



WARNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Shaw E-mail – clerk@warnham.org.uk

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Warnham Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 7.30pm in the Hodgson Room in the Village Hall

Members:

Cllr Ann Lloyd (C) (AL) (P)	Cllr Stuart Ritchie (SR) (P)
Cllr Geoff Read (VC) (GR) (P)	Cllr Sally Pavey (SP) (P)
Cllr Chris Gould (CG) (P)	Cllr Fiona Robinson (FR) (P)
Cllr Tom Bickford (TB) (P)	Cllr Ian Gurling (IG) (P)
Cllr Mary Byrne (MB) (P)	Cllr Emma Fraser (EF) (P)
Cllr Bill McLaughlin (BM) (P)	

In attendance: Mrs Shaw (Clerk)

Also present: None present.

1. Chairman's Welcome -
The Chairman welcomed the members of the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence –
Cllr FR sent in her apologies prior to the meeting.
3. Minutes of Previous meeting-
Council noted and approved the minutes from the APM in 2021. Cllr SR proposed that the minutes were accepted. ***It was UNANIMOUSLY agreed that the Chair duly accept and sign the minutes.***
4. Chairman's Report -
The Chairman of the council read out the Chairman's report which is duly attached.

With no further business the meeting closed at 19.45pm

Chairman..... Date.....

Appendix 1

Chairman's Report 2022

There is no escaping that the Covid pandemic has created many challenges, not least of all our ability to function as a council through holding 'face to face' meetings. As we got accustomed to our new life in the grips of the pandemic, we learnt how to function in new ways. The past year has seen us back up to full strength in holding regular meetings, even when some of us have been unable to attend physically because of Covid. We have all had to learn a new way of living. Holding 'hybrid' meetings has been a godsend in allowing us to function as normally as possible.

This year, as ever, a good part of council time was devoted to the consideration of planning applications. Our Planning Advisory Committee has been led by Councillor Chris Gould and being quite new to this role, he is developing an understanding of the many considerations and factors influencing our deliberations on these matters.

We have considered one new building application, but most planning applications have been for extensions or improvements to existing properties in the parish. We do try to give careful consideration and to preserve as much as possible of our local habitat and street scene. The Planning Advisory Committee also approves works to trees in the village – this is usually a relatively simple task of accepting advice re: state of the tree, hazard to life or visibility etc. There has however been one occasion this year when Horsham District Council overrode our decision about the removal of a tree, which we had unanimously opposed.

Increasing traffic numbers and the speed of vehicles continues to be a threat to our parish. Many people have complained, by letter or word of mouth, about the notable increase in 'rat running' through the parish. Surveys undertaken by Roger Purcell show that amount of traffic hasn't increased significantly, but the direction of traffic has changed. Greater numbers are using Bell Road / School Hill and then exiting the village via Three Stile Road. It is a shame that the apparent level of residents' concern has not resulted in more volunteers for the Community Speed Watch effort. It has been some time since I have seen the yellow high vis jackets around the village.

Related to this, the Parish Council has continued to work to achieve improvements in traffic management and Entry Gates, clearly indicating speed restrictions, are hopefully due be installed this year. We were advised in January of this year that the Bell Road traffic calming scheme, supported by residents, was now firmly on the WSCC Highways agenda for 2023. The new Speed Indicator Device, located on School Hill has also won the approval of many.

Councillor Sally Pavey has continued to keep the Parish Council informed of proposals for expansion at Gatwick Airport. Eighteen months of a peaceful sky above Warnham Parish has perhaps made us complacent – but we need to be aware, fully equipped with correct information, and ready to fight our corner. With this in mind, the Parish Council has a meeting arranged with our MP, Mr Jeremy Quinn early in May.

Preservation of our local environment is always high on our list of priorities. We live in a beautiful locality, but it will not always be here if WE do not support such activities as those suggested by Wild About Warnham. Following on from a well-attended meeting in April, we must all support David Bridges and his team of

volunteers as much as possible. Rewilding of areas, such as the Village Green and Churchyard, are now being expanded to certain areas of grass verges. All these areas have been approved by Horsham District Council. Notices will be displayed to indicate that these areas are 'No Mow', so you realise that we are not being neglectful.

The cycle route continues to be well used and in the last week it has been resurfaced, at the contractor's expense. I still cycle back from Horsham along this route to enjoy the view as I enter the village. I know many people from Horsham use this as a safe walking/cycling route.

Tony Maughan, our environmental officer, continues to do an excellent job maintaining our local area, as well as mending as much as he can – benches, signs, fingerposts etc. He is a reliable, efficient worker and we are still hoping to recruit someone to help him. Personally, I get very angry and disappointed when we must ask Tony to remedy something that has been caused by someone's careless, selfish act – for example, fly tipping and litter. We all have a part to play in keeping Warnham somewhere we are proud to call home.

Membership of the Parish Council has changed this year. Sadly, Bill McLaughlin died just before Christmas, having served an impressive 30 years on the Parish Council. Bill was the longest serving Councillor Warnham has had and we commemorated his long service with a framed certificate given to his family. Bill's death has created a vacancy on the Council. Further details and an application form can be found on the website. If you are interested in having an impact in the parish then please apply to join us.

Greg Morley-Smith, from Kingsfold, has joined the Parish Council and he has quickly become actively involved at meetings.

The website, and indeed all the council documents have been revised and catalogued by our new, very efficient Clerk, Louise Shaw. Louise joined Warnham Parish Council in the spring of last year, coming with a very good grounding and experience of the requirements of a Parish Clerk. She has worked tirelessly to get all documentation up to date and to make our website more 'user friendly'. The Council Facebook page now has a considerable following. Louise has provided every opportunity for parishioners to be informed and to access any member of the council. She has also encouraged all councillors to update our knowledge of council procedures – be it finance, planning etc. Attending evening courses on 'Zoom' has certainly encouraged more of us to attend.

To conclude, I would like to thank, on behalf of the Parish Council, our County Councillor, Christian Mitchell, together with our District Councillors, Stuart Ritchie and Tricia Youtan, for attending our meetings either in person or virtually, and for keeping us informed of what is happening at County and District levels. As I have said many times before, this is a two-way process.

I would also like to express my thanks for all the help and support from the other members of Warnham Parish Council and special thanks to Geoff Read, Vice Chairman and Committee leaders.
Thank You.