

Minutes of a meeting of **WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL** held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm at the Bodle Street Green village hall

**PRESENT:** Councillors A Long (Chairman), Keith Graham, Steve Williamson, Caroline Thompson, Celia Davis, Chris Wells and Roy Iremonger

Also present: 2 members of the public  
Jackie Cottrell – Parish Clerk

**00455 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Cook – Work commitments  
Cllr Smythe – Family commitments  
PCSO Cathy Gilling – Work commitments  
WDC Sue Stedman – Family commitments  
ESCC & WDC Bob Bowdler – Work commitments

**00456 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - NONE**

**MINUTES**

To **resolve** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

**00457 RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Matters arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda

The Clerk confirmed investigations were still ongoing regarding the need to resolve apologies for absence.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE**

**REPORTS**

**5.1. To receive reports from District and County Councillors**

Members noted the report from ESCC & WDC Bob Bowdler which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**5.2. To receive reports from PCSO Catherine Gilling - None**

**5.3. To receive reports from Parish Councillors**

Cllr Davies reported there had been some correspondence between the Dunn Village Hall and the Parish Council. As a result, several historic issues had been resolved. The PC's grant application process had been clarified and a new payment process for the Village Hall usage had been established. In the future the DVH would invoice the PC for hall usage rather than receive a bi-annual grant payment. These matters were now considered to be closed and the practicalities of the changes would occur in the new financial year.

**5.4. To receive reports from the Parish Clerk**

The Clerk referred to her report previously circulated.

She confirmed a member of the public had expressed some interest in the one of the councillor vacancies but had not yet applied.

ESCC & WDC Bob Bowdler had confirmed the most recent update he had received regarding The Three Cups had been in January when the owner had stated he had not

yet decided what his intentions towards the future of the pub were. It was highly likely that WDC would have taken a charge on the property to cover any outstanding bills and to ensure the property was safe. He could not answer the Clerks request for information on an Empty Property Order.

The Chairman reported the re-instatement of The Warbill-In-Tun pub sign had been very well received in the community. He also asked Members to note the Osborne House clock plaque and the possible historical significance attached to the clock itself. Another councillor clarified that in 1966 the Parish Council had become the owners of the clock and were therefore responsible for its upkeep. The Chairman assured Members the clock would be an item on a future council agenda.

The Clerk clarified to Members that a Parish Council did not have the power to sell electricity even if the Council had the General Power of Competence or by using Section 137. This had been confirmed by ESALC's legal advisor Ian Davidson. The Parish Council could issue a licence to an outside contractor who would install, maintain and charge the customer directly. The prospective site would need to be assessed by the contractor. WDC had confirmed the Osborne House car park was extremely close to a substation which would ensure the costs of installing a charging point at that location would be as cost effective as possible. WDC had estimated the cost of installing one charging point would be approximately £10,000. Electric charging points would be discussed in detail at the upcoming CIL meeting.

## COMMITTEE MINUTES

**6.1. To receive** the acts and proceedings of the following committee meetings:

(a) Planning & Development – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022

The Clerk requested Members to note the Planning & Development minutes from the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 would be circulated shortly. **Noted.**

## FINANCE

**7.1. To authorise the bills for payment**

Cheque /BACS No	Payee	£	VAT	£ Total	Purpose
65	Jackie Cottrell				Clerk Salary – February 2022
66	Jackie Cottrell	9.99		9.99	Printing cost invoice 1039232786 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec 21 – 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan 22
67	Bodle Street Green Village Hall	450.00		450.00	50% payment of approved grant – Resolved at F&GP meeting 9.9.2021
68	Dunn Village Hall	450.00		450.00	50% payment of approved grant Resolved at F&GP meeting 9.9.2021
69	J.F.Construction & Son Ltd	360.00	72.00	432.00	New well cover at Spring Hill

**00458** It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the payments listed above.

**7.2. To note the Finance Reports, bank reconciliation and budget monitor for January 2022**

The Clerk requested Members to note that the Budget Monitor would need to be amended from October 2021 onwards. The first instalment of the Village Hall hire of £900 for both halls had been accounted for in September 2021 and then again in October 2021 in error. The corrections would be made as a matter of urgency.

**7.3. To agree to move 2021/22 budget item for Election Expenses of £500 to an ear marked reserve in accordance with Financial Regulations 4.2.**

The Chairman of F&GP clarified to Members the funds would need to be moved to an ear marked reserve as there would be no possibility of an election being held in the current financial year 2021/22.

**00459** It was **RESOLVED** the above item would be moved to an ear marked reserve.

**7.4. To agree to move 2021/22 balance of budget item for infrastructure of £1,140 to an ear marked reserve in accordance with financial regulations 4.2.**

The Clerk confirmed the PC would not be receiving any further invoices for infrastructure work before the end of the current financial year 2021/22.

**00460** It was **RESOLVED** the above item would be moved to an ear marked reserve.

**8. NEW COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION**

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow the member of public attending the meeting to express his interest in applying for one of the councillor vacancies.

**00461** It was **RESOLVED** the extended councillor co-option application closing date would be Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March. The councillor co-option would be an item on the 17<sup>th</sup> March Full Council agenda.

**9. ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY UPDATE**

The Clerk confirmed the date for the Annual Parish Assembly would be Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May at the Dunn Village Hall. The hall was booked from 5pm and the Clerk clarified the proceedings must not begin before 6pm.

The Clerk confirmed the format would be decided by the Chairman. The Chairman asked Members to note he was open to suggestions from Members.

The meeting would be publicised in due course.

