

WAREHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th April 2025 at 6.00pm
Held in the Village Hall

Present:

Parish Cllrs: Cllrs J Banach (Chair), P Jones, J Saunders, R Henderson, A Bailey

Borough Cllrs: Cllrs A Hicks

County Cllrs:

Apologies:

Members of Public: 0

Clerk: A Beach

Minute No.		Action
1569	Apologies & reasons for absence	
1570	<p>Declaration of Interest Declaration by Members of any interest, Pecuniary or Other than Pecuniary, in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct. To approve or reject any application put to the meeting by the Chairman in respect of Members' seeking a dispensation under the Localism Act 2011, s.33. Request that Councillors' or any other persons' present declare if they intend to record any of the proceedings using any video or audio recording device or camera. None declared.</p>	
1571	<p>Confirm the Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2025 were approved and signed by Cllr Banach</p>	
1572	<p>At this point the Meeting will be adjourned for the Public Session. This session is for the public to express a view or ask a question on relevant matters on the agenda. The public are welcome to stay and observe the rest of the meeting but are reminded that they cannot take part. Nothing to report</p>	
1573	<p>Matters Arising <u>Helping Hands Grant</u> Cllr Banach gave an update of the events organized. <u>VE Day 80</u> Cllrs Jones and Bailey confirmed the final details of the arrangements for the 8th May 2025. Bellringers are booked elsewhere, but they are able to attend later in the evening, 6 people have been confirmed for the tribute, the singing of I Vow to Thee my Country is still in doubt.</p>	

	<p><u><i>Bus Shelter Repairs</i></u> Cllr Banach confirmed that Tenterden Roofing Company had been informed of the PC's acceptance of their estimate and the work is expected to start shortly.</p>	
1574	<p>Malthouse Lane <u><i>Breach of Planning</i></u> The following reply has been received from Mr Ben Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive, Ashford BC.</p> <p>I refer to your email dated 17 March 2025. I understand the basis of your continued complaint is as follows: You are dissatisfied with the Councils position as outlined in the position statement LPA ref: CO/12/00237 Legal Ref: DS21-1296. In that statement the Council has committed to keep the matter under a rolling review. Given the duration of this case the Parish Council would like to see more action taken by the Borough Council.</p> <p>If this is not a correct understanding of your complaint, then please let me know.</p> <p>In the process of this investigation, I have been able to discuss this matter with the officer who investigated your previous complaint, the Director of Place, Space and Leisure, the Assistant Director for Planning and Development, the Principal Litigator and the Solicitor to the Council.</p> <p>The response that you received for complaint 8718 was as comprehensive as it could be and warned that because this matter was an active enforcement case and a live on-going litigation case, the Council is restricted in what it can release to external parties. I appreciate that this is a matter of importance for the Parish Council, and it must be frustrating but as was explained in the previous response from the Borough Council and subsequently in the aforementioned briefing note, the Council cannot undermine its case by doing so.</p> <p>I want to re-assure you that the enforcement team has taken the case as far as the courts will allow at this time and until circumstances change the Borough Council has no alternative but to wait and keep the case under review. The alternative would be for the Council to abandon this action and allow the development to remain and this is not the preferred course of action. The Council continues to fulfil its duty to keep under review both the public interest test and evidential test and thereby review the merits of pursuing any prosecution.</p> <p>The position was last reviewed at the close of 2024 and now in light of the correspondence from you. Pursuant to that, all I can say is that the Council is still not at this time resurrecting the legal proceedings. However, as previously advised, should there be any significant developments or changes on the land, then the Council would welcome local residents and/or the Parish Council bringing that information to our attention, and we will review on receipt to see if this changes anything.</p>	

	<p>I understand that this tells you little more than the original response but I hope that you understand the sensitivity of this matter from the Borough Councils perspective. I am sorry that you have had the need to contact us. This reply is the formal response to your second stage complaint and is the end of our internal complaints process. If you remain dissatisfied, you can now ask the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (the Ombudsman) to review your complaint. You usually have up to 12 months to do this, starting from the date of your original complaint, not from the date of this letter.</p> <p>The Ombudsman will normally only consider complaints made within that time but can decide to look at older complaints if there is a good reason to do so.</p> <p>The Ombudsman looks at individual complaints about councils, all adult social care providers (including care homes and home care agencies) and some other organisations providing local public services. It investigates matters fairly and impartially and is free to use.</p> <p>There are some matters the Ombudsman cannot or will not investigate. In these cases, it will explain clearly the reason for its decision.</p> <p>The Ombudsman’s contact details are below. You will need to provide the Ombudsman with a copy of this letter, and our earlier responses to you, so it can consider your complaint.</p> <p>You can contact the Ombudsman by going to www.lgo.org.uk or by phoning 0300 061 0614 (opening hours Monday to Friday 10am-4pm, except public holidays).</p> <p>Following this reply, Councillors agreed to report the matter to the Ombudsman.</p>	
1575	<p>Planning PA/2025/0634 – 5 Monks Hill Cottage. Proposed single-storey extension with rooflight. (Two previous applications have been made for an extension, one was withdrawn and one refused by ABC)</p> <p>WPC Decision Accepted</p>	
1576	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Items previously emailed.</p> <p>KALC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chief Executive Bulletin – April Newsletter – Training & Weekly Bulletins <p>KALC – Ashford Branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agenda for meeting on 26TH March at 7pm in Council Offices, Tannery Lane <p>NALC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chief Executive Bulletins 	

	<p>Kent Police</p> <p>–</p> <p>Ashford BC</p> <p>– Minutes of the Planning Meeting on 19th March 2025</p> <p>– Agenda of the Planning Meeting on 2nd April 2025</p> <p>Zurich Insurance</p> <p>– Insurance renewal documents, due 1st June 2025, £241.00, no change from previous year.</p>	
1577	<p>Finance</p> <p><u>Authorisation of Payment</u></p> <p>Chq No 414 – KALC – Annual Subscription £280.52</p> <p>Chq No 415 – A Beach – March Salary £275.54</p> <p>Chq No 416 – A Beach – Repayment for APM Refreshments £35.00</p> <p>Direct Debit Hugo Fox February- £11.99</p>	
1578	<p>Working Party Reports</p> <p>Finance - Monthly Transaction Statement, following the above transactions the balance of the Current Account is £5,174.07, NSI Investment Account £6,865.44 and Bus Shelter Account £398.22, total working capital is £12,437.73 and reconciled to the bank statement dated 28th March 2025</p> <p>Highways –</p>	
1579	<p>Items for Information</p> <p>The Clerk reiterated her thanks for joining together with Kenardington and Stone-cum-Ebony PCs for her nomination and receipt of a KALC Community award, presented at Kenardington PC.</p>	
1580	<p>Date of the next scheduled meeting, 19th May 2025 at 6pm.</p>	

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.30pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Dates for Future Meeting

June Monday 16th

July Monday 21st

August No Meeting

September Monday 15th

October Monday 20th

November Monday 17th

December No Meeting

Meetings normally start at 6.00pm