

Minutes of a meeting of **CROWBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at 7.30pm

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Present	Councillors	Quentin Burch*	Deputy Mayor
		Peter Ellefsen	
		Martyn Garrett	
		Richard Jury	
		David Larkin	
		George Moss	
		Chris Moss	
		Kay Moss	(Also WDC)
		David Neeves	
		Alan Penney*	
		Ron Reed	Mayor (Also WDC)
		Greg Rose	(Also WDC)
		Wendy Scrace	
		Matthew Street	
		Sandra Timms	
		Neil Waller	(Also WDC)
Also present		Cllr Richard Stogdon	ESCC
		Cllr Sylvia Tidy	ESCC
		Cllr Steve Isted	WDC
		Cllr Phillip Lunn	WDC
		Andy Beams	Town Clerk
		Amanda Negus	Committee Clerk

\*Denotes non attendance

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Mayor Ron Reed opened the meeting with a prayer.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

#### **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Quentin Burch  
Cllr Alan Penney  
Rev. Steve Rees

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Chris Moss declared a personal interest in the disposal of the old CCA Hall as one of the agents who have tendered is an acquaintance of his.

Cllr Matthew Street declared a personal interest in Pine Grove as he is the Council Representative on the Crowborough Festival Organising Committee.

#### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**8008 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

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

The Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Engagements

Noted.

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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

Sport, Recreation and Cemetery – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**8009 RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Sport, Recreation and Cemetery Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Planning and Development – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017

**8010 RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017.

Environment – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017

**8011 RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Environment Committee meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

Personnel – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017

**8012 RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

Sport, Recreation and Cemetery – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**8013 RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Sport, Recreation and Cemetery Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

Planning and Development – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**8014 RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

Communications and Events – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**8015 RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Communications and Events Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

Personnel – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017

**8016 RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017.

Planning and Development – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**8017 RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Finance and General Purposes – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**8018 RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Concern was raised about the increase of deliberately started fires and anti-social behaviour since the loss of PCSO's. East Sussex Safety Committee should be following up on this issue at their next meeting, Cllr Sylvia Tidy will report back to CTC accordingly.

WDC are reviewing recycling bin requirements and the paper and cardboard recycling bin may be removed from Jarvis Brook which would remove the fuel used for some of the fires.

At the East Sussex Association of Local Councils Spring Conference Katy Bourne; Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner continued to encourage local Councils to employ a community warden.

It was **Agreed** to write to Emma Brice; Sussex Police District Commander and Katy Bourne; Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner about patrols. Action Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk was asked to follow up on the Visioning Document in regard to qualifying for the increased CIL payments.

It was asked if the Crowborough Town Conference could be moved to a more prominent position on the front page of CTC's website and include information that Kelvin Williams of Wealden District Council Planning Department will be speaking. Action Customer Services.

**TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF MEMBERS**

Cllr Kay Moss reported that Nus Ghani; Wealden MP was very supportive when she met with the Youth Council.

Cllr Peter Ellefsen reported that the Citizens Advice Bureau were very pleased with CTC's stringent reporting systems.

**TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Wealden District Cllr Greg Rose provided a comprehensive report. See attached.

East Sussex County Cllr Richard Stogdon reported that Highways will be reviewing the Crowborough Cross traffic lights with consultants.

East Sussex County Cllr Sylvia Tidy reported an additional £22million has been obtained for adult social care, which will be useful for making up some of the shortfall in budget cuts towards Clinical Commissioning Groups.

## **BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES**

To note Town Clerk's report and submission deadline for comments

The aim of the boundary review was to have the same number of voters within each constituency. Crowborough has become part of the High Weald Constituency with approx. 72,000 voters. Overall the number of MP's will be reduced by 50.

### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

To adopt revised Financial Regulations from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee

- 8019 RESOLVED** To adopt revised Financial Regulations from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee

To consider the proposal for all Councillors to be cheque signatories

- 8020 RESOLVED** to permit all Councillors to become cheque signatories, although Councillors could opt out if they chose to.

### **PENSIONS**

- 8021 RESOLVED** to include Sara Mitchell in the Local Government Pension Scheme as operated by East Sussex County Council on behalf of Crowborough Town Council.

## **TO AUTHORISE THE SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

### **Grants of Exclusive Burial Right**

- 8022 RESOLVED** to authorise the following grants of exclusive right of burial:

<b>Certificate</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Grave space</b>
1021	Carol WICKHAM	GRH107 and GRH108
1022	Angela BRISTOW	GRH109 and GRH110
1023	Sheila SMITH	133
1024	Mary BROWN	1533

### **WARDEN WORKING GROUP**

Cllr Greg Rose provided an update from the Warden Working Group (WWG). Katy Bourne; Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner has advised the direct funding scheme has now closed and the best way to achieve funding is via the grant scheme. The application paperwork has been requested.

£60,000 is allocated to the provision of a Warden in the CTC budget, so a Warden can be funded for 2 years. Transport for the Warden will also need to be looked at. The WWG will bring information, including a list of the Warden's powers following the 6 month training period to the Town Conference and a proposal to Full Council.

### **SECTION 106**

To note Town Clerk's report and agree any required actions

The time limits for the different payments vary according to assorted trigger points for each development.

Playspace Onsite: These amounts are available if CTC accept permanent responsibility for the play areas.

Playspace Offsite – Available: These amounts are available to CTC if the money is used for facility development within the neighbourhood of the residential development listed.

