

WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Warbleton Parish Council held on Tuesday 23 June 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 and Jeanne Peterson (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr Bob Bowdler (arrived later to the meeting)

Absent: Cllr Tom Guyton-Day

Other attendees: County Councillor Stephen Potts, District Councillor Greg Collins, two PCSOs, and one member of the public.

2. **Declarations of Interest:** None

3. **Minutes**

3.1. **It was resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 28 May 2026 were a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

3.2. **Matters Arising:** None

4. **Public Participation:** An observer attended for Item 8, and noted to respond to the associated enquiries already supplied to the applicant.

5. **Reports**

- 5.1 **County Cllr Stephen Potts**

A written report had been circulated and will be published with the minutes as Appendix 1.

- Cllr Potts had attended the Horam SLR meeting and asked how WPC found that system of reporting to be. Warbleton reported that they spend a lot of time and work bringing data together for SLR meetings and the problem is in getting things done.
- Item 9 of the agenda was raised as a question, that ESCC appear to be absolving themselves of responsibility for maintaining assets by withdrawing the match funding scheme for repairs to finger posts. The clerk will send the relevant email to Cllr Potts who will look further into this.

- 5.2 **District Cllr Greg Collins:**

- ESCC intend to initiate a judicial review against the decision for Local Government Reorganisation proposals.
- The Ward Grant Scheme has made the first tranche of grants; there have been no applications from Warbleton Parish. Funds are granted on a first come first serve basis and could potentially include funding for fingerposts but applications are assessed by case.
- Correspondence had been sent to Wealden Planning re Coppice Farm for which Cllr Collins will come back with confirmation about use only for housing the applicant's private collection of vintage cars; and the Matellows planning application which has now been successfully called in.
- Cllr Collins was asked about the forthcoming change in the WDC scheme of delegation for planning following the NPPF updates. The District is seeking legal advice, any change to the Constitution will need to be ratified by Wealden District Council Committee, but the changes are due to be effective as from October 2026.

5.3 PCSO: The two attending PCSOs introduced themselves; one as a representative from the Rural Crime Team and the other from the Neighbourhood Team.

- Over the last month there had been concern about rural crime, and the Team attended incidents following reports of poaching with catapults being used.
- The team have been very focused using targeted patrols and promoting its crime prevention initiative by supplying marking kits for farms to use on their equipment.
- There had been a burglary in Flitterbrook Lane last month and research is ongoing into a web of associated people carrying out local crimes.
- The PCSO team is undergoing a lot more training so that everyone is working to the same level to give a unified approach, and co-operation across police borders is developing.
- Cllr Bowdler reported that he had witnessed suspicious activity at Forest Lane, the end that merges to Rother District. This will be looked into as fly-tipping dumps are regularly occurring on land deep into the woodland.
- All anti-social driving or incidents involving speeding vehicles should be reported via Operation Crackdown so that it is noted on police record. This includes the reporting of youngsters on electronic bikes racing through the villages.

5.4 Reports from Parish Councillors: None

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 – draft minutes of the meeting held on 02.06.2026 had been circulated and taken as read.

7. Finance

7.1 It was resolved to adopt the new HMRC travel allowance rate of 55p per mile, an increase from 45p.

7.2 It was resolved to approve the bills for payment as listed on the June payment list.

7.3 It was resolved to approve the Finance Reports at May 2026: bank reconciliation, the budget monitor and reserve movement reports (as circulated).

7.4 It was noted that the end of year accounts paperwork had been submitted to the external audit office.

8. Horse & Groom Pub Sign - Rushlake Green

This item was deferred until a response has been received from the Henry Smith Charity.

9. Finger posts:

The withdrawal of the ESCC match funding scheme for post repairs and maintenance was noted. **It was resolved** to go ahead and fully fund, via CIL money, the repairs identified for this year.

The council wondered about the viability of adopting those posts sited on parish council land and agreed to look into that along with budget implications.

It was also suggested that adjacent parishes could potentially work together on any maintenance programme.

10. Water Pumps Dog Corner / Spring Hill

It was agreed to go ahead and get quotes for upgrading the existing pumps to be a useable source of water.

11. Sewage

It was noted that the raw sewage overflow remains at Victoria Road and Bodle Street Road. The clerk will request an update following the council's reporting.

Regarding sewage run-off at Rushlake Green there was no new information with which to update the meeting, but this will be followed up.

12. Horse Riding sign on Rushlake Green

A picture of the current sign was circulated and design options for the new signs will be presented at the next meeting.

13. Urgent matters at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda:

To include in the next agenda, an item for discussion about an incident reporting system for groups hiring Rushlake Green

14. Date of next Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 23 July 2026 at Bodle Street Green Village Hall 7pm

The meeting closed at 8pm