

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment** Committee held in the  
Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.30pm

---

Present	Councillors	Peter Ellefsen Martyn Garrett* Richard Jury Kay Moss David Neeves Alan Penney Ron Reed Greg Rose Wendy Scrace Matthew Street Sandra Timms	Vice – Chairman      Chairman
Also present		Andy Beams Amanda Negus John Coleman	Town Clerk Committee Clerk Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee
		2 members of the public	

\*Denotes non attendance

---

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

To review the resident petition regarding reducing the speed limit on Rannoch Road  
(attached to agenda)

A Rannoch Road resident spoke to the committee regarding his petition to reduce the speeds in his, and the 5 surrounding roads in the St. Johns area of Crowborough. Currently classed as rural roads in a residential area they have 60mph speed limits. The residents in this area would like to see the speed limits reduced as part of the national “20’s Plenty” campaign and if successful rolling the campaign out to all residential areas of the town. The reasoning behind the petition is for the environmental benefits of less emissions and pollution being situated so close to Ashdown Forest and for health and safety in residential streets where pedestrians are prevalent. Signage and legislation would need to be changed. Tunbridge Wells have successfully introduced a 20mph zone.

## **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Martyn Garrett  
Daniel Colborne - Ranger

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr David Neeves declared an interest as he is joint co-ordinator of Crowborough’s Community Speedwatch.  
Cllr Peter Ellefsen declared an interest as he is Chairman of the Western Road Residents Association.

## **MINUTES**

### Minutes of the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017

- 8201 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

Updated action list (attached to agenda)

Noted.

To review the resident petition regarding reducing the speed limit on Rannoch Road (attached to agenda)

Members discussed the 20's Plenty campaign suggested by the member of the public and for reasons of protecting the environment and making the town's roads a safer place to walk it was

- 8202 RESOLVED** to support a petition to ESCC Highways to change legislation to introduce 20mph speed limits in residential roads in Crowborough and to add to the business plan to pay for signage.

## **RAILWAY REPORT**

To note the report from John Coleman (attached to agenda)

### **Standing orders suspended.**

John Coleman reported that every day last week a train had been cancelled. The engines are all supposed to be overhauled by October, which should result in improved punctuality and reliability.

If the electrification of the Uckfield line were to go ahead, with a traincrew depot in Crowborough, up to 30 jobs could be created. The Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee would like to see Nus Ghani, MP and ESCC pressed to take the development forward for economic growth benefits.

Cllr Kay Moss noted the ticket machine at Eridge is particularly unreliable and the problems with the car park ticket machines are not encouraging people to park off the road.

John Coleman to provide the Clerk with the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee constitution and the Support Proposal to be put on the next agenda.

Noted.

### **Standing orders reinstated.**

A member of the public left the meeting at 8.05pm.

## **HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

To note updates from Cllrs Richard Stogdon and Sylvia Tidy:

Cllrs Richard Stogdon and Sylvia Tidy were not present so Cllr Greg Rose provided updates where possible:

- Yellow line consultation – The consultation is about to begin. Goldsmiths Avenue/Beacon Road appears to have dropped off the list; this to be queried at next SLR meeting. Beacon Close residents are not happy with the Mill Lane proposal; they would like the lines in Mill Lane, on the opposite side to Beacon Close to go further down Mill Lane. A resident request for yellow lines the length of Mill Lane has been made.
- Proposed pedestrian crossings – update not available
- Damaged traffic island near Goldsmiths – This has been raised with ESCC Highways.

Other points raised:

- 228/229 bus route – 2 evening services have been removed. CTC weren't consulted or notified in advance of it happening.
- A resident has asked for a speed camera on Crowborough Hill.
- The damaged stile near the railway bridge – (on action list) is still damaged. Update required.

To review request from Community Speed Watch (attached to agenda)

Cllr Peter Ellefsen declared an interest as he is a member of the Jarvis Brook Community Speedwatch Group.

Cllr David Neeves has been in touch with Sussex Police regarding equipment. If a speed camera is borrowed permanently from the Police it has to be stored in a Police Station, so this wouldn't be practical in Crowborough. The Police will lend a camera to CTC for 6 months, with the option to buy afterwards. Volunteers would need training and it takes a minimum of 2 people to operate the device.

### **Standing orders suspended.**

Crowborough Community Speedwatch also holds a speed camera so this would mean there would be 2 to be used throughout the town.

Speed cameras can only be used at accredited locations designated by Sussex Police. It is difficult to get new locations accredited.

The cost of buying a camera was discussed.

### **Standing orders reinstated.**

Speedwatch issue letters for speeding. Once someone has been sent 3 letters they receive a visit from the Police. It also acts as a deterrent when drivers see them by the road they tend to immediately slow down.

Consideration to be given for including the purchase of a camera on the business plan, but initially to borrow the camera from Sussex Police.

Cllr David Neeves will bring a list of the accredited locations to the next meeting, along with clarification of camera costs. In the meantime he will work to recruit more volunteers.

