
- ii. IT equipment replacement – the sum corrected from 100 to 150

8.3 **It was resolved** to approve the Finance Reports at March 2026: bank

reconciliation, the budget monitor and reserve movement reports (as circulated).

The clerk will now go ahead and prepare the end of year accounts

**9. Council Policies & Procedures**

- 9.1 **It was resolved** to adopt the ICO Model Publication Scheme as it stands and for the clerk to publish this on the website.
- 9.2 **It was resolved** to adopt and publish the Warbleton Parish Council Publication Scheme subject to an update to the cost of copying papers. This was agreed at 50p for a black & white copy and £1 for a colour copy.

**10. Restoration of the Horse & Groom Pub Sign to Rushlake Green**

Cllr Long declared a personal interest in this item.

It was noted that although a pub sign had, historically, been sited on Rushlake Green it became structurally unsafe some years ago and removed, for one to be later erected within the pub garden.

It was therefore questioned whether the proposed “reinstatement” was either a request for the existing pub sign to be moved onto the village green or the addition of a new sign on to the green.

The council agreed that before a decision can be made, the legal position needs to be researched by the clerk as to any implications relating to Planning and existing Covenant restrictions. Also clarification as to the intent of either one sign on the green or two signs. It was decided to defer the item to a future council meeting pending the results of that information.

**11. Rushlake Green Village Notice Board – engraved plaque**

Cllr Long left the meeting due to a declared interest in this item. Vice-Chair Waterman took the chair.

The council considered the details of three quotes and **it was resolved** to agree on one of those. The clerk was authorised to make the necessary arrangements.

**12. Parish Civic & Community Groups List**

The purpose of the council creating a list of local civic and community groups would be to help connect the parish together, and enable the groups to work more closely for mutual and community benefit; for example sharing information, knowledge of funding opportunities.

The council was in favour of this project and it was agreed that Cllr Guyton-Day would lead the data gathering, and then work with the clerk to share the information via the website.

**13. Urgent matters at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda – A proposed item to agree on arrangements for the update of notices on Rushlake Green about horse riding. Wording has already been agreed.**

**14. Date of next Council Meeting**

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting of Warbleton Parish Council on Thursday 28 May 2026 at Bodle Street Green Village Hall 7pm

**The meeting closed at 8.30pm**