

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of **CROWBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL** held in the
Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 29th August 2017 at 7.30pm

Present	Councillors	Quentin Burch	
		Peter Ellefsen	Mayor
		Martyn Garrett	Deputy Mayor
		Richard Jury	
		David Larkin	
		George Moss	
		Chris Moss	
		Kay Moss	(Also WDC)
		David Neeves	
		Alan Penney	
		Ron Reed *	(Also WDC)
		Greg Rose	(Also WDC)
		Wendy Scrace	
		Matthew Street	
		Sandra Timms	
Neil Waller	(Also WDC)		
Also present		Andy Beams	Town Clerk
		10 members of the public	

*Denotes non attendance

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public spoke to reaffirm the continuing support of the local business community, through the Chamber of Commerce, for the Business Enterprise Hub, and that if the project did not go forward, it would leave poor provision in the area for small businesses.

Frustration was aired at the lack of communication from the Town Council over progress with the project, although the public did acknowledge there was a degree of commercial sensitivity surrounding the contractual arrangements.

APOLOGIES

Cllr Ron Reed

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Peter Ellefsen declared a personal interest as he is the Town Council appointed Trustee and Director of the Crowborough Community Association.

Cllr David Larkin declared a personal interest as he is a Trustee and Director of the Crowborough Community Association.

Cllr Peter Ellefsen outlined the objectives for the meeting, and expressed his aim that the meeting be held in public session as far as possible. This placed restrictions on Members from discussing some of the specific details and figures included in the Town Clerk's confidential report and other background papers circulated for the meeting.

Cllr Kay Moss requested a recorded vote for all decisions made at the meeting.

TO CONSIDER THE CONFIDENTIAL OFFICER REPORT AND SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO PINE GROVE AND ADDRESS THE REQUIRED DECISIONS

Cllr George Moss gave an overview for Members of the current position in support of the Town Clerk's report, and gave further background as to the changes from previous reports to Full Council.

It was explained that as the design had been developed, the costs had increased from the initial projections. The latest cost report was based on detailed surveys and was felt by members of the Pine Grove Working Group to represent the most accurate projections available.

The Working Group had assessed potential value engineering solutions to reduce the cost. Some savings had been identified, although there was an acceptance that there were some areas where making cuts would not be beneficial to the long term aims of the project.

Cllr George Moss was thanked for his work in leading the Working Group and for his time in assessing the technical building aspects of the project.

The Town Council had already secured funding through a PWLB loan and from ESCC by way of a loan and grant, but there was now an identified shortfall needed to complete the project.

The Town Clerk's report illustrated seven different options, or combinations thereof, which could be used to fund the shortfall if the project was to go ahead.

The report concluded with decisions that were needed by the Council, and Members debated the reports contents and options for funding.

After discussion, Members addressed the questions raised in the report.

In response to the first question 'will the Council commit to continuing with the Basepoint project knowing the increased costs?' a recorded vote declared:

FOR: Cllrs Quentin Burch, Peter Ellefsen, Martyn Garrett, Richard Jury, David Larkin, George Moss, Chris Moss, Alan Penney, Wendy Scrace, Matthew Street, Sandra Timms, and Neil Waller (12)

AGAINST: Cllrs Kay Moss, David Neeves and Greg Rose (3)

It was therefore

- 8179** **RESOLVED** to commit to continuing with the Basepoint project knowing the increased costs

In response to the supplementary question ‘how will the funding shortfall be sourced?’ two proposals were made.

The first proposal is to use the funds held in reserve for Pine Grove and the unspent Pine Grove PWLB budget for the current financial year to cover the majority of the shortfall, with the remaining balance to come from an unspecified future budget item. The recorded vote declared:

FOR: Cllrs George Moss, Kay Moss, David Neeves and Sandra Timms (4)

AGAINST: Cllrs Quentin Burch, Peter Ellefsen, Martyn Garrett, David Larkin, Chris Moss, Greg Rose, Wendy Scrace, Matthew Street and Neil Waller (9)

ABSTAINED: Cllrs Richard Jury and Alan Penney (2)

The second proposal is to use the funds held in reserve for Pine Grove, the unspent Pine Grove PWLB budget for the current financial year and the general reserve to cover the remaining shortfall. The recorded vote declared:

FOR: Cllrs Quentin Burch, Peter Ellefsen, Richard Jury, David Larkin, Chris Moss, Alan Penney, Wendy Scrace, Matthew Street and Neil Waller (9)

AGAINST: Cllrs George Moss, Kay Moss, David Neeves, Greg Rose and Sandra Timms (5)

ABSTAINED: Cllr Martyn Garrett (1)

It was therefore

- 8180** **RESOLVED** to proceed with the second proposal, namely to use the funds held in reserve for Pine Grove, the unspent Pine Grove PWLB budget for the current financial year and the general reserve to cover the remaining shortfall.

URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING

Cllr Kay Moss asked for the matter of prayers at Full Council meetings to be on the next agenda. Cllr Peter Ellefsen confirmed it would be an item for discussion.

Cllr David Larkin commended the Mayor for the manner in which the meeting had been conducted to allow the public to hear the discussion in full.

Cllr George Moss questioned if further decisions were needed now at this meeting. After a brief consultation with Cllr Peter Ellefsen, it was concluded that the agenda items and required decisions for the meeting had been completed.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.