

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment** Committee held in the
Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 28th November 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		George Moss Richard Stogdon Sylvia Tidy Andy Beams Amanda Negus John Coleman	CTC ESCC ESCC Town Clerk Committee Clerk Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee

1 member of the public

*Denotes non attendance

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

APOLOGIES

Daniel Colborne - Ranger

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th September 2017

8249 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2017 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

Updated action list (attached to agenda)

The stile near the railway bridge is due to be repaired before Christmas.

The designs and costs of bus shelters are in the process of being obtained.

Cllr Greg Rose has been trying to arrange a meeting with Katy Bourne but has not been able to get a response. He will continue chasing until he gets an answer either way regarding funding.

RAILWAY REPORT

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

Standing orders suspended.

John Coleman ran through his report. Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee have been advised that the issues with the ticket machines are caused by software problems.

Cllr George Moss advised the ticket machine at Eridge has now been completely out of action for 2 weeks. He gave examples of the numbers of cancellations and delays that have happened recently and will provide this information to the Clerk.

Cllr Kay Moss suggested inviting a Southern representative to the Town Conference, or a CTC Environment meeting. Crowborough is a commuter town so the trains are an important issue to the residents. Southern has the licence until 2021.

8250 RESOLVED to support the proposal put forward by the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee.

The Clerk will undertake the part of the proposal of CTC writing to the local MP using the information collated by Cllr George Moss.

Standing orders reinstated.**HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

To note verbal updates from Cllrs Richard Stogdon and Sylvia Tidy:

The Scrutiny Review Board met on the 22nd November, there was significant unhappiness regarding the reduction in grass cutting for there to be a re-think on how the problem is tackled. The belief is that ESCC will be going out to consultation on parts of it.

SLR

To receive an update from the meeting held 28th November

Cllr Richard Jury gave a verbal update on this afternoons meeting:

- Blackness Road and Luxford Road – Ongoing safety issues at junction with prospective developments in mind. Cllr Richard Stogdon will follow up with Highways.
- The Western Road parking issues are a Police responsibility.
- Crowborough Hill and St. John's pavement works are a work in progress. Phase 1 has been completed in several areas and Phase 2 is now being worked on.
- Goldsmiths/Beacon yellow lines are missing from the consultation list – Cllrs Richard Stogdon and Sylvia Tidy are asking for it to be looked into.
- Replacing the Zebra crossing in Jarvis Brook with a Pelican crossing would cost approx. £120k. ESCC Highways don't have the funds for this at the moment.
- Road safety for old people – Church Road is one of the proposed crossing sites anyway.

- The Registry Office is due to re-open 4th December 2017.
- 20-is-plenty - Cllr Sylvia Tidy, Cllr Richard Stogdon and Ian Johnson from ESCC Highways spent approx. 2½ hours with the resident who is promoting this campaign in the Warren area, which currently has a speed limit of 60mph although it is a residential area. They explained in detail the legal requirements and processes that have to be undertaken. 30mph may stand more of a chance of success.

To check the existing speeds on the 6 roads requested would cost £1,600 (this is a discounted rate for all roads being checked at the same time). Speed data needs to be obtained prior to submitting the petition to ESCC. The Warren is not a priority area for ESCC's limited funds so it would have to be funded by other means. Cllr Sylvia Tidy asked whether the Environment Committee would contribute towards the speed data costs. The second stage is a feasibility study costing £500. And then road safety would be looked at. The outcome of the speed data would determine as to whether it could be done with just signs, (repeater signs would be needed because of lack of street lighting), or whether traffic calming measures would have to be introduced. There is no crash data for the Warren area.

The Warren generally is used as a cut through by speeding cars avoiding the traffic lights.

Lewes 20-is-plenty was funded by Lewes Town Council. It cost thousands and Highways belief is that it has had little effect.

Glenmore Road and Fielden Road are private roads.

As a recent planning application has been approved on the Warren it was suggested that perhaps CiL money from this development could be used for the speed data.

The Clerk will confirm costs for each stage of the process with Highways to see if it is financially feasible to complete the process. To be discussed at next Environment meeting.

- The A26 is of particular concern as there have been three big accidents in the last three weeks alone. At the end of Chillies Lane there have been several lately. Cllr Sylvia Tidy said they will press again to see if there is anything that can be done.
- ESCC don't do more than 6 grass cuts a year currently. Cllr Richard Stogdon says it's been suggested to reduce to one cut per year. But at what cost for scrubland growing up and then having to be dealt with. The process is still underway and they are trying to answer the questions.

To discuss future requirements of SLR meetings

Various options to build upon the SLR meetings so they are not only Highways orientated, but also address other issues where CTC and ESCC need to work together were discussed:

- Grass cutting is an important issue for the appearance of the town. If the grass isn't maintained people get careless with parking etc.
- The recycling centre at Farningham Road is not open all weekend and if WDC are going to be charging for green waste to be taken away more people will be using it.

- Rotherfield HGV signage.
- Possibly increasing the frequency of meetings to 4 times a year.
- Keep SLR as an Environment agenda item so issues are regularly added and there is time to ensure the relevant people from ESCC can attend.
- The possibility of making SLR into a separate committee which reports to Full Council so the focus is taken away from just Highways to all subjects working with ESCC on e.g. Education, libraries.
- District and County Cllrs to attend.

To add to next Full Council agenda to discuss.

Provisional date of next SLR meeting 21st March 2018 at 2pm.

Cllr George Moss left the meeting at 8.23pm.

