

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment** Committee held in the  
Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.30pm

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Present	Councillors	Quentin Burch*	
		Martyn Garrett	
		Chris Moss	
		Kay Moss	
		David Neeves	
		Alan Penney	
		Ron Reed	
		Greg Rose	Chairman
		Wendy Scrace	
		Matthew Street	
		Sandra Timms	Vice – Chairman
Also present		Cllr Peter Ellefsen	Crowborough Town Council
		Cllr Richard Stogdon	East Sussex County Council
		Cllr Sylvia Tidy	East Sussex County Council
		John Coleman	Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee
		Andy Beams	Town Clerk
		Amanda Negus	Committee Clerk
		Dan Colborne	Ranger

\*Denotes non attendance

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## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

## **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Quentin Burch

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Kay Moss, Greg Rose and Ron Reed declared an interest in the SANGS item as they are also Wealden District Councillors.

## **MINUTES**

### Minutes of the meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017

**8030 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

### Review of outstanding actions (attached to agenda)

- The Tree Inspection Policy is being worked on by the Head Groundsman and will be ready for the next meeting.
- Cllr Martyn Garrett advised the street light in Charity Farm Way is now working and thanked Cllr Richard Stogdon for his help.
- Cllr Greg Rose will follow up with Cllr Steve Isted in regard to the street light in the twitten between Medway and Bracken Close.

**RAILWAY REPORT** (attached to agenda)

John Coleman explained the key points of his report.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

To receive the report from the Ranger and agree any actions (attached to agenda)

The Ranger explained the key points of his report and answered questions from Members.

- Pocket Park – The ideal time to do the vegetation survey would be in May. The Heras fencing within the site will be removed once the site has been developed. The fencing along the footpath will be replaced with post and rail fencing and a native hedge. The only expense so far has been the dormice survey.
- Country Park – The Ranger is still waiting to hear back from WDC in regard to the overflow from the Tollwood Road development (18 houses have been approved). Cllr Greg Rose will follow this up. So far 140 toads and newts have been counted in the top pond and 240 toads and newts in the bottom pond. There are 3 more surveys to do.
- Bluebell Wood – The wildflower seeds that have been sown are native British wildflowers, good for wildlife and pollinators. The Ranger is waiting on advice regarding the declining Oak tree, it may need to be removed.

Guided bird and nature walks are being offered by the Crowborough Community Festival. The Ranger has also offered his services to the Festival for guided walks of CTC's parks.

To agree spending authority levels for budget lines under Ranger's control (attached to agenda)

All aspects of the proposal were thoroughly discussed and it was

- 8031 RESOLVED** to approve spending authority levels for the Ranger for works agreed within the management plan. Up to £500 without prior authorisation where funds are available within budget codes:

4402 – The Ghyll  
 4475 – Country Park  
 4656 – Bluebell Wood  
 4962 – Pocket Park Nature Reserve

Amounts up to £1,500 require prior agreement from the Town Clerk and amounts above £1,500 need to be referred to the committee for approval.

There was a call for a recorded vote –

FOR: Cllrs Martyn Garrett, Chris Moss, Kay Moss, David Neeves, Alan Penney, Ron Reed, Greg Rose, Wendy Scrace, Matthew Street

AGAINST: Cllr Sandra Timms

## HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

### To receive any ESCC updates from Cllr Richard Stogden

Cllr Richard Stogden advised that [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) doesn't always integrate well with the ESCC Highways reporting system. The quickest way for problems to be resolved is to report them through <http://www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-problem>

### To receive update from yellow lines meeting held with ESCC (attached to agenda)

Cllr Kay Moss expressed her thanks to Kelly Burr; ESCC Highways for all her help.

Cllr Kay Moss explained the reasons behind each decision. Although CTC decided on 12 priorities they will still have to be consulted on.

Cllr Ron Reed believes the Crowborough Cross lights have been re-phased, as the pedestrian crossing time is shorter.

Cllr Kay Moss commented on what a good job has been done resurfacing London Road, but unfortunately the layby in front of the shops now needs sorting out, as the top layer of tarmac has been scraped off and left uneven.

## WORKING GROUPS

### To receive update from Community Warden Working Group and agree actions for Town Conference

As a community engagement exercise the Working Group would like to have a table at the Town Conference to enable them to garner key issues from the public and explain the powers the Warden will have once accredited.

### To receive update from South East in Bloom Working Group and agree any recommendations

2 categories are being entered: Town Centre and Country Park. Jordans talked to the Working Group about what planting they're doing. Wildlife friendly plants will be planted around the town. The judging route has been agreed, it just needs to be timed. (1½ hours for the Town Centre category). It is hoped Morrisons and Waitrose will take part.

## SANGS

A few weeks ago some trees were cut down on CTC land between Adam Close and Walshes Park without CTC's permission, or knowledge. The Clerk asked WDC to stop and do nothing further until a decision about this land had been made. It has since been discovered that more trees have now been cut down. The Clerk and Ranger have tried to contact WDC, but have not received a response.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act states it is not permitted to cut hedges and trees after February. There is concern that these actions by WDC on CTC land without prior knowledge, or permission by CTC are a criminal offence.

The Clerk will email WDC again prior to his meeting with WDC Department Heads next week.

It was **Agreed** to defer the decision about handing back to WDC the land between Adam Close and Walshes Park until Full Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

## **I CARE FOR CROWBOROUGH**

### To receive update on actions taken

It was **Agreed** to set a meeting date and decide how to take this forward focusing on education.

Members of the public left the meeting at 9.04pm.

## **STREETS AHEAD PROJECT**

### To agree how to proceed with project

A £2,000 grant was received in 2015 from WDC to improve the High Street. Originally an Archway was chosen. The quotes now received are double this amount. The various options were discussed and it was

- 8032 RESOLVED** to go ahead with the Archway at the increased price and pay the additional amount from Earmarked Reserves for Environmental projects.

## **FINANCE**

### Management Accounts to 28<sup>TH</sup> February 2017

- 8033 RESOLVED** to adopt the management Accounts as presented.

The Clerk advised from 1<sup>st</sup> April the accounts will be presented in a new way so that individual entries will be itemised under each budget code. Each committee will get its own accounts presented in this way.

## **URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING and/or INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

A point was raised that Council bins may be being filled by litter pickers just after they've been emptied. The Clerk will ask the Head Groundsman to liaise with Brighter Crowborough to schedule (when possible) the emptying of Council bins after they have been filled by litter pickers.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm.