

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of **CROWBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL**
held in the Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Thursday
5th February 2015 at 7.30 pm

Present	Councillors	Paul Adams Quentin Burch Michael Cooke Peter Cowie Elizabeth Fermor Philip Fermor Beverley Johnstone * George Moss Kay Moss Ron Reed Wendy Scrace David Shaw * Andrew Steen Matthew Street Sandra Timms Neil Waller	Deputy Mayor Town Mayor (Wealden District Council)
Also present	Cllrs	David Larkin Philippa Hewes Maura Wojciechowski 30 members of the public 1 member of the press	Wealden District Council Town Clerk Crowborough Town Council

* *Denotes non attendance*

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A member of the public provided a report detailing a number of businesses that had closed and the sites used for housing.

APOLOGIES

Beverley Johnstone	Crowborough Town Council
David Shaw	Crowborough Town Council
Di Phillips	Wealden District Council
Richard Stogdon	East Sussex County Council
Sylvia Tidy	East Sussex County Council
Canon Andrew Cornes	

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Michael Cooke declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Pine Grove as the Council's representative and Director of the Crowborough Community Association and as a Council representative on the Community Hub Working Group CIC.

Cllr Ron Reed declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Pine Grove as a Council representative on the Community Hub Working Group CIC.

MINUTES

To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2015 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

- 7381** **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held 13th January 2015 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

A proposal to exclude the press and the public due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted was not carried.

Cllr Quentin Burch gave a general statement on the proposal to create an enterprise centre and community hub at the former council offices in Pine Grove.

- 7382** **RESOLVED** that this Council excludes the public and press from this meeting on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. This is in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 section 1.

It was agreed to allow a short session of public participation before the exclusion. There were a number of questions and representations regarding land ownership, the site at Hookstead, and the current planning application for the offices at Pine Grove which has been recommended for approval. As the Lottery provided a grant for the Community Centre, it has been notified of the proposal for an extra care scheme at Pine Grove.

Members of the public and press left the meeting 7.55pm.

PINE GROVE

To consider the Feasibility Study to create an Enterprise Centre and Community Hub at the former Wealden District Council Offices, Pine Grove.

There was a call for all further voting in the meeting to be recorded.

Cllr Quentin Burch was thanked for the considerable work that he has undertaken on the Feasibility Study. There was a lengthy discussion on the Feasibility Study and the business opportunity to create an enterprise centre and community hub. A loan would be required to finance the project. A requirement of borrowing approval is transparency with residents, including evidence of a thorough consultation.

Cllr Ron Reed passed the chair to the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Kay Moss.

- 7383** **RESOLVED** to make an offer for the Pine Grove offices and car park (Lot 2), the transfer of the freehold of the Crowborough Community Centre and the freehold of Bluebell Wood.

FOR: Cllrs Paul Adams, Quentin Burch, Peter Cowie, Elizabeth Fermor, Philip Fermor, Wendy Scrace, Andrew Steen, Matthew Street, Sandra Timms, Neil Waller (10)

AGAINST: Cllrs George Moss, Kay Moss (2)

Cllrs Michael Cooke and Ron Reed were not eligible to vote.

7384 **RESOLVED** to make an offer for the amount quoted on page 5 of the Feasibility Study Rev D, for the Pine Grove offices and car park (Lot 2), the transfer of the freehold of the Crowborough Community Centre and the freehold of Bluebell Wood.

FOR: Cllrs Paul Adams, Quentin Burch, Peter Cowie, Elizabeth Fermor, Philip Fermor, Wendy Scrace, Andrew Steen, Matthew Street, Sandra Timms, Neil Waller (10)

AGAINST: Cllrs George Moss, Kay Moss (2)

Cllrs Michael Cooke and Ron Reed were not eligible to vote.

The chair was passed back to Cllr Ron Reed.

The confidential section concluded at 8.45pm and the meeting was opened to the press and public.

To undertake a consultation with the residents of Crowborough

A consultation is required to find out if there is support from the residents of Crowborough for the Pine Grove project. Some Cllrs were concerned that the precept will need to be increased to cover the repayment of the loan for the project, before the public consultation has been conducted.

At the recent public meeting there was support for retaining the Pine Grove office building for commercial/community use. It was recognised that the people attending the meeting may not be representative of Crowborough as a whole and that a fair consultation would need to be conducted. This may include information on the website, notice boards and in the press, distributing information to households and a series of public meetings at venues around the town.

To raise the capital investment through a loan from the Public Works Loan Board to be funded by an increase in Council Tax

7385 **RESOLVED** to apply for a loan of £2,650,000 for the Pine Grove project through the Public Works Loan Board.

FOR: Cllrs Paul Adams, Quentin Burch, Peter Cowie, Elizabeth Fermor, Philip Fermor, Wendy Scrace, Andrew Steen, Matthew Street, Sandra Timms, Neil Waller (10)

AGAINST: Cllr Kay Moss (1)

Cllr George Moss abstained.

Cllrs Michael Cooke and Ron Reed were not eligible to vote.

To apply for grant funding

It was agreed to explore funding opportunities for the Pine Grove project.

TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2015/16

7386 **RESOLVED** to increase the Band D Council Tax by 18.06% to £151.56, and to approve a budget of £1,291,659 to be funded by a precept of £1,245,005 and a Council Tax Support Grant.

FOR: Cllrs Paul Adams, Quentin Burch, Michael Cooke, Peter Cowie, Elizabeth Fermor, Philip Fermor, Ron Reed, Wendy Scrace, Andrew Steen, Matthew Street, Sandra Timms, Neil Waller (12)

AGAINST: Cllrs George Moss, Kay Moss (2)

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

CROWBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Summary budget	2015/16
Cost centre/committee	
Finance & General Purposes	
101 Corporate Management	19900
102 Democratic Representation	25500
105 Central support/admin	212500
106 Central support/personnel	2500
107 Central support Town Hall	24200
109 Operating costs/loans	145620
Less interest received	-10000
less capital/interest received	-4800
115 Other services/grant	57715
309 Civic & Community Centre	7000
less toilet scheme	-600
Contingency	13071
Loan - Pine Grove	170600
	663206
Sport, Recreation & Cemetery	
301 Grounds maintenance	313600
less income/miscellaneous	
310 Whitehill Centre	9600
less hire of hall	-7500
311 Wolfe Recreation Ground	31200
less income Wolfe	-14827
312 Goldsmiths Rec Ground	32500
less income Goldsmiths	-20000
313 Alderbrook Rec Ground	3500
less income Alderbrook	-720
314 Jarvis Brook Rec Ground	2100
315 Limekiln Rec Ground	3000
less income Limekiln	-5800
316 Goldsmiths changing rooms	50000
390 capital projects	28600
401 Silver Jubilee Rec Ground	200
402 Other areas + open spaces	12700
less income other areas	-1700
410 Allotments	5500
less income allotments	-9000
601 Cemetery	15950
less income cemetery	-27000
	421903
Communications & Events	
305 Communications & Events	59450
less income	-900
	58550
Environment	
801 Environment	104650
less income poster boards	-800
802 Environmental projects	26650
	130500
Planning & Development	
701 Planning & Development	17500
TOTAL	1291659