

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

6th March 2024

This meeting was held at the Reid Hall in Boreham Street.

77 Present

Councillors K Stevens (Chairman), W Reid and M Shine.

County Councillor B Bowdler, District Councillor M Fairweather, A Stevens (Clerk) and thirty three members of the public were also in attendance.

78 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Paterson. The reasons for his apologies were accepted by the Full Council.

79 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 11th January 2024

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 11th January 2024 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

80 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

Any matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

81 Disclosures of Interests

There were no declarations of interests or changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

82 Reports from the County Councillor on matters from the County Council affecting this Parish.

County Councillor Bowdler sent a written report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He also said the County Council is repairing an average of 4000 potholes each month.

83 Report from the District Councillors on matters from the District Council affecting this Parish.

District Councillor Fairweather said:

- Wealden Full Council approved the first draft of the Local Plan on the 8th February and it will now go out for consultation.
- The District Council is increasing its share of the Council Tax by 2.99%. Wealden's share of the Council Tax equates to 9% of the total bill.

84 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from any members of the public.

The meeting was then re-opened.

85 Planning Applications

Wartling Parish Council commented on the following planning applications:

WD/2024/0109/F - Land at Byways, Boreham Street, BN27 4SE - Conversion and Change of Use of shed into 1 No. 2 bed dwelling – Wartling Parish Council has no objections to this planning application.

WD/2023/2940/MAJ - Land South of Boreham Hill, Boreham Street, Hailsham - The proposed development of a battery energy storage system and associated works – Wartling Parish Council objects to this application because:

- The viewpoints selected in the visual appraisal are a considerable distance from the site and do not include Boreham Street and Boreham Lane.
- The visual impact of these units will be detrimental to the area, especially as it overlooks the Pevensey Marshes, a RAMSAR site of great importance.
- The screening is wholly inadequate to conceal the site from the properties which overlook it and from the whole area south of it.
- It is stated that flooding is not an issue but the site is currently water logged with surface water flowing down to Waller's Haven.
- We would query the reference to 'one full time employee equivalent'.
- Access to the site is a concern. The amount of traffic involved in developing the site will impact on the safety of Boreham Street. We remain of the view that the size of the entrance to the site is insufficient for the proposed traffic volumes.
- Access to the site is along a well-used footpath. There is insufficient space for walkers to step aside if a vehicle appears, especially on the track near the residential properties.
- There have been a number of serious fires at Battery Storage units across Europe. We would therefore request that East Sussex Fire and Rescue visit the site as, whilst they comment about sufficient water for firefighting, the concern should be whether or not they can actually get in and out of it.
- Concern has also been raised about what appears to be an old asbestos shed along the side of the path leading to the site. It may not remain standing in light of the proposed traffic volumes.
- There is concern about the properties along Boreham Lane which overlook the site. Most are listed buildings which do not have foundations. The proposed volume of traffic will cause house movement.
- Noise from the air conditioning units remains a serious concern to the residents as noise travels in their direction. Illegal parties held in Hooe are heard throughout Boreham Street and Wartling. Noise is also a factor which will disturb the bats and owls which are abundant in this area.
- Would it not be beneficial for all concerned for a programme of archaeological works to be carried out prior to planning permission being considered rather than making it conditional upon planning permission being granted.
- Concern has been raised by residents that this is not a green system and it does not help the environment. The proposed system stores electricity when it is available at cheap rates and then feeds it back to the grid when needed at higher rates.
- The application does not indicate where electricity will be fed in and out of the grid. In the original application it was to be towards the southerly end of Boreham Lane which is some considerable distance from the site.

WD/2024/0225/F - Brooks Farm, Boreham Lane, Wartling, BN27 1RS - Proposed erection of building for storage of machinery used to maintain the land – Wartling Parish Council objects to this application because the proposed location of the building to store machinery is so far from the existing residential property. The proposed site lies beyond any development boundary, and would be detrimental to the landscape and character of the countryside appearance along Boreham Lane.

WD/2024/0361/F - Rathcote, The Strait, Boreham Street, Wartling, BN27 4SD - Proposed new build dwelling with access, parking and landscaping Wartling Parish Council objects to this application because of concerns about the access. There have been a number of accidents on that road and councillors feel it is neither sensible nor safe. They also had concerns about the density because the new property looks like it has been shoe-horned in and they also pointed out that trees will need to be removed so the aspect will change.

