

## WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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

#### 49 Present

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

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

#### 50 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

#### 51 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

#### 52 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

Any matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

#### 53 Disclosures of Interests

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

The meeting was then suspended.

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

District Councillor Fairweather said:

- Wealden District Council apologises for the timing of some Direct Debit collections over the Christmas period. An automated scheduling error meant that direct debits for Council Tax and Business Rates were taken on 27<sup>th</sup> December rather than on 1st January. Staff worked through the Christmas holidays to resolve the issue and an inquiry will be taking place to make sure it doesn't happen again.
- The Devolution White Paper was released on the 16<sup>th</sup> December. It announced that County Councils may combine to form Mayorial Statutory Authorities.
- Herstmonceux Parish Council is trying to get the speed limits from Windmill Hill reduced to 30mph. He suggested the two parish councils should work together and include Boreham Street.

#### 55 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 talked about Devolution and said:

- i. Devolution is not new and has been happening in other areas of the country for years.
- ii. East Sussex has not met the criteria before and now does. If it puts itself forward it gets to choose who it will combine with, it will be in charge of its own destiny and it will have certain benefits. If it doesn't it put itself forward it will be told to. ESCC has chosen to

combine with Brighton and West Sussex subject to approval at council meetings on the 9th January. Councils have until the 10<sup>th</sup> January to submit their report.

56 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from any members of the public.

The meeting was then re-opened.

57 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications for commenting on at this meeting.

Wealden District Council has received notification from BT of the intended removal of a public payphone located outside Convent House in Wartling, because it has a record of only 1 call on average per month.

Wartling Parish Council resolved unanimously to object to the proposal because:

- i. The phone is needed in emergency situations when mobile phone signals are down.
- ii. It forms an essential part of its Emergency Plan.
- iii. Mobile phone coverage in Wartling is poor and unreliable.
- iv. The phone box is used in conjunction with the nearby defibrillator.
- v. It is a Listed Building.

58 Reports

a) Planning

There was nothing new to report under Planning.

b) Environment

There has been one minor incident of flytipping since the last meeting and a member of the public has reported it to the District Council. She praised the response of the Street Scene Team and in particular Tess Fox who has also been seen litter picking at the sides of the roads.

c) Footpaths

A stile at the back of Boreham House was reported to be broken and will be referred to ESCC Rights of Way by the resident who noticed it.

d) Highways

There has been another accident at the Wartling Road junction in Boreham Street, this time on New Year's Day. Councillors will be taking the issue up with Highways at their meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January.

e) Police

There was nothing new to report from the Police.

f) Communication

There has been a problem sending emails with attachments to residents so Parish Council emails will now contain a link to the document on the website instead.

g) Speedwatch

The Speedwatch Team has a new co-ordinator, Simon Parker, who is taking over from Richard Lawrence. Three new volunteers have also expressed an interest in joining the Team.

Nine Speedwatch sessions were planned but only seven took place because of the weather. Twenty seven offenders were recorded of which twenty two have been sent letters. The highest recorded speed in a 30mph limit was 56mph.

h) Trees

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

59 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

Councillor Stevens had been due to discuss Devolution at this point but the subject was covered earlier on instead.

A letter from the Chief Executive of ESCC will also be sent out with these minutes.

60 Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

- To approve the payments list to the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The payments were as follows;

101074	A Stevens – Salary – November	£ 490.16
101075	A Stevens – Salary - December	420.71
101076	ESCC – Pensions	269.42

- To approve the accounts to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- To buy a PLAUD Recorder to assist with future minutes.
- To buy up to 25 large poppies which will be attached to street furniture for future commemorative events. Councillors Stevens and Shine will carry out a site visit to confirm exactly how many are needed and the poppies will be ordered once the total is known. The Parish Council also agreed to purchase a flag for raising at the Village Hall. The Community Infrastructure Project will be used to fund the flag and the poppies. County Councillor Bowdler in his role at Armed Forces Champion will see if he can get the licensing fee for the poppies waived. The licensing fee is £63 for up to ten poppies in one road.

