

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Warbleton Parish Council held on 20 May in the Bodle Street Green village hall at 7.00 pm

Present

Councillors

Mr B Whitton (chairman)  
Mr J Glass  
Mr A Long  
Mrs S Ralph  
Mr C Harding  
Mr D Turton  
Mr C Wells  
Mr J Trunkfield  
Mrs K Cook  
Mr N Richards  
Mr M Sibbering

East Sussex County Councillors

Mr R Simmonds

Clerk

Mr J Leeves

Members of the Public

There were 16 members of the public present and PCSO Matt Neve.

### **Apologies for Absence**

10.139 Apologies were received from East Sussex County Councillor Mr R Thomas.

### **Declarations of interest**

10.140 None.

### **Election of Chairman**

10.141 Councillor Wells proposed the re-election of Councillor Whitton as chairman. Councillor Whitton indicated that he was willing to remain as chairman for a further year and there being no other nominations, was re-elected. Seconded, Councillor Sibbering.

### **Election of Vice chairman**

10.142 Councillor Long agreed to remain as vice chairman. There being no other nominations he was elected as vice-chairman.

### **Membership of other committees**

10.143 It was agreed that members of the following committees should be re-elected en-bloc to the Planning and General Purposes, Finance and Rights of Way committees. It was also agreed that Councillor Cook should join the Rights of Way committee.

### **Representatives on other organisations**

10.144 It was agreed that Parish Council representatives on the following organisations should be re-elected en-bloc: Dunn village and Bodle Street Green village halls, Wealden District Association of Local Councils, Wealden Strategic Partnership and the Emergency Planning Co-ordinator.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April**

10.145 Councillor Turton had already asked for some amendments to his report on the Dunn village hall and the clerk confirmed that these had been made. Councillor Richards asked for a minor amendment to his report on the radio operator and Councillor Sibbering for reference to a grit bin opposite Hodges in Bodle Street Green. Subject to these amendments the minutes of the meeting on 15 April were agreed as a correct record. The clerk reminded Councillors that he was supplying copies of approved minutes to Anthony Gordon for publication on the Parish Council website.

### **Matters arising from minutes of meeting on 15 April**

10.146 The clerk confirmed that he had written to the management committee of the Dunn village hall expressing thanks for their commitment in running the hall for the benefit of the community.

### **Public Adjournment**

#### Noise from motorcycle riding on land adjacent to Trumpets Oast Bodle Street Green

10.147 Councillor Glass reported that as requested the clerk had written to Wealden District Council about the noise being created by the riding of motorcycles in a field adjacent to Trumpets Oast and that he had copied his letter to the owner of the Oast. Trumpets Oast was a listed building and the letter had also drawn attention to certain

modifications that had been made to the property apparently without planning consent.

10.148 The owner of the Oast had come to see Councillor Glass to try to reach a compromise agreement over the noise which had led to him receiving several complaints from other residents of the village. He had suggested that residents attend a party at his house in order to discuss the problem and reach a solution.

10.149 Residents had now attended the Council meeting to complain to the Parish Council. Residents complained that motorcycles were being ridden for two or three hours at a time usually over a weekend and often on a Sunday afternoon, in a field adjacent to Whitehorse road. The surface of the field had had a number of hillocks constructed on the surface to create a motocross track. The field was close to the centre of the village and consequently a considerable number of residents were being affected by the noise. Members of the public exchanged views on the level of noise coming from the activity and it was concluded that those living downwind were less affected than those living upwind. Residents stated that a petition about the problem had been started and was available to sign in the White Horse inn. Councillor Wells explained that the riding activity was motocross which involved going from place to place as quickly as possible hence the amount of noise being created.

10.150 Residents considered that any prolonged noise from motorcycles, even for as short a period as ten minutes was unacceptable and that agreement could not be reached on a compromise solution involving riding the motorcycles for shorter periods or at different times of the day such as in the evening or during the week. There did not appear to be a technical solution for silencing the motorcycles.

10.151 Mr Joshua Marden who had been riding his motorcycle in the field, read out a letter explaining that it was his sport. He had tried to find alternative places where he could ride, but the only suitable place was in Slough a long distance away. Alternative closer venues were discussed, and Councillor Turton suggested that he would approach local landowners to see if there was somewhere that could be used where noise would not disturb residents.

10.152 Councillor Long explained that he had spoken to those in Wealden District Council responsible for dealing with complaints about noise. Provided that noise did not exceed certain decibel levels property owners were permitted to undertake activities for no more than 28 days in a year without the need to apply for change of use. Therefore legally there was nothing that could be done if motorcycle riding was for no more than one day a fortnight. There was a lower limit of 14 days on gun and motor sport but this did not apply here.

### Police Matters

10.153 The clerk had distributed leaflets about operation crackdown aimed at dealing with anti-social behaviour particular dangerous and inconsiderate driving. PCSO Matt Neve explained how the police would be dealing with such problems.

10.154 Several residents complained of incidents of speeding on motorcycles through the village and that they would be borrowing equipment that recorded the speed of vehicles. They were being trained to use this equipment and where they caught drivers speeding would be able to report them to the police who would enter vehicle details on their database.

