



Warbleton Parish Council

THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2022

Minutes of the Warbleton Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly held on **Tuesday 24th May at 6.30pm** at the **Dunn Village Hall**

PRESENT: There were 16 people in attendance:

Cllrs Long, Iremonger, Wells, Graham and Saunders.

ESCC & WDC Bob Bowdler

1 representative from Wild About Warbleton

1 representative from The Big Lunch

1 defibrillator trainer

6 members of the public

The Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Williamson – prior engagement

Cllr Thompson – holiday

WDC Sue Stedman – health reasons

MINUTES OF THE 2019 APA

The Clerk confirmed she had not been able to locate these minutes taken by the former Parish Clerk.

CHAIRMAN INTRODUCTION

The Chairman of the Parish Council stated this was his first Annual Parish Assembly as Chairman. He clarified to those present that this was an informal meeting of the electorate and several groups had been invited to make presentations. There would not be any decisions or voting required and it was a statutory requirement of a Parish Council to hold an APA on a yearly basis.

PARISH COUNCIL ACHIEVEMENTS

The Chairman explained the different tiers of government and clarified the parish council

was the lowest tier closest to the people. He informed the meeting the PC had seen many changes in the last few years: a new Chairman and Clerk, a formal committee structure had been introduced, a governance overhaul had taken place as well as the PC adapting to the COVID pandemic and the temporary introduction of remote meetings.

The PC's achievements during this time were summarised as:

A new bench had been installed in Punnetts Town which had been made and donated by a much-loved member of the local community David Bysouth who had since sadly passed away.

Another new bench had been installed outside the Dunn Village Hall kindly donated by the Warbleton & district Horticultural & Poultry Society.

A new notice board at the Bodle Street Green Village Hall.

Finger post repairs to four posts in the parish.

A new well cover at Spring Hill.

A community survey regarding future CIL expenditure.

An asset register had been formulated.

A budget for infrastructure had been agreed.

A new website had been created.

Lots of projects were in the pipeline.

A restructuring and streamlining of the council which had resulted in two successful internal audits. This had taken vast amounts of time.

Going forward the Council were focusing on managing the Clerks time as efficiently as possible to ensure the success of the future projects.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PARISH COUNCILLOR – YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!!

The Clerk addressed the meeting and gave a speech on the qualities needed to be an effective councillor. She highlighted the following attributes:

- An active interest in your local community including knowledge of areas of concern or areas where parishioners were very content.
- The importance of having time to really get involved with the work of the parish council as well as ensuring all the papers for the meetings had been read to enable effective voting.
- Patience – be prepared for a long journey before a successful outcome.
- Resilience – be prepared to stand your ground as sometimes a vote could put you in an uncomfortable and difficult position. A councillor needs to impartially consider local concerns from the diverse community in the parish.
- Be available to attend evening meetings, training webinars and have an up-to-date knowledge of the governance surrounding a Parish Council.

The Chairman added finding volunteers for the role of a parish councillor was never an easy task especially in a world where most people have very full and busy lives.

A member of the public enquired about the recruitment process which the Clerk explained. She would contact him with application details if the vacancies were to be filled by co-option.

THE PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN

The Chairman spoke on behalf of the Parish Council when informing the meeting the Emergency Plan was a project the Council were actively working on. The recent storm

had seen a number of failings from Central Government, ESCC, WDC and the utility companies which had led to a significant number of parishioners without electricity or water for more than several days. The PC would be looking at existing resources available in the parish and making these resources known, taking into account the possibility of again not having access to the internet or working telephone lines. This would ensure some sort of normality in an emergency situation as parishioners would have an action plan and not feel isolated. Feedback from the parishioner's storm experiences were being collated by the Clerk.

A member of the public supported the idea of a list of names, numbers and addresses on parish notice boards. A councillor also suggested the PC could consider having a list of contact details of any parishioners who considered themselves vulnerable.

PCSO CATHY GILLING – RURAL CRIME UPDATE

Unfortunately, PCSO Cathy Gilling was unable to attend the meeting but the Clerk read out her rural crime update which highlighted the low levels of crime in the parish.