The Clerk advised that CTC in partnership with Withyham Parish Council are running a joint Road Safety Campaign focusing on speed reduction. A grant has been secured from the Safer Wealden Partnership. Withyham are also hoping to put a Speedwatch group into place. Banners are being printed with both councils logos on which will be moved between various locations and can be reused next year.

To review request for additional bus shelter (attached to agenda)

The request is for a bus shelter on both sides of the A26 near to the Army Camp. The side coming into town has been measured and Highways have confirmed there is space for a narrow bus shelter. The side going out of town needs measuring. Crowborough has a corporate bus shelter design throughout the town, particularly chosen to prevent people from climbing and swinging on them. A shelter with a front to the road side would be beneficial to protect people waiting from the traffic. Bus shelters are a consideration for CIL monies

Clerk to obtain more information for next meeting:

- Designs and costs of shelters.
- Map of where bus stops are and which do and don't have shelters.
- Check with bus company these stops will continue to be used.
- If there is an agreed criteria for deciding new bus shelters.

To agree items for inclusion on next SLR agenda

The SLR meeting date is going to be moved to November as ESCC Highways can't make the original October date. Items that were discussed earlier during this meeting will also be put on the agenda.

Further agenda items: Grass cutting if ESCC decide to make reductions in this area and when will Crowborough Registry Office re-open.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

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

The Clerk confirmed the lease has been signed for the Pocket Park.

The Committee thanked the Ranger for all his hard work for the Country Park for the SEiB competition.

The tree on the corner of Chapel Green was removed because it was  $\frac{3}{4}$  dead. The bench around it had previously been dismantled before the tree was removed. A replacement tree is to be discussed at the Sports, Recreation and Cemetery meeting next week.

Noted.

## **SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM**

To note the verbal report from the awards ceremony

A Silver Gilt was awarded to the Country Park with 158 points out of a possible 200. Only 12 points off a Gold award. Most of the loss of points was from signage and disabled access (a disabled access gate is needed at the top of the park). The information boards need to be lower for children and wheelchair users to see easily.

A Silver was awarded to the Town Centre with 134 out of a possible 200. 4 points off Silver Gilt. Areas for improvement are: Street furniture, business and community involvement. 37 points were lost in this section.

There are other categories where groups such as Beavers, Brownies and Schools can enter. Feedback has been extremely positive and indicates interest in taking part next year.

The committee thanked Greg for suggesting taking part and making it such a success.

## **POLICIES**

To agree Environmental Policy (attached to agenda)

**8203 RESOLVED** to adopt the Environmental Policy as presented.

## **PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER**

To note the proposed Order from Wealden District Council and agree any response to the consultation (attached to agenda)

Noted.

## **BUSINESS PLAN**

To decide any additional items for inclusion and agree priorities (attached to agenda)

John Coleman and Cllr Matthew Street left the meeting at 9pm.

- Taking over verge cutting services - High
- Taking over street cleaning - Low
- Taking over street lighting - Low
- Including the management plans as part of the business plan - High
- Including the priority listing for highways match funding projects - Medium
- The establishment of a bus station in Crowborough - Low
- The possibility of using the grounds staff to carry out work in other neighbouring parishes - High
- Town centre regeneration, traffic flow / pavements / making the town more pedestrian friendly - Medium
- The pocket park - High
- Growing the Community Warden team - High
- Review CCTV monitored by Sussex Police - Low
- Additional land purchasing - High
- Contracts for dog waste and street refuse collections - Low
- Operating / contracting a circular Town bus route - Low
- Parking wardens should decriminalisation take place - Low
- Sponsorship of green areas - Medium
- Crowborough walking trail - High
- 20's Plenty Campaign - Medium
- South East in Bloom and I Care for Crowborough - High
- Change zebra crossing in Jarvis Brook to a Pelican crossing - Medium

## **FINANCE**

To note the income and expenditure to date and material variances (attached to agenda)

Noted.

## **DOG BIN CONTRACT**

To note the confidential report and agree viable options for April 2018 (attached to agenda)

Cllrs Ron Reed, Greg Rose and Kay Moss declared an interest as they are WDC Cllrs.

The various options presented were discussed and it was agreed for practical and financial reasons to continue with the rolling contract with WDC.

## **COMMUNITY WARDEN AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

To note confidential report (attached to agenda)

The Clerk met with John Willett; Head of Partnerships within the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner to discuss a funding claim for the community warden. A further meeting with Katy Bourne is needed to progress it.

The CTC Community Warden to be asked to attend the Neighbourhood Panel meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October and next Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

Noted.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

To decide in principle if the Town Council would accept responsibility for the creation of a car park on Western Road (attached to agenda)

The car park would be located at the corner of Hadlow Down Road and Western Road. Funding would be provided by the developer for its building if their planning development application is approved.

The committee felt it was inappropriate to be discussing the car park prior to the planning decision being made, but in principle did not think CTC were in a position to accept responsibility for maintaining a car park.

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

Sponsorship to be discussed at next Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.36pm.