61 Highways

- i. The results of the black cat monitoring device reports were considered at the last meeting and proved there is an issue with speeding in the parish. The Clerk subsequently arranged a meeting with the Road Safety Team at ESCC to work out what measures can be taken and the reports will be used as evidence. The meeting is taking place on the 20<sup>th</sup> January. Councillors will report back on that meeting at their next Full Council Meeting.
- ii. At the last meeting it was also RESOLVED to fit a three seater wooden Tommy Memorial Bench outside the Village Hall. The bench will be fitted in May when the weather is better. Councillor Reid will look after it in the meantime.
- iii. Following inspection, ESCC has now agreed to fit the grit bin at the junction of Wood Lane and The Strait and said the Enforcement Team will be in direct contact with the Parish Council in the New Year.

62 Emergency Plan

Councillor Stevens distributed a handout which set out the steps needed to produce an Emergency Plan. He said the Parish Council will need to look at the specific risks here, and produce a list of useful contacts.

Councillors were then asked to look at the handout, and other Parish Council websites for inspiration, so they can discuss the matter in more detail at their next meeting. In the meantime Councillor Shine will start to co-ordinate work on the Plan and asked Councillor Stevens to send him a copy of the Parish Council's previous one in the meantime.

63 Questions from Parish Councillors

There were no further questions from any of the Parish Councillors.

64 Dates of future meetings

The following meeting dates are; 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 and the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

This meeting ended at 8.20pm

## Members' Update – East Sussex County Council – December 2024

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

(Heathfield, Horam, Hooe, Herstmonceux, Ninfield, Warbleton & Wartling parishes)

(and temporarily Pevensey Parish Council)

### LOCAL ISSUES:

#### Horam & Ninfield Parishes:

Proposed Lower Speed Limit on A267 Horam Road at Horam and A269 Bexhill Road at Ninfield: (short version, full text coming to all parishes direct):

The Road Safety Team have now completed an appraisal which assessed each road against a prioritisation framework. This took into account a range of factors such as the character of the road and the environment, the average speed of vehicles, the likely number of vulnerable road users, facilities such as schools, shops and medical facilities in the area and the existing crash record. This process has identified a priority list of sixteen sites which will be taken forward over the first two years of the Speed Management Programme.

- **Horam:** It is proposed that the existing 50mph speed limit on the A267 Horam Road be reduced to 40mph between the 40mph speed limit at Horam and a point just south of Swanbrook Lane at Cogger's Cross.
- **Ninfield:** It is proposed that the existing 60mph national speed limit between the existing 40mph speed limit at Lunsford Cross and the existing 40mph speed limit in Ninfield be reduced to 40mph.

#### Heathfield, Rushlake Green & Punnetts Town:

##### Water main replacement - Update from the contractor:

To make sure there's no disruption over the festive season, we'll be leaving the area from **Friday 20 December 2024** to **Thursday 2 January 2025**. Before we leave, we'll return the road to a useable condition and there will be no temporary traffic lights along Battle Road or Cade Street.

**When we return** in the New Year, we'll be working at the junction of the A265 (Burwash Road) and the B2096 (Battle Road), and at the junction of Hugletts Lane and the B2096 (Cade Street).

- **Junction of A265 (Burwash Road) and B2096 (Battle Road)**  
We'll also be starting work at the junction of Battle Road and the A265 (Burwash Road). This will also be under traffic lights, starting on the A265.
- **Junction of Hugletts Lane and B2096 (Cade Street)**  
We need to make a connection from the new main to our existing network at this junction. This will take place between **Monday 6 January** to **Monday 20 January**, with Hugletts Lane closed between 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday to Saturday. There will be traffic lights on the B2096 (Battle Road).  
During these times, there will be restricted access and no right turn out of Hugletts Lane towards Heathfield and no left turn into Hugletts Lane from the Heathfield direction.

#### Heathfield:

Early in December I attended the 'Topping Out' ceremony of the new Youth Centre in the town. This was the laying of the final pre-fabricated section of the building. It also provided an opportunity to raise a Community Value addition to the project, i.e. the cladding of the covered 5-a-side pitch at the rear – Fingers Crossed!

## **Pevensey Parish:**

Royal Coastal Route (report below): Residents have made me aware of an issue regarding the path along the beach in Pevensey. I am working with officers in an attempt to resolve the issue.

## **COUNTY REPORT:**

### **Children's Services**

#### Refurbished children's home reopens following storm damage

Staff and residents at a children's residential home in Eastbourne celebrated its reopening recently following storm damage last year.

