WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

www.warbletonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Warbleton Parish Council held on Thursday 22 October 2026 7pm at Dunn Village Hall, Rushlake Green

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

   Apologies for absence: Cllr Tom Guyton-Day
   Other attendees: Three members of the public

2. **Declarations of Interest:** None

3. **Minutes**
   3.1. **It was resolved** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24 September 2026 were correct and were signed by the Chair.
   3.2. **Matters Arising:** None

4. **Casual Vacancy**
   4.1 The application submitted by Duncan Maguire to be considered for co-option to the council had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.
   4.2 **It was resolved** unanimously to co-opt Duncan to the council and he joined other councillors at the meeting table.
   4.3 The Declaration of Office would be signed at the end of the meeting.

5. **Public Participation:**
   - A point was raised that while up to date information about the council's grant scheme had been sent by the clerk to previous applicants, the council's website had not yet been updated. The clerk confirmed that the scheme was open for application by any community group in addition to those already notified. The website will be updated and details will be put onto the council's Facebook page.
   - A member of the Bonfire Society attended the meeting, the Chair brought forward Item 9.2 for discussion at this point in the meeting:

   The event on 17 October 2026 had taken place successfully although there appeared to be fewer attendees. There were no access issues to report other than the difficulty experienced by disabled people and families with pushchairs in getting onto the green. Installation of railings would help for future events.
   It was noted that the green had not been left in a good state but further work had since taken place to restore it. The council will carry out a final check before releasing the deposit. The red pellets strewn on the green were banger casings from people bringing their own.
   A child was seen swiftly by first aiders following an incident of ash in their eye.
   Some people left the event before the fireworks at 8.30pm, so those may be set off earlier next year to reduce the wait time.
   Car parking in Middle Lane was better this year but some cars parked right on the corner of Rookery Lane, so for future events that area may benefit from marshalling with stronger torches and more cones.
   The Society was advised that should they want to apply for use of the green next year to start the planning earlier, and get the application to the council around April/May.
   Although fewer attendees the donation collections were more successful than last year.

Draft

6. Reports

6.1 **County Cllr Stephen Potts:** Cllr Potts did not attend the meeting, and a report had not been received.

i. The Chair read out a draft letter intended for Cllr Potts, raising concerns about non-attendance at meetings. It was agreed that the draft would be finalised and sent.

6.2 **District Cllrs Greg Collins and Diane Gould:** The district councillors were not able to be present at the meeting.

6.3 **PCSO:** No update had been received.

6.4 **Reports from Parish Councillors:**

Cllr Waterman:

Had attended the Chair's Forum where discussions were focused primarily on the Sussex and Brighton Strategic Authority.

Arrangements were in hand for Remembrance Sunday where the council's poppies would be part of the display. Some had gone missing, so the remainder will be marked, and an allocation made in the budget for next year to purchase more.

Cllr Waterman is to attend a meeting hosted by the MP with SE Water. Attendees had been asked to pre-submit one question, which from Cllr Waterman was "Solar panels and heat pumps are due to become mandatory for new-builds from March 2028. Why has water harvesting been excluded and how is South East Water proactively engaging with central government to make this mandatory for new-build developments in the future?"

Cllr Jarrold:

There will be a Bodle Street Green Village Hall Committee meeting next week. They are still going through the process of funding applications for solar panels.

Cllr Wells:

The Warbleton Charity is struggling with red tape trying still to get a license from Kent County to allow hedge and tree cutting on the land.

6.5 **Clerk's Report:** A written report has been circulated and taken as read, the following items were discussed:

Item 1. Cllr Long is unable to attend the Road safety site meeting on Monday 26 October 2026 and no one else was available to take his place. Cllr Waterman will still attend.

Item 2 Details have not been received about the Middle Lane hedge so no action has been taken.

Item 3. No responses to date from the invitees for the Annual Parish Assembly

Item 4 Cllr Long asked the clerk to forward him a copy of the letter sent to the volunteer.

