



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 20th May 2025 at 7.00pm in the Parish Rooms, St Margaret's Church

Members:

Cllr Sally Pavey (SP) (C) (P)	Cllr Richard Smith (RS) (P)
Cllr Fiona Robinson (FR) (P)	Cllr Lewis Sage (LS) (P)
Cllr Tom Bickford (TB) (P)	Cllr Ian Gurling (IG) (VC) (P)
Cllr Sarah Williams (SW) (P)	Cllr Gregg Maxum (GM) (P)

In attendance: Mrs Shaw (Clerk)

Also present: There were 5 Members of the Public (MOP). The Leader of Horsham District Council (HDC), Cllr Martin Boffey (MB) was also present at the meeting.

1. Chairman's Welcome -
The Chairman welcomed the members and MOPs to the meeting and asked if the members of the council would introduce themselves.
2. Apologies for absence –
There were no apologies sent in for this meeting.
3. Minutes of Previous meeting-
Council noted and approved the minutes from the APM in 2024. Cllr SP proposed that the minutes were accepted. ***It was UNANIMOUSLY agreed that the Chair duly accept and sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting.***
4. Talk on Devolution
Cllr Tom Bickford joined the meeting at 19.13pm
Cllr MB addressed the meeting and spoke at length on the process of Devolution and what that will look like for the district. There is an expected timeline of 2027 but this is to be confirmed by the end of the year. The Clerk asked whether HDC will be producing the same document as Chichester DC. Cllr MB stated that there was nothing planned as yet and asked whether the Clerk would forward the document to him. The clerk confirmed she would. The Council also asked about purchasing HDC owned land within Warnham before Devolution started. Cllr MB confirmed that assets are being confirmed and would potentially be transferred instead of sold off. Cllr MB to confirm this at a later date. The Council thanked Cllr MB for attending and updating them. MOPS asked about the allotment site as they were worried this would be lost in the Devolution process. They were reassured that Warnham PC were keen to purchase the land from HDC. The matter will evolve further once HDC have finalised their Asset List.
5. Chairman's Report -

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

Four members of the public left the meeting at 19.51pm

With no further business the meeting closed at 19.57pm

Chairman..... Date.....
Appendix 1

Chair's report May 2025 – Cllr Sally Pavey

It is my privilege as chair of Warnham Parish Council to offer the following report of the 2024 activities.

To summaries the year has had its challenges and inspiration.

All residents should be aware that although the council is only 8 councillors that I am delighted to chair, we have 3 vacancies from a full council. It is a friendly, community minded group of individuals that are seeking to do the very best by all residents with the limited powers a council has.

I offer my thanks to all councillors, those that have resigned due to work commitments, Greg Morleysmith, who has gone the extra mile to ensure that we continue to work together and to stay connected, found a keen and knowledgeable member of Kingsfold to fill the role of Councillor in his place. I thank them all for their dedication and the fun they bring to what can seem exasperating tasks on top of full-time workload and family life.

I would also like residents to note that we are all fortunate to have a dedicated clerk who leads the council through the complexity of council obligations. Thank you to Louise Shaw - we will need your knowledge as we face devolution.

Overall, we must thank our Horsham District Councillors Tricia Youtan and Kasia Greenwood, and West Sussex County Council Councillor Christian Mitchell who do so much in the background to assist us with our never-ending list of requests and planning issues. The parish PCSO Chrissie Symmons and her team for seeking to address highways parking issues.

Continued thanks to our volunteer for the care of the planters to protect our verges and slow speed. Our thanks also to the parish council's two environment officers, Tony Maughan and Martin Calway, who keep the parish looking smart and who are multiskilled.

The parish has seen The Owl Public House updated in appearance and menu. Their application for housing was disappointing and caused much concern about access to and from the pub onto the A24.

The many community events organised by St Margaret's church and the Comrade Club are to be welcomed in bring the parish together.

The wonderful post box toppers are a thrill each month as is the content of the Warbler edited by Judith Burns.