THE BIG LUNCH – GUEST SPEAKER

Ian Collett was the guest speaker on behalf of the Big Lunch Group. He explained the Big Lunch originated from the Eden project in Cornwall but over time had become a national initiative which normally took place in the first week in June.

In 2015 a couple who lived in the parish organised a picnic on The Green and as a result of that picnic the Rushlake Green Big Lunch was formed. It started with 30 members and now had over 200. Lots of families were now joining in and it had also attracted people outside of the Parish. The group had gained lots of local support from the various groups in the village. Part of the success was due to the spectacular raffle prizes that were offered. So far over £5,000 had been raised for local charities.

This year the event would be tied in with the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations so there would be a 1950's theme. People would hopefully be dressed up to enjoy a vintage vehicle display and tug of war along with their free tea and cake.

Mr Collett thanked the PC for their grant.

The Chairman thanked Mr Collett for his time and suggested it would be a nice idea if a group photo could be taken at the event.

WILD ABOUT WARBLETON – GUEST SPEAKER

Isobel Collett was the guest speaker on behalf of Wild About Warbleton. She explained the group formed in 2019 to improve bio-diversity and now had 6 committee members.

The group had commissioned an extensive survey of Rushlake Green Village Green as well as successfully establishing the 5 wild flower verges in the parish. WAW survey these routes monthly to build up a database. Their findings were sent to ESCC and used as a management tool. There had been no issues raised so far with these routes. She thanked the Parish Council for supporting WAW with a grant which was being used for A4 and A2 signage. The signage would display a contact phone number for issues with sightlines etc. The signs would be displayed on verges, in churchyards, the village halls, notice boards and on private land. ESCC would be helping with some of the post installations.

WAW attend as many public events and make presentations when invited.

ESCC & WDC Bob Bowdler reiterated Punnetts Town was part of the Warbleton Parish and should not be forgotten. Isobel assured him she had noted his comment.

Isobel would supply the PC with the locations of the signage which would then be added to the PC website.

A member of the public raised his concerns regarding uncut verges causing blind spots on bends. He asked the attendees to note there was much more traffic on the country lanes now especially van drivers making deliveries at high speed. The Chairman understood his concerns and directed him to contact the relevant ESCC highways steward with any sightline issues. ESCC & WDC Bob Bowdler advised sometimes cutting the verges had the reverse effect and traffic sped up.

The Clerk to add any dates for grass cutting onto the website.

TIME CAPSULE

Cllr Wells spoke on behalf of the PC regarding the idea of adding another time capsule to the existing one which was buried on Rushlake Green Village Green opposite the village shop. The first one was buried at the last Jubilee in 2012. He requested any members of the public who had any ideas for items to be placed in the time capsule to email the Clerk who would be very pleased to hear from them. Cllr Wells suggested a laminated photo of the current parish council once there was a full quota of councillors, a newspaper with an article about the Jubilee, a photo of what the villages in the parish look like today, something about the village shop which has been rejuvenated in recent years and perhaps something about the war in Ukraine. ESCC & WDC Bob Bowdler suggested an ariel photograph taken by a drone.

Other ideas suggested were a mask and covid test, a blue UK passport, a Village Players programme and today's prices of fuel and food items.

The idea of excavating the existing time capsule and then reburying them together was discussed and agreed as a good idea.

Cllr Wells also proposed future changes to the end of The Green where the notice board was located. He suggested re-slabbing the area and making it slightly bigger to encapsulate a bike rack and a picnic table and re-naming this area as the Jubilee Corner of The Green.

The Chairman also had ideas for that area which he would agenda at a later point.

DEFIBRILATOR TRAINING

Mick Gosden completed the defibrillator training session.

He responded to a question from Cllr Saunders regarding the possibility of being sued by stating the Good Samaritan principle still stood in the UK and there would be no prospect of a prosecution.

He would be happy to complete a future training session if required free of charge.

There were no further questions.

The meeting finished at 19.41

