

Minutes of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT** Committee held at the Town Hall,
The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 26th July 2016 at 7.30 pm

Present	Councillors	Margaret Brain Quentin Burch Martyn Garrett Kay Moss David Neeves Alan Penney Ronald Reed Greg Rose Wendy Scrace Matthew Street * Sandra Timms	Vice Chairman Chairman
Also present		John Coleman Cllr Richard Stogdon (7.32pm) Linda Butcher Susan Ellefsen	Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Comm. East Sussex County Council Town Clerk Operations Administrator

* *Denotes non attendance*

APOLOGIES

Cllr Matthew Street – personal commitment

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES

Minutes – 24th May 2016

7809 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2016 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

Matters Outstanding (including reports on updates)

Community Match funding for parking schemes (7639)

The application process remains on hold. Cllr Stogdon is investigating. NOTED

Proposal for creating a Pocket Park Nature Reserve (7696)

Cllr Stogdon recently attended a site meeting with ESCC representatives and will report on future developments. NOTED.

40mph limit B2100 Jarvis Brook

No public objections were received during the consultation period and the extent of the 40mph limit has been agreed with Sussex Police. If, as the Town Council has previously requested, the 30mph zone is extended to cover Sybron Way, the proposed 40mph zone will be reduced to 300 yards, which is not considered appropriate by Highways. The Town Council is being asked if it wishes to withdraw its objection.

- 7810** **RESOLVED** that the Town Council reaffirms its objection and further suggests that the current 30mph zone is extended up to the 60mph zone, thus cutting out the 40mph zone altogether.

RAILWAY REPORT

In addition to his written report, John Coleman informed the Committee that there was currently one ten-car train being run during each rush hour period on the Uckfield line, but that punctuality for all trains was poor. Problems continue with the service due to a driver shortage due to the holiday period, and disruption caused by industrial relations and engineering problems attributed to both new stock and Network Rail. It is possible that Transport for London may take over inner suburban services but, if so, it will increase the difficulty of timetabling trains into London. Brighton Crowborough has taken over responsibility for maintaining the flower beds outside Crowborough station. Arriva have withdrawn their bus service in Crowborough but Seaford & District will be taking over and have published a provisional timetable. A circular bus route via Whitehill will be reinstated and trains will be met, with a 5-10 minute holding time in case of late running trains.

John Coleman was thanked for his diligent report.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**Dog Waste Bins**

WDC is consulting on new proposals for provision and emptying of dog waste and litter bins. It has been calculated that the new proposal will result in a slightly lower cost for emptying dog waste bins per year.

It was **AGREED** to further discuss the location of bins at the next meeting with a view to establishing a priority list of requests for new bin locations.

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would investigate the possibility of employing a local contractor to supply and empty dog waste bins in the longer term.

- 7811** **RESOLVED** to accept WDC's proposed charges for the provision and emptying of dog waste bins and commit to a one-year contract.

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would request more information on the options for litter bins for discussion at the next meeting.

I Care for Crowborough – report on the event

Cllr Maggie Brain reported that this year's event had been most successful, particularly because it had been held shortly after Sussex Day, at which leaflets had been handed out. This had resulted in five additional volunteers, some of whom may become involved longer term with Brighter Crowborough. The event will be repeated next year along similar lines. Cllr Brain agreed to spearhead the event and the Chairman thanked her and the working party for their input.

The grounds staff were congratulated on their planting in the town, particularly the hanging basket trees at Clokes Corner. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would look into the possibility of Crowborough entering a future competition such as Britain in Bloom.

Ponies on Town Council land

The price of having the ponies has risen, so it has been agreed that three ponies instead of five will be supplied this year, although there is as yet no date for their arrival. NOTED

Ghyll land purchase update

Overage has now been agreed and the Council's solicitor is moving ahead as quickly as possible. NOTED

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**Wealdlink Report – January-May 2016**

In addition to the previously circulated written report, Cllr Greg Rose emphasised Wealdlink's need for two additional volunteer drivers and the new 'Take the Bus for a Walk' service. The latter is a hop on, hop off service across the Ashdown Forest, which enables people to go for walks without taking a car.

Community Speed Watch

Equipment is available for groups to borrow but it is difficult to persuade people to get involved.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Rose would write an article for the next Town Council Newsletter to encourage people to volunteer.

CH2M Highways, planned maintenance

CH2M has refused to provide highways planned maintenance reports despite requests. An interactive website is available only. Western Road and part of Eridge Road have been repaired and work to London Road and Church Road is due in about nine months' time.

With regard to replacement fingerposts, even if they are installed at exactly the same point as previously, a charge will be made by CH2M for a plan of adjacent services. It is now a fundamental requirement before any ground works take place that plans of underground services are obtained and consulted.

Palesgate Lane ford

Cllr David Neeves circulated a report on the recent heavy rainfall resulting in a car becoming flooded and stuck in the ford. Warning signage is poor on both sides of the ford. Cllr Stogdon agreed to raise the issue of signage with ESCC.

Crowborough Cross Safety Barriers

A resident has requested that safety barriers are erected at Clokes Corner for elderly residents to hold onto while waiting to cross the road. Councillors considered that this may create a crushing danger for cyclists at the junction.

It was **AGREED** that the resident should be invited to provide more details of what is required and why, in order that the request can be considered more fully by Councillors.

Street Lighting – Structural Testing 2016

East Sussex Highways have notified the Town Council of the need to structurally test 22 lighting columns over 20years old as part of a rolling six year programme.

7812 **RESOLVED** to proceed with structural testing of 22 lighting columns at a cost of £280 + VAT.

CONSULTATION ON COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS STRATEGY

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would make a formal response on behalf of the Town Council, asking for specific information as to how the new policy would affect footpaths in Crowborough.

CROWBOROUGH'S NATURAL HABITATS

To review Ranger's report of tasks completed against Management Plans and other work

It was **AGREED** that the Chairman would consult the Ranger as to his views on increasing the attractiveness and usefulness of the Bluebell Wood. Ideas suggested by Councillors included the introduction of wooden fitness equipment and the creation of a picnic area. The Ranger will also be consulted on his plans for future educational events in conjunction with local schools. Bluebell Wood will be placed on the next Environment agenda.

FINANCE

Management Account Reports to 31st May and 30th June 2016

7813 **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Account Reports to 31st May and 30th June 2016.

There was a query about litter bin provision being on the Environment committee budget but emptying being on the SRC committee budget. This anomaly will be investigated.

9pm – John Coleman left the meeting.

URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND/OR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

The Chairman notified the Committee of an imminent planning application for housing on the Jordan's Nursery site. This will be discussed at the next meeting with regard to the three-year contract between Jordan's and the Town Council, which is only in its first year.

The meeting closed at 9.02pm.