WD/2024/0322/F - Aldersyde, Boreham Hill, Boreham Street, BN27 4SH - Proposed porch on front elevation – Wartling Parish Council has no objections to this planning application.

WD/2024/0426/LDE - Alberts Wood Yard, Victoria Road, Windmill Hill, Hailsham, BN27 4TQ - Use as storage and works yard for rural industries – Councillors can neither substantiate or disprove the statements made but they have asked residents to let them have comments within the next two weeks.

86 Reports

a) Planning

There were no new updates on Planning.

b) Environment

There were nothing new to report on the Environment.

c) Footpaths

There was nothing new to report on any of the footpaths in the Parish.

d) Highways

Councillor Shine had some 30mph and 40mph wheelie bin stickers which he offered to residents. He also asked for the vegetation which is encroaching the footpath between the Village Hall and the Bull's Head to be cut back again.

e) Police

Councillor Stevens said the Police now have more powers and a duty of care to protect MP's and other elected members which includes Town and Parish Councillors.

f) Communication

Reports continue to be sent out via the village email distribution list. Anyone who is not included and would like to be is asked to contact the Parish Clerk.

h) Speedwatch

Three Speedwatch sessions have been carried out since the last meeting, ten offenders were noted. If more volunteers come forward the team will be able to carry out more sessions.

i) Trees

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

87 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

The Reid Hall is holding its AGM on the 21st March 2024 at 7pm. Residents are invited to attend and can stay for wine and cheese after. Details of where to buy tickets can be found on its website at www.reidhallborehamstreet.co.uk

88 Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

- To approve the payments list to the 6th March 2024. The payments were as follows;

| | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 101040 | A Stevens Salary - January/February | £ 894.52 |
| 101041 | ESCC - Pension | 238.84 |
| 101042 | HMRC - PAYE | 13.00 |

- To approve the accounts to 30th January 2024.

89 Highways

- i. ESCC is preparing prices for the white lines and additional verge cutting and continues to liaise with the Parish Council.
- ii. Herstmonceux Parish Council is still using its black cat speed monitoring devices because the bad weather has pushed its own projects back a month. Councillor Stevens is arranging a meeting to show where we would the recordings to take place .
- iii. A Contractor has been instructed to repair the fingerpost sign near the Bull's Head and ESCC has agreed to pay 50% towards the cost.

90 Questions from Parish Councillors

There were no further questions and the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Members' Update – East Sussex County Council – February 2024

Cllr Bob Bowdler - Wealden East Division - "*The Heart of Wealden*"

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

Children's Services

Praise for 'strong and effective' support for children in East Sussex

Children's Services at East Sussex County Council have been judged as 'good' overall and 'outstanding' for their work with looked-after children. The Ofsted inspection took place just before Christmas and their final report was published on 6 February. The report praises the 'consistently strong and effective' support given to the most vulnerable children. The dedication and efforts of social workers were also praised.

The full report is available to read [here](#). Read more about this story [here](#).

Communities, Economy and Transport

Campaign calling for more **Foster Carers** highlighted at council meeting

A campaign to encourage more people to consider fostering for their local authority was highlighted at East Sussex County Council's Full Council meeting on 6 February. Councillors received a fostering tool kit containing posters and leaflets about the East Sussex Fostering Service, which they were asked to distribute and display across the county to promote local authority fostering.

The fostering recruitment film, entitled 'Any of Us', was also shown at the meeting. The film was produced last year by a partnership of over 80 councils and children's trusts to promote in-house fostering and aims to show that 'any of us' could foster and make a positive difference to a child's life.

For more information on fostering with East Sussex County Council and to view the film 'Any of Us', visit the [council's website](#). Online [information sessions](#) about the fostering process are available, as well as in person pop-up events across the county. If you'd like know more, visit the links above or call 01323 464129.

More about this story can be found [here](#) (also printed on page 5 of this report)

British Sign Language interpreting service launched

East Sussex residents can now contact the council using British Sign Language (BSL). The council has launched an initial six-month trial of the BSL interpreting service, SignLive, to ensure more residents can access the help and support they need. SignLive enables people to connect with an interpreter via a video call who will then call the council and relay the conversation between BSL and English.

Calling the council using SignLive is free, and the service can be accessed via a desktop computer or laptop with a webcam, microphone and speakers, or via an app on a smartphone or tablet. Residents visiting council offices in Lewes, Eastbourne and Hastings will also be able to use SignLive to communicate with staff.

More information on SignLive, including how residents can register for the service, is available on the East Sussex County Council [website](#).

