



# WARNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Shaw E-mail – [clerk@warnham.org.uk](mailto:clerk@warnham.org.uk)

## MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Warnham Parish Council held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 at 7.00pm in the Parish Rooms, St Margaret's Church

### **Members:**

|                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cllr Sally Pavey (SP) (C) (P) | Cllr Greg Morleysmith (GMS) (A) |
| Cllr Fiona Robinson (FR) (A)  | Cllr Claire Martin (CM) (A)     |
| Cllr Tom Bickford (TB) (A)    | Cllr Ian Gurling (IG) (VC) (P)  |
| Cllr Sarah Williams (SW) (P)  | Cllr Lewis Sage (LS) (A)        |
| Cllr Gregg Maxum (GM) (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 –  
Cllrs FR, LS and GMS sent in their apologies prior to the meeting. Cllr TB was noted as absent.
3. Minutes of Previous meeting-  
Council noted and approved the minutes from the APM in 2023. Cllr proposed that the minutes were accepted. ***It was UNANIMOUSLY agreed that the Chair duly accept and sign the minutes.***
4. How to become a Councillor and why is it important.

### **Why become a Parish Councillor?**

By becoming a parish councillor, you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support – a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve.

Warnham Parish Council has 11 Councillors. From time to time vacancies arise due to a Councillor stepping down. If you are interested at all why not join one of our meetings and talk to the Clerk or Councillor face to face to gain for information. Or contact the Clerk on [clerk@warnham.org.uk](mailto:clerk@warnham.org.uk)

### **What decisions do Parish Councils make?**

Parish Councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees) and roads and highways. Parish Councils have limited powers to make decisions but they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence those other organisations that do make the final decisions (such as the district or county council, health authorities, police etc). In this respect parish councils are extremely powerful. The

organisations that make the final decisions know that a parish council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something and its views will be taken seriously.

**How much time does it take up?**

Warnham Parish Council are mindful of the cost of meetings. Therefore from 2024 onwards, all sub-committees, will meet via Video Conference. This is aid attendance for anyone unable to attend physically due to work or family commitments. This will then leave meeting 9 times a year for the full council meeting in person to which members of the public are also invited. Members of the public are welcome to join both online or face-to-face meetings, location and login details will always be provided at the time of the publication of the agenda. Meetings may last two or more hours, depending on what's on the list of items to discuss. Warnham Parish Council also has sub-committees to deal with specific subjects, such as planning, finance matters and recreation. In addition to the regular council meetings, Councillors may be required to give time for 'ad-hoc' meetings- for example with agents to discuss planning applications that the council must give its opinion on, highways meetings with the county council etc.

**How long does a Parish Councillor serve for?**

Once elected, councillors sit on the council for a maximum of four years. If they then want to stay in the post, they can stand for re-election. This does not mean that you have to stay for four years. If you find it's not for you, or you can no longer meet the commitment, you can stand down.

5. Chairman's Report -

The Chairman of the council read out the Chairman's report which is attached in Appendices.

With no further business the meeting closed at 19.09pm

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

Chair's report May 2024 – Cllr Sally Pavey

*I am delighted to report that this year, my first year as chair of Warnham Parish Council, has been enjoyable. As a volunteer, giving time to protect and enhance a place where we live and work it is important. With the increasing amount of work a parish council is expected to undertake there must be an element of enjoyment.*

*What has made the first year a pleasure is the team that sits alongside me in seeking the same for our parish, so I thank them all. Regular faces such as our excellent clerk Louise Shaw and councillor Ian Gurling who took up the role as deputy chair of the council as well as on the finance committee which is head up by Cllr Fiona Robinson. Cllr Greg Morelysmith remains with the council operating an important feed from the Kingsfold Residents Association and matters to the north of our parish. Cllr Tom Bickford took on the role of chair of planning now joined by Cllr Maxam as deputy.*

*I attended the Kingsfold Resident Association AGM, and the council is now working with them to tackle issues they have with the traffic and planning.*

*New recruits joined the parish council bringing fresh enthusiasm. Cllr Sarah Williams is leading the way with the Wild about Warnham resident David Bridges. With the councils support forming the parish environmental group. The aim, encouraged by Horsham District Council, is for us all to become greener in our outlook and so reduce the carbon footprint of our parish.*

*Cllr Lewis Sage and Cllr Greg Maxam joined and with it came an idea of a Parish event next year, so ensure you are signed up to the Parish Newsletter to receive updates.*

*Cllr Claire Martin joined and took on the role of Deputy of Highways working with me to tackle the many issues this the parish suffers.*

*The parish council conducted a survey, with an aim to make the council more approachable; you may have seen us in Kingsfold and outside the village shop and church.*

*The survey results were clear to the mandate it presented to tackle as a council. We now take this forward in how we seek to enhance and confront negatives. Be assured we*

*have set about taking these results forward in everything we do – so thank you to all that took part.*

*Working together with members of our parish saw the first business event in the parish room. Businesses play an important role in the health of our parish and it was good to meet and receive views from this sector – so this will be repeated.*

*The attendance at parish meetings has grown and all attendees are most welcome as we discuss the many highways issues in a constructive way assisted by WSCC Cllr Christian Mitchell and the owners for Field Place specifically to the deterioration of Robinhood Lane. I'd like to thank Field Place for working with us.*

*Flooding has also been an issue due to the significant rainfall and so we thank WSCC for some work in our parish this year, but with forecasts for more rain we'll be continuing to work with them to reduce flooding. 6 Monthly meetings are now held with WSCC highways, and a running project of maintenance is kept ensuring all matters are tackled.*

*My thanks to our environment officers Tony Maughan and Martin Calway who work hard to keep the parish clean and tidy and undertake maintenance jobs.*

*Gatwick continues to be a threat to our parish with plans for a new runway, currently progressing through the Government planning process of a Development Consent Order. In accordance with the survey and our policy the council has written opposing. The modernisation of airspace (FASIS) is also of a concern as it may hold the threat of new departure routes over our parish, this has already been raised with the local Member of Parliament. One good point, Gatwick Airport has undertaken that they will not seek to move arrival routes further over our parish during the day through FASIS.*

*I was delighted to chair a meeting with Horsham Member of Parliament and again it was good to meet residents and facilitate this non-political meeting. And honoured to lay the parish council wreath with fellow Councillor Gurling to remember those that have made the ultimate sacrifice on Remembrance Sunday.*

*Planning is always a concern, generally we are lucky not to face too much inappropriate development, having said that the council has been greatly assisted by Cllr Tricia*

***Youtan and Cllr Kasia Greenwood of Horsham District Council as the Local Plan identifies 20 new houses in the village.***

***I didn't want to add a negative note, but due to some residents (and non) the council has now adopted zero tolerance to any unpleasant behaviour toward councillors and employees. Sadly, this would seem an increasing issue as discussed by other parish councils at local authority meetings.***

***We look ahead as a council, welcoming all residents to work with us to ensure the parish continues to be a nice place to live and work with aims to reduce the volume and speed of traffic in our parish and celebrate the positives a 'Good' primary school, playground, village hall, welcoming shops, fitness centre, print shop, public houses and clubs, and an active church.***

***Thank you.***