

WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at Bodle Street Green Village Hall on 21st June 2012 at 7pm.

Present:- B. Whitton (Chairman), Mrs. K. Cook, J. Glass, C. Jervis
Read, D. Powell, Mrs. S. Ralph, R. Tratt, D. Turton, C. Wells.

In Attendance:- Cllr B. Bentley, ESCC.
Mrs. C. Swan – Temporary Clerk.

*Councillors R. Simmons (ESCC) and Thomas (Wealden DC) sent
apologies for absence.*

3 members of the public were present.

12/048 Apologies for Absence were received and accepted from
Cllrs Mrs. Jones and N. Richards.

12/049 Appointment of Temporary Clerk: The Chairman
referred Members to the paper circulated with the Agenda in which Mrs.
Swan offered her services as Temporary Clerk to the Council. It was
agreed that this appointment be made on the terms set out in the paper.

12/050 Declarations of Interest : None were made.

12/051 Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 17th May 2012
(previously circulated) were approved and signed – after minor
amendments were agreed. Amended copies will be circulated to
members.

Public Adjournment. *The following matters were raised:-*

- Banks & Verges throughout the Parish: A member of the public expressed concerns about the condition of a number of areas, following cutting by ESCC. The cutting had been done at the wrong time and the methods used did nothing to encourage bio-diversity. Cllr Bentley gave details of the contract arrangements and specification for cuts and suggested that concerns be raised with the Steward so that they can be fed back to the Highways Department. It was also agreed that the matter would be referred to the Strengthening Local Relationships Meeting with ESCC to be held on 10th July 2012.*

- *Rights of Way: it was stated that a number of long-standing infringements remained with no action having been taken to address the problems. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Rights of Way Committee and also to the SLR Meeting on 10th July.*
- *Elm Trees near the Churchyard: the Tree Warden had reported that concerns as to the condition of these trees had been reported to ESCC but no action had been taken. It was subsequently learned that the area was just outside the control zone. However, inspection of the trees indicated that they were in good condition.*

The Chairman thanked members of the public for their contributions.

12/052 Committee Reports:the following were received and noted:

- Planning & General Purposes:- nothing to report.
- Rights of Way: Mr. Tratt advised that a Diversion Order had been granted on a path at Buxted Farm. This was a retrospective agreement which did not cause problems and increased security for the Farm. A letter had been received from ESCC seeking views on the matter of “dead-end” footpaths. Discussions will take place with neighbouring parishes in order to investigate the matter, before a response is sent to ESCC. Improvement of two bridleways in the parish is being investigated and Cllr Tratt is liaising with the landowners concerned. A report will be made to Council in due course.
- Emergency Planning Co-ordinator:- Nothing to report.
- The Chairman said that a new committee had been agreed – to be called **Highways & Environment**. Cllrs Whitton, Powell, Richards and Wells are members of this committee.

12/053 Reports from Representatives on the following organisations:-

- Dunn Village Hall: A letter from the Treasurer of the hall committee was read out, thanking the Parish Council for continued support towards maintenance & equipment. It was reported that the hall is running well, with increased bookings. There are plans for future developments.
- Bodle Street Green Village Hall: Mr. Gibson reported that the Royal Jubilee Celebration was very successful with a large number of residents visiting the hall throughout the day. The occasion was preceded by a Service of Thanksgiving in the Church which was well attended, with lots of Children also

taking part. Mr. Gibson thanked the Council for the grant made towards the event.

With regard to the technical equipment in the hall, this was now over 10 years old and the Committee are planning replacements. Quotations will be obtained in due course and the cost will be met from committee funds. Discussions about possible extension of the hall premises are at an early stage and in due course, an application for capital grant may be made to the Parish Council.

- (c) Wealden District Assoc of Local Councils: Mr. Tratt gave details of matters discussed at a recent meeting of the Association. It was announced that the venue of the Annual Parish Conference was to be changed – the next one on 24th October will be at Hailsham. A consultation document about Neighbourhood Planning is being produced and will shortly be circulated to all local councils in Wealden.
- (d) Website Co-ordinator: No report was given.

12/054 ESCC – the following report was received:-

- Mr. Bentley said that a questionnaire would shortly be circulated in regard to planning and development matters. It was important that all local councils completed and returned it because it will affect the “planning gain” parishes might receive in the event of developments.
- He referred to a road safety project located at Three Cups – the Engineer for the project wishes to make a presentation to the local councils concerned. The Chairman said that a letter had been received and he would be following it up in order to agree a meeting.
- Members welcomed the recent granting of planning permission for a new swimming pool at Heathfield Community College.
- Location of Grit Bins – a letter requesting information had been received from ESCC – the Chairman will refer this to the SLR meeting.

12/055 Finance:-

- (a) It was noted that the financial statement circulated at the Annual Meeting was little changed.
- (b) The Chairman said that he had contacted the External Auditors (Mazars LLP) regarding an extension of the deadline for submitting the Annual Return. This had been granted and it is hoped that the Return will be ready to bring before the next council meeting on 19th July.

- (c) Copies of the End-of-Year Bank reconciliation for 2011/12 were circulated and noted.
- (d) Appointment of Internal Auditor: the Chairman said that a replacement had been sought and Mrs. D. Weller, a resident of Vines Cross, had offered her services. He explained that she had relevant experience and was competent for the task. It was agreed unanimously that she be appointed and that a letter setting out terms would be sent to her, following liaison with the Chairman of Finance Mr. N. Richards.
- (e) The following invoices for payment were agreed:-
 - Mrs. M. Smith** – Clerk’s salary and expenses - £366.14
 - Kieran Daw** – Plants & Compost - £145.00
 - Mr. C. Jervis Read** – Re-imburement for expenditure, Dunn Village Hall Jubilee Celebration - £212.11.

12/056 Planning:- nothing to report.

12/057 Jubilee Celebrations 2012:

- Bodle Street Green:- Mr. Gibson referred to his report included in item 6(b) .
- Rushlake Green:- Mr. Jervis Read said that the event had been very well attended. A donation had been gratefully received from Mr. Peter Dunn towards costs of the event. A list of the expenses incurred was presented (approved for payment under item 8(e). The organising committee are planning to plant a commemorative tree – the variety will be discussed at a future meeting. A Plaque is also being considered – design and location to be decided.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to all those involved in arranging the celebratory events in both villages, which was passed unanimously.

12/058 Items to be referred to next Agenda – to be advised to the Chairman please by 9th July.

12/059 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 19th July 2012 at Bodle Street Green Village Hall at 7pm.

Signed.....
Chairman.