Playspace Offsite – Received: These amounts have been received, some of which have been used with remainders shown in CTC's accounts.

It was **Agreed** to discuss in more detail at the next Sports, Recreation and Cemetery Committee meeting, once the Town Clerk has checked some of the information provided by WDC:

- Rose Cottage, Blackness Road: it is believed this money was used in the Wolfe Recreation Ground.
- Palesgate Lane land: it is believed 106 monies were used to buy this land.
- Bethany, Green Lane: It was suggested to use towards equipment at the Silver Jubilee park and for outdoor gym equipment at Goldsmiths.
- Gorsedene, Goldsmiths Avenue: It was suggested to use towards a new running track at Goldsmiths.

It was reported that ESCC are looking to provide new crossings in the Town using Local Sustainability Accessibility Improvement Contribution monies.

### **DISPOSAL OF OLD COMMUNITY HALL, PARK ROAD**

To agree and appoint agent to manage the process

The pros and cons of each disposal method and tender were discussed and it was

**8023 RESOLVED** to appoint Wood and Pilcher to manage the sale of the old CCA Hall, Park Road.

**8024 RESOLVED** pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and they were asked to leave.

All District and County Councillors left the meeting at 8.24pm.

### **PINE GROVE**

To receive an update from the working group

Cllr George Moss provided an update from the working group and all aspects were thoroughly discussed. It was

**8025 RESOLVED** to allow Crowborough Festival to use the Atrium at Pine Grove for their Historical Exhibition subject to them accepting liability for their exhibits due to this area being unlocked with public access, and to allow use of the car park for their Vintage Market on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May as a one off event. Evidence of Public Liability Insurance to be provided.

To decide on ESCC Incubation Fund offer

**8026 RESOLVED** to advise ESCC of CTC's intention to accept the Incubator Grant offer on the deadline day of 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017, to enable maximum time to be in best position to start match funding spending once 60 day deadline has been triggered. Action Town Clerk.

### **URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING**

Mayor Ron Reed looks forward to seeing as many people as possible at the Town Conference on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

## Report by Wealden District Cllr Greg Rose

### Local Plan

The draft local plan has been published and I'm sure you have all had time to look at it's 600 pages. It details the new development boundary for Crowborough and says that there is no additional housing numbers, other than those already given permission and which were deemed to be offset by the SANG. Although this excludes Brownfield and smaller infill / windfall developments. But in areas such as the Warren and Walshes road the new development boundary has been drawn closely around current housing to stop windfall sites.

The number of new homes across Wealden to be included in the draft Proposed Submission Wealden Local Plan will be 11,456. As 7,392 of these have already been built or granted planning permission since 2013, the total number of new homes to be built by the end of the 2028 will be 4,064.

The Draft Proposed Submission Document has been produced against a background of increasing evidence that high levels of development could potentially harm the Ashdown Forest. Alongside this the Council recognises that, in producing a Local Plan, it has to balance economic and housing growth with a need to protect and enhance the environment, including the Council's legal duty to protect specially designated sites in the Ashdown Forest and Pevensy Levels.

The evidence of the levels of nitrogen deposition that has emerged since November has resulted in a need to model lower housing numbers alongside a shorter plan period. The work to undertake this modelling, analyse the findings and produce a plan which balances growth with environmental protection has been a complex and time consuming task.

The draft local plan document is being taken to full council tomorrow for extra scrutiny and then will be adopted at a later stage once some final background reports such as Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitat Regulations Assessment are completed to make the plan robust.

### Pine Grove Lot # 1

Directly from Roy Galleys report - The disposal of this site is on course. The CCA triggered a Community Right to Bid and they have until early May to submit one. Completion with Abbey Homes is subject to this being resolved.

### Walshes Park

Will open in the spring, the majority of paths are now in place and it's look like it will be a great asset to crowborough. Wealden are inviting tenders from companies looking to manage the site for them, and I will be bringing it to the Environment committee next week to see if the town council would like to bid for it.

### Benefits

Universal Credit roll out to local Job Centres by postcodes are Bexhill - July 2017, Eastbourne - October 2017, and Tunbridge Wells - September 2018. Wealden District

Council (WDC) officers are meeting with DWP (also in liaison with Rother District Council and Lewes District Council) to agree strategy. Excluded from Universal Credit are pensioners, those in supported housing, and large families (3+ children).

## Policing

Community Safety Sussex Police crime data reveals that there has been an 8.5% increase in reported crime for the rolling year to the end of February 2017 when compared with the previous year. There were 5,226 crimes reported from March 2016 to the end of February 2017. However Wealden still remains the district in East Sussex with the lowest crime rate. We also have a new Sussex Police District Commander, Chief Inspector Emma Brice took up her post on Monday 6th March replacing Rob Leet. As well as Wealden she also will be responsible for the Eastbourne and Lewes Policing areas.

Sussex Police's approach to keeping people safe and reducing crime has been judged by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to require improvement. It is one of 13 forces in England and Wales to receive this overall judgment. I can share links with you to the judgement and the polices response if members wish to read these.

## My Alerts

The 'My Alerts' service continues to be well received, with continuing good engagement levels. Current subscribers to the service stands at 27,190 – up from 26,656 since January. The service continues to deliver a range of key information about community focussed activities and news.

And finally The next kids, Fun & Safety Day is taking place in Crowborough on 12<sup>th</sup> April at the bowles activity centre.