

Minutes of a meeting of **CROWBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall,
The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 16th September 2014 at 7.30 pm

Present	Councillors	Paul Adams *	
		Quentin Burch	
		Michael Cooke	
		Peter Cowie	
		Elizabeth Fermor	
		Philip Fermor	
		Beverley Johnstone	
		George Moss *	
		Kay Moss	Deputy Mayor
		Ron Reed	Town Mayor
		Wendy Scrace	
		David Shaw *	
		Andrew Steen *	
		Matthew Street	
		Sandra Timms	
		Neil Waller	(Wealden District Council)
Also present	Cllrs	Richard Stogdon	East Sussex County Council
		Sylvia Tidy	East Sussex County Council
		Bill Bentley	ESCC Lead Member, Adult Social Care
		Barry Atkins	ESCC Adult Social Care
		Alan Streets	High Weald Lewes Havens Clinical Commissioning Group
		Philippa Hewes	Town Clerk
		6 members of the public	
		1 member of the press	

* *Denotes non attendance*

The Deputy Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES

Cllr Paul Adams – attending another meeting
 Cllr George Moss – business reason
 Cllr Andrew Steen – personal reason
 Jim Hollins Wealden District Council
 Stephen Isted Wealden District Council
 Carol Reynolds Wealden District Council

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Peter Cowie declared a personal interest in footpath/bridleway diversions at Crowborough Golf Club as a member of the Club.

Cllr Wendy Scrace declared a personal interest in twinning with Horwich as a member of the Crowborough Bonfire and Carnival Society.

MINUTES

To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2014 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

- 7258 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held 15th July 2014 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

Public participation

A representative from Crowborough Golf Club asked members to defer comment on the possible diversion of footpaths/bridleways pending consultation and a site visit.

REPORT FROM ALAN STREETS, INTERIM CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, HIGH WEALD LEWES HAVENS CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP, ON CROWBOROUGH HOSPITAL

Alan Streets gave a presentation on the vision for community services in the High Weald Lewes Havens area. The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is looking at a range of options to meet the needs of patients. Plans include the greater use of community hospitals to provide an alternative to the existing Accident and Emergency facilities. The CCG is in discussion with East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) to ensure that the Minor Injuries Unit is open for 12 hours a day, 7 days a week; the unit was closed for 9 days in August. There are also discussions with Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW) on its ability to run the unit at Crowborough. Proposals from ESHT and MTW are due by the end of September.

There are on-going discussions on staff and the management of the birthing unit.

REPORT FROM EAST SUSSEX COUNTY CLLR BILL BENTLEY, ADULT SOCIAL CARE LEAD MEMBER, ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO MEALS IN THE COMMUNITY

Cllr Bill Bentley reported on the tradition of 'meals on wheels' and how changes in the provision of food have reduced the number of people using the service to 500. The client pays £3.40 towards the cost of £7.50 for each meal. Savings of £500,000 could be achieved by a change to the subsidy.

There has been a comprehensive consultation on the proposed changes to the meals in the community service. An initial review of the comments received has identified that further information is required on the needs of the clients including issues with social isolation. The report to Cabinet has been deferred until January so that each client can be contacted and their individual needs assessed.

TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE TOWN MAYOR MAY WISH TO LAY BEFORE THE COUNCIL

The list of the Mayor's engagements was noted. Cllr Kay Moss had deputised for the Mayor at the Crowborough Carnival.

UNADOPTED UNTIL THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

25th anniversary of twinning with Horwich

The 25th anniversary of the twinning with Horwich is on 22nd March 2015 and members were asked to consider how to mark the occasion. There are links between the two bonfire societies and a number of past Mayors have joined the Crowborough Carnival and Bonfire Society on visits to Horwich. It was considered that a 'Friends of Horwich' group would be helpful to promote and encourage links between the two towns and an article will be included in the next newsletter.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

To note the acts and proceedings of the following committee meetings:

Planning and Development – 21st July 2014

- 7259** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held 21st July 2014.

Environment – 29th July 2014

- 7260** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Environment Committee meeting held 29th July 2014.

Sport, Recreation and Cemetery – 4th August 2014

- 7261** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Sport, Recreation and Cemetery Committee meeting held 4th August 2014.

Planning and Development – 11th August 2014

- 7262** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held 11th August 2014.

Personnel – 26th August 2014

- 7263** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Personnel Committee meeting held 26th August 2014.

Planning and Development – 1st September 2014

- 7264** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held 1st September 2014.

Finance and General Purposes – 9th September 2014

- 7265** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held 9th September 2014.

TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

None.

TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF MEMBERS

Cllr Michael Cooke had provided written reports on the Crowborough Community Hub Working Party and the Crowborough Community Centre Directors' Board meetings. A suggestion that the Pine Grove building is used for residential accommodation may not be viable in view of issues associated with the Ashdown Forest.

Cllr Kay Moss advised that she had attended the East Sussex Association of Local Councils AGM with Cllr Quentin Burch. The event had been poorly attended and was not quorate. There was a presentation by Katy Bourne, Police and Crime Commissioner.

Cllr Sandra Timms reported on a Strengthening Local Relationships meeting with East Sussex County Council. The Village Maintenance Team has been disbanded and town/parish councils may have to pay for additional work; this will have a financial impact when considering the budget for the next financial year. A request for a pedestrian crossing on the A26 at Church Road has been assessed at 75 points and will now move to a more detailed appraisal.

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

East Sussex County Council

Cllr Richard Stogdon advised that a bid for Pine Grove to provide 80 units for the elderly has been submitted by a private contractor, and this is supported by the County Council.