## **Reports**

### **East Sussex County Council**

10.155 Councillor Simmons reported that he had arranged for the Highways Department to set up a periodic liaison meeting, called the strengthening of local relationships with the Parish Council, to discuss highways issues such as speed restrictions and repairs. Councillor Sibbering confirmed that the Highways Department had contacted him and a meeting had been proposed at 10.00 am on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. There would be four representatives from different branches of Highways present. The clerk confirmed that he had spoken to Highways and the date of the meeting had now been confirmed.

10.156 Councillor Simmons then referred to a recent meeting in Punnetts Town at which extension and reduction of the speed limit through Punnetts Town in the direction of Three Cups had been discussed. Unfortunately, there had been no representative from Warbleton present. It was now proposed for Highways to investigate the possibility of reduction of the speed limit through Three Cups to 40 mph. There would be consultation with the Parish Council once proposals had been made. Finally, he mentioned that East Sussex County Council had set aside £31 million for road repairs over the next two years.

### **Wealden District Council**

10.157 Nothing to report.

### **Dunn village hall**

10.158 Nothing to report.

### **Bodle Street Green village hall**

10.159 Mr Gibson advised that there was nothing to report from the AGM of the hall's management committee. It was proposed to replace the strip lighting in the hall with energy efficient lights for which the Parish Council had made a discretionary grant.

## **Rights of Way committee**

10.160 Councillor Sibbering reported that members of the committee and volunteers had continued to have training in the repair of styles and clearance of footpaths. This would enable the organisation of circular walks. Councillor Ralph mentioned that she had been in touch with the landowner over whose land footpath 64, close to the chapel in Bodle Street Green passed to ask for it to be kept clear.

## **Wealden District Association of Local Councils**

10.161 Nothing to report.

## **Clerk's Report**

10.162 The clerk explained that in accordance with convention, there had been little correspondence from East Sussex of Wealden District Council's prior to the General election on 6 May.

## **East Sussex Association for the Blind**

10.163 The Association had written to request a donation. The Council agreed to give a donation of £25.00, the same amount as in previous years.

## **Finance**

### Financial Statement for 20 May

10.164 It was resolved that the financial statement to 20 May be approved and a copy is attached to these minutes.

### Accounts for Payment.

10.165 The following accounts were approved for payment:

Aon Ltd	Insurance policy renewal	
£581.45		
Mr J C Austin*	Printing Rural Access to Services	
	Questionnaire	£186.00
Wealden District Council	Emptying dog waste bin	£61.34
Mr J A Leeves	Reimbursement of telephone rental	£40.79

\* Mr Austin mistakenly overcharged for the printing. The original cheque for £330.00 has been returned and cancelled. This is a replacement cheque for the correct sum.

## **Other Financial matters**

10.166 The clerk reported that the internal auditor would be auditing the accounts for the year ending March 31 on 26 May. Mazars the external auditor had selected the Council for an additional check this year. There would be a requirement to supply some further information.

## **Planning**

### Pond cottage: driveway across village Green

10.167 The clerk referred to the letter he had received from the owner of Pond cottage Rushlake Green in response to his letter about the driveway he had started to construct over the village Green. The clerk had circulated this letter previously to all Councillors by e-mail.

10.168 Councillors were concerned about the driveway and felt that he had started constructing it without permission from the Parish Council who owned the village Green. Councillor Glass said that he recalled that when the owner had attended a Planning committee meeting at which the application for modifications he proposed to Pond Cottage itself had been discussed, he had mentioned that the driveway would be made of blocks through which grass could grow. This was not the case as it had been constructed of concrete with concrete edging. The clerk was asked to write to the owner pointing out that he did not have permission from the Parish Council to construct the driveway.

## **Rural access to services project**

10.169 The clerk reported that he had now received just over 100 completed questionnaires. This was out of the 570 that had been sent out. He considered this to be a good return and Councillors agreed. Only a few questionnaires were now being returned and he would forward them all to Action in Rural Sussex as soon as the deadline of 31 May expired. Councillor Simmons suggested that the Parish Council should use some of the project grant to help with improving their website.

## **Matters considered urgent by the chairman**

### Next edition of Newsletter

10.170 The clerk said he would prepare a list of topics for articles to be published in the next edition of the newsletter. These would be available by the next meeting. After taking account of comments and further suggestions from Councillors he would then write the newsletter.

### Noticeboards and Daw memorial

10.171 Councillor Wells reported that Mr Funnel who was making the noticeboards, had asked where they should be sited. The chairman commented that they should be sited close to the village hall where they could be viewed by members of the public.

Maintaining site of sewerage pumping station opposite Great Crouches Farm

10.172 Councillor Wells reported that construction of the sewerage pumping station opposite Great Crouches Farm had been completed and in accordance with the conditions of the planning consent a hedge screen and grass had been planted. However, there was now an issue over who would maintain this area and prevent it from becoming overgrown. The area was outside of the Parish Council contract to mow the village Green, but Councillor Wells suggested that it be included in future and in the meantime the contractor would maintain it. There would be a cost to this and the clerk was asked to contact East Sussex County Council Planning Department to establish who would assume this.

**Dates of next meetings**

10.173 The next meetings of the Parish Council would be on 17 June and 15 July in the Bodle Street Green village hall.

Chairman.....

Date.....