It was heartwarming and great to see younger members of our parish stepping forward on Remembrance Sunday with a handmade Wreath from Warnham school.

I am sure the number of Christmas trees increased this year outside the church switched on after the singalong of carols in the church.

Wild About Warnham continues to flourish and we welcome, and thank, David Bridges and his team of green volunteers for making Warnham a wonderful home for nature with inspiring talks for us to enjoy and learn from.

Planning

The Horsham Local Plan stalling is a major setback for our parish and leaves us vulnerable to developers. Although a few meetings have taken place, and residents have signed up to help update the Neighbourhood Plan, we are unable to go forward until the Horsham Plan is finalised.

This is of a greater concern for the parish with the new government plans to increase housing quotas in our area.

Some areas of the parish have faced flooding issues. WPC were appreciative of WSCC highways with attendance from multi-agencies spending time in the parish ensuring rainwater flow and flood defences are working. We hope to see extensive work in 2025

working with a local landowner in reinstating ditches with the opening of lost drains that will slow the natural water flow and accommodate housing water burden.

New housing, as identified in the parish Neighbourhood Plan, has been consulted upon and we now await a formal planning application for 58 houses off Tilletts Lane and Knob Hill.

An illegal site appeared overnight on Marches Road, and this is now in the hands of HDC enforcement.

The council continues to investigate a historic categorisation for the parish being the birthplace of the Poet Shelley, and author Mary Shelley, as well as having a cricket club over 100 years old, a 13th century church and Warnham deer park.

Gatwick Airport continues to be a major concern for the parish with a new runway and changes to flight paths. The council has submitted to the new runway planning process, and we await the response from the Secretary of State for Transport on 27th October if a new runway is to be granted.

The council, working with John Milne MP, Slinfold and Rusper Parish Councils, raised concerns about the impact of airspace change and the threat of a new flight path over the parish. The MP met with the Minister for Aviation who was not sympathetic.

The blight of our parish was not helped by imaginary maps produced and placed on social media, not by Gatwick Airport, but by a Charlwood noise group. Warnham Parish Council asked the HDC councillor that sits on the Gatwick GATCOM group take this up with the noise group as such maps cause unnecessary concern when no one knows where flight paths will go - perhaps only Gatwick. Residents will not be consulted until 2026, but the threat of a new departure route (ADNID) seems real.

Highways

Highways is always a hot potato for the parish as we endure more and more traffic seeking to reach destinations via our country lanes and residential roads endangering pedestrians, cyclist, horse riders and other vehicles.

The council conducted traffic surveys, carried out by WSCC, the conclusions echoed many residents' view that traffic has increased as has the speed.

We received thanks from residents of Rowhook for a new SID, speed indicator device, as it seems to be slowing the speed for this part of our parish. With new SIDs installed on Bell Road and Friday Street. Kingsfold SID location still under consideration. Each SID costs on average £3500.

The changes to Great Daux Roundabout, the parish council are asking WSCC highways to redesign the entrance to Bell Road from the A24 to slow the speed of traffic as it enters Bell Road.

Robin Hood Lane finally resurfaced. Working together with the owners of Field Place, HDC the gate was re-opened from Guildford Road.

The council welcomed an initiative to reduce the rat running of the parish but taking this forward was set with challenges to implement. Delays were due to resident's actions and the knock back from WSCC highways, but with perseverance and constructive conversations with highways the parish council is now progressing a community scheme to seek to reduce the sat nav rat running of the parish residential roads.

Northlands Road residents signed a petition concerning the speed of traffic and the increase in volume. And Bell Road was reduced from 30mph to 20mph with speed roundels to slow the traffic. WSCC found the speed had reduced so no further action would be taken.

The idea of Warnham Parish Day was floated by new parish councillors and for 2025 it looks set to become reality on Sunday 13th July along with the new WPC community fund. The Parish Council has received very generous donations ahead of the day, which has allowed the council to ensure the day will be filled with as much entertainment as possible.

Thank you

*Cllr Sally Pavey
Chair of Warnham Parish Council
20th May 2025*