To discuss potential future changes to Wealdlink services

Standing orders suspended

There is a Department of Transport consultation for community bus services although nothing is expected to change during the next financial year. If in the future it is introduced that community bus groups have to get an operators licence it will become a serious problem cost wise. Additionally, because it becomes so unwieldy there is a risk of losing volunteers.

Cllr Greg Rose will write to Nus Ghani about this.

With regard to Rotherfield Surgery closing, Wealdlink felt a voluntary car service would be more effective than trying to increase the bus service.

Standing orders reinstated

ROAD SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

To note the report from the Town Clerk on the road safety campaign (attached to agenda)

The campaign didn't cost anything as it was covered by the grant received. Local schools engaged well. A survey is available through CTC and Withyham Facebook pages. Sadly accidents are still happening. Hopefully more local councils will get involved to work together next year. The Environment Committee would like to be involved next year to contribute suggestions of what else can be done within the campaign.

To note the update from Cllr David Neeves and agree any actions (attached to agenda)

Cllr David Neeves reported that more volunteers are needed as they are catching people all the time. Another radar device would be very useful and this would hopefully generate more Police support.

The Community Speedwatch website is not very user friendly and there are two Crowborough groups; Southview Road and Jarvis Brook. It doesn't matter which group volunteers sign up to as both Crowborough groups cover all approved sites. The Clerk will contact the Police speedwatch co-ordinator to see if it can be made into one group on the website.

Cllrs Richard Stogdon and Sylvia Tidy left the meeting at 8.38pm

When volunteer numbers increase CTC will look at the possibility of buying another radar gun.

Cllr David Neeves will advise the Clerk of requested new Speedwatch sites and the Clerk will see if East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service can assist with expediting the process of getting them approved.

BUS STOPS AND SHELTERS

To note list of stops and shelters (attached to agenda)

The bus stop and shelter list is a work in progress. They will be plotted onto Parish Online in due course. The original Council policy was for shelters to be installed on stops bringing people into the town.

COMMUNITY WARDEN

To receive a verbal report on the progress of the Community Warden

The Community Warden has completed the community accreditation course. And now needs Sussex Police to sign off on the validation of his powers. He works a rolling 4 on 4 off shift pattern and works later at weekends. Mostly on foot he provides a visible presence on the street. He sometimes uses a CTC van after the Groundsmen have finished and rides the bus routes around Crowborough using his free bus passes. His mobile phone number is on the CTC website. Once he is fully accredited it will be published on the website.

The Clerk will ask the Warden to prepare a report as to the types of people he has been engaging with and what he has encountered and invite him to attend the next meeting.

To discuss any additional actions needed as a result of concerns raised about policing at Full Council

- 8251 RESOLVED** for the Clerk to draft a collective letter from Crowborough Town Councillors, Wealden District Councillors and East Sussex County Councillors expressing concerns regarding Policing to be sent to Sussex Police, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable Giles York, MP's and the press. It was suggested to include local statistics as a comparison to the national picture and the impact it was having on residents lives. To be sent to the Mayor initially for approval, for distribution as soon as possible.

The Sussex Police and Crime Commission has published a survey asking whether residents would pay extra on their Council Tax for additional policing. Concern was raised as whether we would see them in this area as previously all extra officers have been allocated to the South Coast.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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

The report was noted and a few questions were raised:

- How flexible should the budget be in regard to Ash dieback?
- Can the neighbours feedback regarding the Pocket Park be fed through to the Environment Committee.
- A management plan is needed for the Pocket Park to enable the budget to be set. This is currently being worked on.
- Has an update been received from the Environment Agency regarding the Country Park top pond?

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To agree committee terms of reference for recommendation to Full Council (attached to agenda)

John Coleman left the meeting at 9pm

- 8252** **RESOLVED** for the Notice/Poster Boards to be removed from the Environment Committee terms of reference and to be re-allocated to Communications and Events. The rest of the terms of reference were agreed as presented for recommendation to Full Council.

FINANCE

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

The income and expenditure and material variances were noted and the following points raised:

- The Pocket Park is over budget, but also includes purchase and legal costs.
- The Bus shelters budget appears to be inadequate.
- The Clerk to determine what is included within the miscellaneous heading.

To agree committee budget for recommendation to Full Council (attached to agenda)

A member of the public left the meeting at 9.05pm.

8253 RESOLVED to move the Environment Committee salaries budget to the Finance & General Purposes Committee budget so all salaries can be managed together.

Points noted:

- The Personnel Committee terms of reference will need amending to take responsibility for all staff.
- The Police have reduced the CCTV contract costs.
- Steve Scott may be able to look at funding for the Pocket Park, particularly as Beacon Academy have expressed interest in being involved.
- The Tree Works budget applies to The Ghyll, Country Park and Bluebell Wood only.
- The Litter Bins and Seats budgets are for replacement items.

8254 RESOLVED to

- 1). Add a separate budget of £2,000 for the maintenance of street furniture.
- 2). Add an extra £2,000 to the Country Park budget to enable it to be more disabled friendly.
- 3). Add an extra £2,500 to the Pocket Park budget for the initial works in case extra is needed.

Budget attached with these amendments included.

To review committee earmarked reserves and agree any actions (attached to agenda)

- Notice Boards to be moved to Communications and Events.
- Community Support Staff – To be kept to secure the Community Warden role and/or fund an additional warden in the future.

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

The South East in Bloom working party will set a date for a meeting in January.

Cllr Kay Moss brought Seaford's Heritage Trail leaflet to the meeting and suggested it would be good if something similar for Crowborough could be produced. Steve Scott may be able to help with obtaining funding.

Cllr Greg Rose expressed his thanks to Cllr Richard Jury for chairing the SLR meeting today as he was unable to attend.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.