

WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Warbleton Parish Council held on Thursday 28 March 2024 7pm at Bodle Street Green Village Hall

1. **Attendance:** Councillors Charlie Saunders (Vice-Chair), Beverley Saunders, Chris Wells, Buster Ansell, Katy Whymark and Jeanne Peterson (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Councillors Andy Long, Bruce Simpson, Bob Bowdler and Peter Sterling
It was resolved to accept the apologies as given

Other attendees: District Councillor Greg Collins
2. **Declarations of Interest**
 - 2.1. None
3. **Minutes**
 - 3.1. **It was resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 February 2024, were a correct record and were signed by the Vice-Chairman.
 - 3.2. **Matters Arising:** The general feeling was that the talk delivered at the Annual Parish Meeting on Emergency & Resilience Planning was not up to the mark in content, it was too generalised and with no preparation to include local rural issues. The clerk was asked to write to ESALC (who had recommended the speaker) to voice the council's concerns.
4. **Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.
5. **Reports**
 - 5.1. **County Councillor Bob Bowdler:** A monthly report had been circulated and there were no questions.
 - 5.2. **District Councillor Greg Collins:** DC Cornelie Usborne was unable to attend the meeting.
 - The consultation period for the Wealden Local Plan has started. There are no allocated development sites in the parish but the council needs to look at revised policies in general which could affect planning.
 - The next two consultation events are on 17 April between 2-8pm at Heathfield Community Centre and Saturday 4 May between 10am-4pm at Horam Village Hall.
 - South East Water have announced their works which begin on 7 May and there is a public consultation meeting on 3 April in Punnetts Town. Also an online consultation event on 9 April 7pm.
 - There is an attempt to change how the planning committee meets to allow minor applications to be heard in the evening, enabling more applicants to attend out of work day hours.
 - There is going to be a District Council ward boundary review, but this does not at present affect any parishes.
 - Wealden are running a survey to capture ideas about climate change.
 - Three Cups cannot be put on the "at risk register" as it is Grade 11 only, and properties need to be Grade 11* to qualify (outside of London). A formal status report will be presented for the next parish council meeting.
 - 5.3. **PCSO Catherine Gilling:** was unable to attend the meeting and a report was read out by the Clerk.

5.4 **Parish Councillors:**

- i. **Cllr Beverley Saunders:** A written report of the last Dunn Village Hall Committee meeting had been circulated and there were no questions.

5.5 **Strengthening Local Relations (SLR) Meeting:** It was noted that the meeting had taken place on 29.02.2024 and that any matters arising will be included in future agenda.

5.6 **Parish Clerk:** A written report had been circulated and was noted.

6. **Committee reports**

6.1. The proceedings of the following committee meetings were noted:

- i. Planning & Development – minutes of the 20.02.2024 & draft minutes of the 12.03.2024 meeting had been circulated.

7. **Three Cups**

It was resolved that the council would draft and send a letter expressing its concerns over the deterioration of the site.

8. **Rushlake Green Bookings**

8.1 **It was resolved** to approve the request submitted by Warbleton Horticultural & Poultry Society to hold their events on Sunday 5 May 2024 and Saturday/Sunday 27 & 28 July 2024..

9. **Finance**

9.1 The Clerk had received two additional invoices since the payment list was circulated, and asked that these also be considered for approval: SGB Computers for installation of Antivirus software to the council's laptop £50 and Wealden District Council £30 for attendance at the Parish Conference

It was resolved to authorise the payment of March bills (payment list as circulated and to include the two additional invoices).

9.2 The bank reconciliation for February was noted, also the budget monitor & reserve movements to date.

9.3 It was confirmed that the Internal Audit had now been arranged for 29 April 2024, and that paperwork had been received from the external auditors ready for year end accounts completion and submission by 1 July 2024.

The question of investing the business account reserves for higher interest return will be discussed with the internal auditor.

10. **Policy Updates**

10.1 **It was resolved** to seek approval from the Internal Auditor on the draft Financial & Management Risk Assessment before adoption by the council.

10.2 **It was resolved** that meeting papers received within the clear three working day deadline (of statutory publication) would not be considered until the next council meeting.

11. **Emergency & Resilience Planning**

The council were keen to move forward with this project, and the two village halls were identified as potential safe havens to provide warmth and shelter in the case of emergency. Work is needed to adapt the buildings to ensure this could be delivered.

It was resolved that the Clerk would communicate with Bodle Street and Dunn Village Hall Committees to seek agreement that access can be given for an electrician to quote for the installation of change over switches (which would allow the running of a generator). There would be no cost to the Halls for this installation. Depending on the response, the Clerk was asked to then obtain three quotes for the installation of change over switches.

Cllr Simpson had already completed the ground work for an Emergency Plan and the council asked the Clerk to liaise with Cllr Simpson to arrange a project meeting to talk through ideas.

12. Exclusion of press and public

12.1 **It was resolved** to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting during consideration of item 12.2 pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the exempt nature of the business to be transacted due to legal and confidential considerations.

13. Urgent matters at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda – None

14. Date of next meeting – Thursday 25 April 2024 at Bodle Street Green Village Hall 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.30pm