More about this story can be found [here](#).

Council partnership connects residents with local volunteering opportunities

In September 2023, East Sussex County Council partnered with the Tribe Project, a free online platform and app that connects volunteers with local opportunities. Since its East Sussex launch last year, there are now over 176 roles across the county. Local voluntary action groups, including those in Rother, Hastings, Wealden, Eastbourne and Lewes, are also involved in the partnership and list their live roles on the Tribe website and app.

The Tribe Project offers volunteers flexible positions accommodating, availability, location, and skillset. There is also the opportunity for both short and long-term volunteering opportunities.

Find out more about the Tribe Project [here](#).

Call for volunteers to support people preparing for later life

East Sussex County Council's Life Transitions Service is looking for volunteers who can build friendly and trusting relationships and who want to play a part in improving lives. The pilot project aims to help people prepare for significant changes that occur in later life such as retiring, moving home, and changes to health and mobility.

Volunteers will need to complete an interactive training programme before they can meet clients in person or online and will receive ongoing support. They will be asked to commit to being a Life Transitions Service volunteer for at least six months and agree to dedicate around half a day a week to the role.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can find out more information about the role by emailing LifeTransitions@eastsussex.gov.uk or calling 07724 287034.

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

Local businesses achieve top healthy workplace awards

Two East Sussex businesses have been presented with Gold Wellbeing at Work Awards. Servomex, from Crowborough, and Affinity Select Insurance Services Ltd, from Uckfield, are the first businesses in East Sussex to reach the gold standard in the county council's healthier workplaces programme. The companies were presented with their awards at the second annual Wellbeing at Work Conference and Awards Ceremony in Eastbourne on 8 February.

East Sussex County Council's Wellbeing at Work Programme was launched in the autumn of 2021. The scheme provides an accreditation scheme and works with employers to share resources and delivery training to help boost the health and wellbeing of employees. To achieve awards, companies must complete a set of criteria that introduce policies and initiatives which focus on embedding practices that promote and support workplace health and wellbeing.

More information about the programme, including details of accredited businesses and how organisations can be involved, can be found on the East Sussex [Wellbeing at Work website](#).

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

Progress made on the building of a new Sussex mental health hospital

A 54-bed hospital in Bexhill, called Combe Valley, is set to open next year. It will provide modern, high-quality care for people who may be experiencing serious mental health problems, emotional crises, or severe distress which cannot be treated in the community.

This story was published in [The Argus](#).

Amnesty for missing library books begins

Residents are being urged to check their homes for overdue books as the East Sussex Library Service launches its annual amnesty. In a bid to recover some of the missing titles, the service will waive fines until the end of March. Books can be returned to any East Sussex library during opening hours – alternatively, most libraries have drop boxes for out of hours returns.

Details of East Sussex libraries, information about renewing books and access to online library services can be found on the council's [website](#).

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

Work begins to find 13th-century houses in Eastbourne

Excavation work is set to begin in Manor Gardens in Borough Lane, Eastbourne, to try and find traces of buildings dating back to the 13th century. The work is set to take place near the settlement and stream that gave the town its name and is part of a council-backed project to discover more about the history of Eastbourne.

This story was reported in [The Argus](#).

Governance Services

Budget protecting vital services approved

Details of how vital services will be protected with a £538 million budget were agreed by East Sussex county councillors at a meeting of the Full Council on 6 February.

The county council agreed to add more than £50 million to its annual spending for East Sussex in this year's budget to help meet the pressures on services following the impact of Covid and the cost of living. Councillors also agreed that further investment in highways maintenance should be considered when the end of year financial picture was clearer.

The [council plan](#), published with the budget, sets out in more detail how services will be provided and how their effectiveness can be monitored.

View the minutes of the Full Council meeting [here](#).

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

ESCC 4 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefings
Meeting with ESCC Highways Officers
ESCC Full Council
LM Education & SEND
Meeting with Social Workers – Eastbourne
Visit to Children in Care Council – Eastbourne
Horam Parish Council FC
NHS Armed Forces Community Conference – Brighton
ESCC Cabinet Briefing

ESCC Highways Briefing Session
ESCC Joint Advisory Committee
Private Residents Meeting
South East Water project presentation – Bewl
Safeguarding Children Partnership Workshop
Warbleton Parish Council FC
Herstmonceux Parish Council FC
Hooe Parish Council FC
Warbleton Parish Council SLR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. B. H.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