In addition, the clerk updated the meeting on the following correspondence received since their report:

- **Warbleton Phone Box update**: Work has started on the inside of the box, particularly the glass and glass fittings. The glass will be cleaned off and interior painting will start this week.
  The undergrowth around the box will be cleared this week and work on the top and rear of the box, stripping and preparing for paint will also start.
  The restoration of the door, the areas of rot, making good the frame and removal of the retrofitted keyhole will start on Wednesday. The door will be made good and primed by 26th October. Priming and painting the exterior is planned to be finished by the end of October.
- **Wealden Regulation 19 Local Plan**: WPC had been invited by Wadhurst PC to join with other local councils in commissioning an investigation into the legalities of Regulation 19 to enable responses to the LP. The cost to be shared. It was agreed this would be included on the planning agenda for decision on 27 October 2026 as a planning matter.

Draft

7. Committee reports

The proceedings of the following committee meetings were noted:

7.1 Planning & Development – minutes of the meeting held on 15.09.2026 had been circulated and taken as read. The draft minutes of 6.10.2026 had not yet been circulated and were waiting to be checked by the vice-chair.

8. Finance

8.1 **It was resolved** to approve the bills for payment as detailed on the October payment list.

8.2 **It was resolved** to approve the Finance Reports on 30 September 2026: bank reconciliation September, the budget monitor and reserve movement reports at September 2026 (as circulated).

8.3 There had been no response to date from the Chair of Heathfield & Waldron First Responders to the request by WPC for their input to discussions about the expiry of the joint agreement. This saw H&WFR manage and maintain the parish defibrillators in return for an annual donation. The council agreed that alternative options could be looked into and reported back at the next meeting. The locations of the four parish defibrillators were confirmed as: external Osborne House, external White Horse Pub Bodle Street, telephone box Three Cups and external Warbleton Church.

8.4 Last year's budget sheet had been circulated and members were reminded that the draft budget for 2027/28 will be discussed at the November meeting. They were asked to contribute any ideas to the clerk for inclusion.

9. Requests to use Rushlake Green

9.1 Rude Mechanical Company: The council considered the application and **it was resolved** to approve the use of Rushlake Green on 27 June 2027 for outdoor theatre performance.

9.2 Warbleton Bonfire Society: This item was discussed and reported during Item 5. Public Participation.

10. Wealden Community Led Infrastructure Fund (CLIF)

The council was reminded that any funds awarded were likely to take up to a year or eighteenth months to be allocated.

The council discussed how to move forward in principle to consider whether to make an application and what for. Members agreed that a multi-line application was a positive way forward potentially for:

a) landscaping the land at Spring Hill

b) investigating the possibility and costs to dig borehole wells for potable water at Dog Corner and Spring Hill, or alternatively installing purification systems

c) improvement to accessibility onto Rushlake Green e.g. railings.

It was agreed that a set of application forms would be obtained to see exactly what information was required, and costings into the potential projects already noted would be researched.

11. Horse Riding sign on Rushlake Green

Quotes are still awaited so it was agreed to defer this item again to the next meeting

12. Clock maintenance

A number of ideas for funding the clock restoration were discussed. The clerk was asked to prepare a comparative proposal to inform the next meeting of options, and also to find out the shelf life of gilding for future budgeting purposes.

Draft

13. **Beacon on Rushlake Green**

One quote is still awaited to inform planning agent fees, and it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

14. SLR Meeting:

Members attending the SLR meeting on 7 October 2026 felt disappointed that issues have to be raised again and again. It was agreed that the officers did the best they could, but those in positions of authority and responsible for decision making never attend. It would be beneficial at the next Annual Parish Assembly to have the decision makers attend and directly answer questions from the residents.

Stewards do not get around as much as they should, frequency depending on road classification, so actions are often reliant on reports from the public and parish councils. Better communication between East Sussex Highways and the public is essential.

It had been suggested at the meeting that at the very least an A4 information sheet to exchange local information between outgoing and incoming stewards be implemented. This would prevent time being wasted re-investigating issues and pass-on important local knowledge at staff turnover.

It was suggested that future SLRs could be held at the ESCC base at Ringmer, where the senior officers are based and would make it more likely to have them attend.

Cllr Long will put together a chronological list of recent examples of non-compliance issues regarding notices of work. This will then be reviewed and a letter of complaint considered.

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

Three recent issues of fly-tipping were reported by Cllr Bowdler; Wealden District Council has been made aware.

16. Date of next Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 26 November 2026 at Dunn Village Hall, Rushlake Green, 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Draft