The Bungalow, which accommodates up to seven children and young people aged between 7 and 19 with complex needs and disabilities, suffered extensive damage when Storm Ciaran hit last October. High winds got under the roof and rainwater penetrated the building causing severe damage to the bedrooms and electrics.

Repairs and planned refurbishments to the building have been carried out over the last year to ensure the building is safe and meets the needs of the residents.

Despite the young people being housed temporarily in Bexhill, staff worked hard to ensure the disruptions to the children's lives was minimised including coordinating and managing the school transport so the children could continue their schooling in Eastbourne.

At a special event children, staff and parents celebrated the refurbished home and the new facilities, which include a sensory room, a fitted kitchen, newly refurbished bedrooms and bathrooms, and a range of outdoor games and activities as well as an enclosed fire pit.

*More information regarding the children's home can be found [here](#).*

### **Communities, Economy and Transport**

#### Royal coastal route extended across East Sussex

Another 28 miles (45km) of the King Charles III England Coast Path have opened in East Sussex. The new section forms part of what will be the world's longest managed trail when all 2,700 miles (4,345km) are joined up.

Natural England has worked with East Sussex County Council, Wealden and Rother District Councils, Ramblers and Sussex Wildlife Trust to develop the new part of the trail.

The route starts at Eastbourne Pier and follows Normans Bay and Cooden Beach towards Bexhill Promenade and the Grade I-listed De La Warr Pavilion and on to Hastings. The path joins Hastings Country Park before turning inland towards Fairlight and Winchelsea, then Rye Harbour. Throughout the route, the many Martello Tower forts that have dotted England's coastline since the Napoleonic Wars can be seen. The King Charles III England Coast Path aims to stay as close to the sea as possible.

The route between Eastbourne and Rye Harbour means completed sections of the Coast Path across the South East make up a near 240-mile (386km) course from Chichester to Brighton and Hove, beyond Eastbourne and Rye Harbour, to the Medway Towns, and on to Woolwich in south-east London.

The National Trails website includes maps and advice on route planning.

*More information on the route can be found [here](#).*

#### Work to make 16 East Sussex sites safer begins

Work has begun on measures to reduce driver speeds as part of a programme to make East Sussex roads safer.

A detailed assessment was carried out on the county's A and B roads against factors including the character of the road and the environment, the average speed of vehicles, the level of vulnerable road users, facilities such as schools, shops and hospitals in the area, and the existing crash record.

Through this initial process, 16 roads have been prioritised as sites that could benefit from speed limit reductions or measures to make the existing speed limit more effective. Improvements that will be introduced include extensions or reduction in speed limits, Vehicle Activated Signs, road surface treatments, and new signage and lining.

Public consultations on the introduction of lower speed limits at 13 other locations across the county are due to begin in the New Year.

These schemes will be implemented over the first two years of the council's Speed Management Programme. Further sites will then be assessed, prioritised and changes introduced in future years.

*More information regarding the schemes can be found [here](#).*

### Congratulations to apprentice graduates

The achievements of apprentices from across East Sussex were celebrated at a special graduation ceremony last month.

The East Sussex Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony, held on the evening of 21 November, recognised the commitment and hard work of East Sussex apprentices from across all industry sectors and of all ages and levels. The evening also celebrated the contributions of local businesses and educators to the programme and underlined the importance of apprenticeships to the local economy.

Over 50 apprentices registered to graduate at the event held at the Winter Garden's Floral Hall in Eastbourne, supported by their employers, apprenticeship training providers and family members. Graduation certificates were presented on the evening to attendees who completed their apprenticeships between 1 November 2023 and 1 November 2024.

During the ceremony, four special awards based on nominations received from employers, colleagues, apprenticeship providers, and apprentices were presented to celebrate the outstanding achievements of all those involved in the apprenticeship journey.

*More information regarding apprenticeships and the event can be found [here](#).*

For your info: **Meetings I attended in December as your County Councillor:**

ESCC 2 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefings  
East Sussex Civil Military Partnership Board  
Gatwick Noise Management Board  
Pevensey Parish Council FC  
ESCC Cabinet  
ESCC Governance Committee  
ESCC Children in Care Council  
East Sussex Foster Carers Association AGM  
Hooe Parish Council  
Herstmonceux Parish Council  
Horam Parish Council  
Ninfield Parish Council  
East Sussex Safeguarding Childrens Partnership

***“Thank You for all your support over the past year, and Happy New Year to you all!”***



29/12/24