**10. TREE PLANTING ON RUSHLAKE GREEN VILLAGE GREEN TO COMMEMORATE THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

**10.1. To consider rescinding resolution 00447 – PC resolved in principle that a tree would be planted next to the Dunn Village Hall to support the Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

The Clerk referred Members to the previously circulated report. She reminded councillors that at the January Full Council meeting it had been agreed that an experienced councillor and herself had been instructed to investigate the different locations and different types of trees with a final decision to be agreed at the February Full Council meeting.

The disadvantages of the site which had been agreed in principle were highlighted and the alternative locations clarified to Members. The Clerk had confirmed the Parish

Council's legal position with Wealden District Council regarding planting a tree on the Rushlake Green Village Green. A tree could be planted on The Green or on any part of the land the Parish Council own. WDC would not need to be informed. ESALC also confirmed there would not be an issue with planting a tree if the by-laws and the District Council allowed this. Cllr Davies had also contacted the Open Spaces Society who confirmed planting a tree on The Green could take place.

- 00462** **RESOLVED** that it would not be necessary to rescind resolution 00447 after noting the Clerk's and the Chairman of CIL's report and the minutes of the January Full Council meeting.

#### **10.2. To consider whether to agree a tree may be planted in one of alternative locations on Parish Council land**

The alternative locations were discussed in great detail. The suggested site outside Pond Cottage was the preferred location but Members noted the proximity of the tree to this property. The idea of planting a tree on Rushlake Green Village Green was not supported by the Council.

- 00463** It was **RESOLVED** to plant a tree at the Pond Cottage location in principle subject to consultation with the owners of Pond Cottage.

#### **10.3. To agree CIL funds can be used to pay for the tree and to pay for planting the tree with a plaque**

Members noted the CIL finance reports which had been circulated prior to the meeting. They clearly highlighted total CIL funds available to be spent on projects.

- 00464** It was **RESOLVED** in principle that CIL funds could be used to pay for the tree and to pay for the tree planting with a plaque.

#### **10.4. To agree on the type of tree to be planted**

The Chairman of CIL clarified the different species of tree which had been chosen as possible options.

- 00465** It was **RESOLVED** a Walnut tree would be the tree species to be planted if the Parish Council were to go ahead.

#### **10.5. To agree the quote for the tree and planting of the tree**

Members noted the quote which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- 00466** **RESOLVED** to agree the quote for planting a Walnut tree with an associated plaque for £391.76.

### **11. BIG LUNCH GRANT APPLICATION**

#### **11.1. To consider the Big Lunch grant application**

The Clerk clarified that due to the late arrival of the application, the F&GP Committee could not consider it at the December meeting. Also, it had been agreed at the F&GP Committee there would be a separate budget heading of £500 for the Queens Jubilee Celebrations.

The grant application was for £100.00 in total. It was **AGREED** the Parish Council would consider a further grant application for additional funds if that was presented to the Council at a later date.

**00467** **RESOLVED** to award the full amount of The Big Lunch grant application for £100.00

## **12. LAND REGISTRY TITLE DEEDS**

### **12.1. To agree that the Parish Clerk asks the Land Registry to amend the Title Absolute proprietors address details for the Land at Rushlake Green**

The Clerk clarified the former Clerks address details were on the Land Registry document.

**00468** It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk would amend the Title Absolute proprietors address details with the Land Registry.

The Clerk to investigate with the Land Registry and Cllr Wells the land the Parish Council owns in and around Rushlake Green Village Green.

## **13. FINGER POST REPAIR QUOTE**

### **13.1. To agree CIL or council funds can be used to further repair the renovated finger post at Kingsley Hill**

The Chairman confirmed that one of the finger posts that the Parish Council had recently repaired had been damaged by a car. He expressed concern that the finger posts were owned by ESCC. The Clerk had previously been informed by ESCC that they would not be repairing any wooden finger posts.

#### 13.1. To authorize the quote for finger post repair work

Cheque /BACS No	Payee	£	VAT	£ Total	Purpose
70	Douglas Andrew	86.00	17.20	103.20	Repair work to the fingerpost at Kingsley Hill

**00469** It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above quote. The Clerk to instruct the contractor to complete the repair which would be funded by CIL. The Clerk to investigate the possibility of a refund from ESCC.

## **14. TIME CAPSULE**

### **14.1 To agree in principle for the Parish Council to arrange for a time capsule to be buried on their land**

The Council were supportive of the idea of a time capsule. There is already a time capsule buried by the Rushlake Green notice board. It was agreed ideas for the time capsule could be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

**00470** It was **RESOLVED** to agree in principle for the Parish Council to arrange for a time capsule to be buried on their land. Costs to be investigated.

## **15. THREE CUPS INN UPDATE**

The Clerk referred Members to her previously circulated report. Historic England had had a request from a member of the public to List the Three Cups Inn in order to try and

save the building itself from falling down and from the threat of development. The deadline for the submission of any comments was 24<sup>th</sup> February.

The Listed status would greatly protect the building from demolition and any future planning applications would need listed building consent.

The Chairman instructed the Clerk to contact both the Wealden District Councillors asking for their personal support towards the Three Cups Listed status and to speak to WDC regarding any other information the Council might have which could be useful.

**14. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING and/or INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

The Clerk to add an item on the March Full Council agenda regarding the future of The White Horse Pub at Bodle Street Green.

The Clerk confirmed the Iwood Dip had been reported to Highways. The drainage was due to be investigated although a date for these works had not yet been confirmed. She would forward the details to the Chairman and include ESCC & WDC Bob Bowdler in all the correspondence.

The Clerk to chase the progress of the letters sent out from Highways regarding land owners cutting back their vegetation.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7pm at the Dunn Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.06pm