

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 1st May 2024 in the Reid Hall, Boreham Street

1. Apologies

County Councillor B Bowdler and District Councillor Mark Fairweather sent apologies for their absence.

2. Welcome by the Chairman of Wartling Parish Council

The Chairman, Keith Stevens, welcomed everyone and gave the following review;

'Financially we had another good year. Our income was £8480 and our expenditure £8114. There was an outstanding bill of £300 for website hosting.

I appreciate everyone's concern about the roads in our Parish especially the number of speeding cars. The state of the pavements is also an issue and Highways has agreed to carry out any work which they say constitutes a safety hazard.

Speedwatch continues and ESALC is asking West Sussex County Council how it was able to introduce 20mph speed limits in one of its villages so it can then ask East Sussex County Council to do the same.

But my main task here today is to thank people for all they do to help our community:-

The Village Hall team for all the work they do in running this hall.

Richard Lawrence and his SpeedWatch team which includes our new member Simon Parker. Anyone who would like to join them is asked to let Richard know.

County Councillor Bob Bowdler for all his hard work and support, and District Councillor Mark Fairweather.

A big thank you also to my fellow Councillors Chris, Will and Mike for everything they do too.

And a special thank you to our Parish Clerk who helps guide us to do things correctly and in the best interest of the residents.

And last but not least my final thanks is to you the residents of Wartling for your continued support.'

A discussion then took place on ways to increase attendance at next year's Parish Assembly.

3. Report from County Councillor

County Councillor Bowdler sent a written report, a copy is attached to these minutes.

4. Report from the District Councillor

There was no report from the District Councillor.

5. Reports from Clubs and Associations

Councillor Reid said the Reid Hall, where he is Treasurer, has had a very good year. Bookings have improved after Covid, letting income for 2023 was £19774 and expenses were £10175. The Trustees have plans to spend money on heating, drainage and the car park.

Mr Lawrence reported on the Men's Shed and Community Workshop, formerly the Men's Shed. Sessions take place at Herstmonceux Castle on Monday mornings, Wednesday mornings, and Wednesday afternoons. Members have recently built bird boxes for the Cuckoo Trail, dormouse boxes for the Castle and benches for nursing homes. Councillor Stevens asked if they would also consider repairing the bench outside the Reid Hall.

6. Open Forum

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Members' Update – East Sussex County Council – March 2024 Cllr Bob Bowdler - Wealden East Division - *“The Heart of Wealden”*

(Wealden East Division:- Heathfield, Horam, Hooe, Herstmonceux, Ninfield, Warbleton & Wartling parishes)

LOCAL ISSUES:

Horam: Long awaited footpath repairs due to commence shortly on the walking route to school.

Heathfield: Despite local rumours, the new Youth Centre remains on schedule. Highlighted the condition of Battle Rd & Cade Street to ESCC Highways.

Warbleton: Highway repairs at Turners Green completed after a re-inspection.

Wartling: Campaigned for highway repairs in the region of Wartling Road.

Herstmonceux: Drainage works south of Stunts Green.

All: Highway issues, and pot holes in particular, remain of concern throughout the division. Repair crews increased from 13 to 30 + 3 'Jet Patching' teams, but the weather is definitely not helping!

Communities, Economy and Transport

Levelling Up investment will help complete new road

East Sussex County Council leaders have welcomed government funding that will help complete a new road and open up land for employment space. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has allocated £2.5million of funding to East Sussex County Council as part of further investment in the Rother and Hastings Levelling Up Partnership areas.

The money will be used to complete the Queensway Gateway Road, linking Bexhill and the A21, relieving localised congestion and improving traffic flow. The funding will also support a number of projects aimed at addressing inequalities, regenerating key areas and boosting the local economy. Rother District Council and Hastings Borough Council will work with partners including East Sussex County Council, Sussex Police, the voluntary sector and Chambers of Commerce to deliver the projects.

Read more about this story [here](#).

Business support programmes launched in East Sussex

Two schemes providing support and training to local businesses are available in East Sussex. The Ready to Grow and Big Ambitions programmes, which have received £447,464 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, are open to companies based in Lewes, Eastbourne, Rother and Wealden districts.

Provision of the programmes, which are a collaborative project between Lewes District, Eastbourne Borough, Rother District and Wealden District Councils, is being managed by East Sussex County Council on behalf of the local authorities. Both programmes are being delivered by Digital Islands, a specialist provider of business support services. Ready to Grow and Big Ambitions will run until March 2025.

More information about the programmes and how to sign up can be found on the East Sussex County Council [website](#). Read more about this story [here](#).

Funding boost for road safety in Hastings

Road users will benefit following a successful bid for £875,000 to improve the safety of a road in Hastings. East Sussex County Council has been awarded funding from the government's Safer Roads Fund (SRF) to implement safety improvements on a section of the A2101. The scheme, which is the first Safer Roads Fund Scheme in East Sussex, will deliver improvements at 15 locations from the junction with the A21 to Park Crescent.

The SRF is an innovative programme from the Department for Transport that provides funding for the most high-risk 'A' roads in England.

Read more about this story [here](#).

More homes for Ukraine hosts needed

Since the beginning of the conflict in February 2022, over 800 host families have welcomed more than 1800 guests to the county, with local groups and organisations providing support and services to help them settle and achieve independence. With Ukrainians still being forced to flee their homes, and those already in the county looking for settled accommodation, residents are being asked to consider becoming a host family for those seeking refuge.

More information about the scheme can be found by emailing ukraine@eastsussex.gov.uk or calling the advice line between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Friday on 01273 337010.

For your information: **Meetings I attended in March as your County Councillor:**

ESCC 4 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefings
ESCC Cabinet Briefing
ESCC Governance Committee
East Sussex Health & Wellbeing Board
Heathfield Parish Council – Full Council
Wartling Parish Council – Full Council
Armed Forces Veterans Conference – Pirbright
People Scrutiny Committee
Additional DCS + DCS meeting
Horam Parish Council – Full Council
Young Carers Forum/Workshop – Eastbourne
Bexhill Jobs Fair
Children in Care Achievement Awards – Lower Dicker
Youth Cabinet Evening + Parents
Warbleton Parish Council Annual Assembly
Ninfield Parish Council – DNA
LM for Education and SEND
ESCC Cabinet Briefing
District & Borough Armed Forces Champions
Heathfield Parish Council Annual Assembly
Herstmonceux Parish Council Full Council & Annual Assembly
Warbleton Parish Council – Full Council DNA