The problem of overgrown hedges appears to be worse this year due to excessive rainfall; most of the foliage is on privately owned land.

The pedestrian crossing on Crowborough Hill near Beacon Academy is now operational. The Sussex Safer Roads Partnership has been contacted to see if its equipment cabinet can be relocated in order to increase the width of the pavement.

The petition to reduce the speed limit on the A26 from the Golf Club was considered at the Lead Member's meeting 15th September. The officer's report to retain the existing speed and introduce some additional measures was rejected and further discussions are to take place.

The Crowborough Town Council bid for community match funding for lighting improvements at the pedestrian crossing at Jarvis Brook, will be considered 17th September.

Wealden District Council

Cllr Neil Waller advised that issues with waste collection over the bank holiday were being addressed. Other authorities in the waste partnership agreement are now working on the full waste/recycling arrangements and have the same type of issues that were experienced in Wealden last year.

Cllr Neil Waller reported on three planning items:

- There is an appeal against the refusal to grant planning permission for housing development at Steel Cross.
- The sum of £5million has been approved for the provision of SANGS.
- A consultation has started on the revised Community Infrastructure Levy.

TO CONSIDER WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL'S PROPOSED OFF STREET CAR PARKING ORDER 2014

There was a discussion on the existing parking arrangements. It was suggested that there could be an increase in short stay parking to support local businesses. Cllr Stephen Isted has asked the Town Council to support his request for parking at the Jarvis Brook car park to be short stay and medium stay only. Whilst this arrangement would discourage commuter parking, it was recognised that the problem would be transferred to another area. Wealden District Council carries out monitoring and enforcement of its car parks.

It was agreed that members would provide comments to the Town Clerk on the proposed new arrangements. Details of the current parking times will be circulated for information.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL'S STREETS AHEAD PROJECT

To authorise the Planning and Development Committee to work on the Streets Ahead project

Streets Ahead is a joint project with Wealden District Council. There is a grant of £2000 available this financial year for a Crowborough Streets Ahead initiative.

7266 **RESOLVED** for the Planning and Development Committee to work on the Streets Ahead project and progress an initiative for use of the grant funding.

Cllr Neil Waller is part of the project at Wealden District Council and would like to attend the Planning and Development Committee meetings when Streets Ahead is discussed.

POSSIBLE DIVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATHS 31, 36a, 38a, 40a, 40b AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAYS 43a, 43b – CROWBOROUGH BEACON GOLF CLUB

Members of the public reported that three groups had been contacted by Wealden District and had submitted a joint response to the proposal for the possible diversion of footpaths and bridleways.

A representative from the Golf Club requested a meeting with the Town Council to review the proposal. Wealden District Council granted the Town Council an extension of time to submit comments on the proposal and a further delay may not be acceptable.

7267 **RESOLVED** to accept the suggestion to work with the Golf Club and other interested parties to discuss the proposed footpath and bridleway diversions.

ELECTION 2015

Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils has a number of products available to promote the elections next May. It was suggested that posters to encourage people to stand for election could be displayed in the Council's poster boards when they are not in use. Wealden District Council is holding two events for anyone who may be interested in standing for election.

- 7268** **RESOLVED** to hold a 'Become a Councillor' event at the Town Hall and to display posters to encourage people to stand for election.

TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

- 7269** **RESOLVED** to approve the Financial Regulations as recommended by the Financial and General Purposes Committee, subject to an amendment to 16.3 to read £5000 (excluding VAT).

TO ADOPT THE STANDING ORDERS

- 7270** **RESOLVED** to adopt the Standing Orders as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

TO CONSIDER THE USE OF EMAIL FOR THE SERVICE OF SUMMONS/AGENDA

There was a discussion on the potential benefit of the use of email for agendas. It was noted that co-opted Cllrs do not receive the parish basic allowance which helps towards the cost of the role. Some members like to receive paper copies and use them to make notes before and during the meeting. At the District Council, agendas are sent by email with hard copies provided at the meeting.

- 7271** **RESOLVED** to continue with the existing system of posting the summons/agendas to Town Councillors.

THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL WITHIN THE LOCAL AND WIDER COMMUNITY

Cllr Quentin Burch proposed that a working party be established to consider communication with the community and if more should be done.

- 7272** **RESOLVED** to set up a working party to consider communication with the wider and local community.

It was agreed that Cllrs Quentin Burch, Peter Cowie, Kay Moss and Ron Reed would be members of the working party.

TO AUTHORISE THE SEALING OF DOCUMENTSGrants of Exclusive Burial Right

7273 **RESOLVED** to authorise the following grants of exclusive right of burial:

Grants of Exclusive Burial Right

Certificate	Name	Grave space
956	R Money	3559
957	M Thompson	3539
958	F Bowen	GRF6
959	M Gould	3519
960	B Gibbins	3499
961	M & F Bowen	GRF4 & GRF5

Deed of variation relating to land at Pine Grove

A Deed of Variation has been drawn up to address a question from the Land Registry that the plan on the lease is not exactly to scale.

7274 **RESOLVED** to authorise the sealing of a Deed of Variation relating to land at Pine Grove.

Other matters

BT is carrying out a consultation on the removal of low usage telephone boxes. One of the telephone boxes that have been identified for possible removal is situated opposite the Plough and Horses in Walshes Road; this telephone has been used once in the last 12 months.

7275 **RESOLVED** to agree to the removal of the telephone box situated opposite the Plough and Horses in Walshes Road.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm