

Minutes of a meeting of **CROWBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL** held in the
Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 20th March 2018 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		Cllr Richard Stogdon	ESCC (from 7.40pm)
		Cllr Sylvia Tidy	ESCC
		Caroline Miles	Deputy Town Clerk
		Amanda Negus	Committee Clerk
		2 members of the public	

*Denotes non attendance

Cllr Ron Reid opened the meeting with a prayer.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Russell Wakefield, Secretary of the Crowborough Community Association spoke. They are operating on a fairly narrow margin and don't make a significant profit. The surplus funds have been reviewed because of the significant risk of development of the Mead House car park. If the development goes ahead and the car park is lost they expect to lose a lot of the large bookings that currently keep the hall running. 40% of their income comes from these large events. If only a few of the large events are lost the narrow profit margin will become a narrow negative margin, which isn't sustainable for the charity.

Clive Wilson, a Director of the Crowborough Community Association advised that the day before 17 separate groups had used the centre. On average 10 groups are going through the centre in a day. It is very busy during the day as well as in the evening. A survey is being carried out and of the 1,000 surveys returned in less than 1 week it shows only 1% of centre users walk to the centre, 8% were passengers in cars and 91% were car drivers.

APOLOGIES

Cllr Peter Ellefsen

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES

Minutes of the meetings held on the 23rd January and 20th February 2018

- 8336 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meetings held on 23rd January and 20th February 2018 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

CROWBOROUGH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

To note the confidential report and subsequent documentation (attached to agenda)

Cllr Martyn Garrett advised that the planning application for the Mead House car park beside the Community Centre had been seen by the Planning and Development Committee at the meeting last night and once again they had recommended its refusal.

The reports were noted.

A member of the public left the meeting at 7.42pm

TO RECEIVE REPORT OF TOWN CLERK – DWP / XMAS TREE (attached to agenda)

The DWP IT team have to check firewalls, systems and security to ensure they are adequate for an outreach centre. Cllr Kay Moss advised because of this there may be a more suitable location to the Town Hall and she will update in due course.

The Christmas tree vandalism case has now been closed as the Police were unable to identify the culprits.

Cllr Richard Stogdon arrived at the meeting at 7.40pm.

TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF MEMBERS

None.

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Wealden District Councillors Reports:

Cllr Kay Moss reiterated that the recent water supply problems were the responsibility of South East Water, but asked for any feedback of issues that could be used to improve any similar situation in the future.

Recycling is improving with Wealden now ranked 62 out 350 local authorities.

The Wealden Local Plan update has been distributed and the Draft Plan is expected to be published by mid-June.

South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB) have moved into their new office in Crawley. The service is improving although it is still rated as inadequate. They find it hard to recruit and retain call centre staff because of the low pay scale. They are looking at reducing the use of ambulance cars and increasing the use of actual ambulances.

Unemployment in Wealden is down to 2.9%.

There has been an increase in Wealden road deaths. Safe Drive, Stay Alive is a road safety project aimed at new and young drivers.

Visitors to the Wealden District Council website have increased and telephone calls received have decreased.

www.healthywealden.co.uk is a website aimed at health, fitness and well-being. It has useful links to other health orientated websites.

Fun & Safety Day at Crowborough fire station will be on the 5th April 10am – 1pm

The Walshes Park opening ceremony and fun day is to be held on the 14th April from 12.30pm

East Sussex County Councillors Reports:

Cllr Sylvia Tidy advised it was World Social Worker Day. She praised the work of Social Workers saying how much training was undertaken and all the skills that they needed. It is their work that gets ESCC the high Ofsted results. Moving forward the budget reduction will cause more difficulties.

Cllr Richard Stogdon advised the Household Waste Sites consultation is now underway and ends on 15th May 2018. Wadhurst and Forest Row sites may close. Crowborough is currently unaffected. There is already a great deal of fly tipping on Ashdown Forest and there is concern that this will increase if Forest Row waste site closes.

In answer to Cllr Matthew Streets question, Cllr Richard Stogdon confirmed that there are set time frames in which pot holes were required to be repaired dependent on size and depth.

TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr George Moss advised that there were only 3 members present at last night's Planning and Development meeting, so it was only just quorate. There were 2 major applications and several applications with public interests. Cllr Martyn Garrett additionally commented that if any interests had been declared in a given application by members the application would not have been able to be considered. Appointing substitute members to the committee needs to be considered at the Annual Statutory Meeting in May.

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 (attached to agenda)

Noted.

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Martyn Garrett added that he attended the Lions Charter evening since the agenda was sent out and he had thanked them for their help with the charity collections on firework night.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Environment – 28th November 2017

The acts and proceedings of the Environment Committee meeting held on 28th November 2017 were received.

Finance & General Purposes – 9th January 2018

The acts and proceedings of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 9th January 2017 were received.

Planning and Development – 15th January, 5th February & 26th February 2018

The acts and proceedings of the Planning and Development Committee meetings held on 15th January, 5th February & 26th February 2018 were received.

Sport, Recreation & Cemetery – 5th December 2017

The acts and proceedings of the Sport, Recreation & Cemetery Committee meeting held on 5th December 2017 were received.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS

To approve the recommended 2018/19 budget that was previously agreed on the 9th January 2018 at the Finance and General Purposes committee meeting

- 8337 RESOLVED** to approve the 2018/19 budget that was previously agreed on the 9th January 2018 at the Finance and General Purposes committee meeting

FINANCIAL MATTERS

To note payments for period 17th January to 14th March 2018 inclusive (attached to agenda)

Noted.

To review decision to defer repayment of PWLB loans

- 8338 RESOLVED** to review the deferred repayment of PWLB loans at the next Full Council meeting.

TO AUTHORISE THE SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Grants of Exclusive Burial Right

- 8339 RESOLVED** to authorise the following grants of exclusive right of burial:

Certificate	Name	Grave space
1038	Christine CHIKKI	3606
1039	Susan SADD	GRH117 and GRH118
1040	June SHERIDAN-WHITE	GRH119 and GRH120
1041	Ruth Eleanor LAWRENCE	3586
1042	Christine WILSON	GRH121 and GRH122
1043	Juliette WILSON	3566
1044	David WYLD	3546
1045	Malcolm MINNS	3526
1046	Michael Desmond FITT and Christopher John FITT	1479
1048	Paul Owen WHEATLEY	3507

TWINNING GRANT

To note recommendation from C & E committee and decide appropriate action

No recommendation received, so no action required.

C & E ITEMS

To review reports on items deferred from cancelled C & E meeting and agree actions (attached to agenda)

Armed Forces Day – This is a Crowborough Town Council event organised by the Royal British Legion (RBL). The RBL would like to close Croft Road on the 30th June between 11.30am – 1.00pm.

Members discussed their support for this event, but felt it would be detrimental to local businesses as this would be the second closure of the road in June following the Crowborough Fun Day. It was therefore

- 8340 RESOLVED** to not apply for the road closure, but to have further discussions with the RBL for future years, possibly looking at other locations.

Town Conference – Wednesday 25th April 2018 at the United Church. The Town Conference is a Crowborough Town meeting for residents and not a Council meeting. The Deputy Clerk suggested having 'surgery tables' prior to the Conference so residents can ask Cllrs questions individually. This would include ESCC and WDC Cllrs.

There will be a few stalls to advertise local organisations in the entranceway. Crowborough Festival have asked to be one of these subject to available space.

- 8341 RESOLVED** to change to the new 'surgery table' format as recommended by the Deputy Clerk.

PINE GROVE

To note the verbal report from the Chairman of the PGWP regarding the additional fees incurred by MacConvilles and agree action

The Pine Grove Project Managers MacConvilles have incurred additional costs because of the protracted time scale of the project and the extra efforts involved. They have proposed a considerably reduced charge of £14,500. The additional charge was agreed to be reasonable and it was

- 8342 RESOLVED** to pay MacConvilles the additional amount of £14,500.

- 8343 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.

Cllrs Richard Stogdon and Sylvia Tidy and 1 member of the public left the meeting at 8.24pm.

To receive an update from the Pine Grove Working Group and agree any actions

Due to a confidential Personnel committee matter it was deemed inappropriate to discuss any Pine Grove matter.

To approve the recommendation of the Personnel committee to engage temporary support as necessary

Cllr Kay Moss suggested having a main point of contact at the Town Hall for Members during the Deputy Clerk's forthcoming annual leave.

- 8344** **RESOLVED** to appoint RBS for assistance with accounts if and as necessary. The power to make this decision was delegated to Cllrs Quentin Burch, Kay Moss and Greg Rose.
- 8345** **RESOLVED** to appoint temporary staff and pay additional overtime to existing staff if and as necessary. The power to make this decision was delegated to Cllrs Quentin Burch, Kay Moss and Greg Rose.

URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING

None.

The meeting closed at 8.32pm.