

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment** Committee held in the Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 30th January 2018 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		Kevin Back Daniel Colborne Richard Stogdon Amanda Negus John Coleman	CTC Community Warden CTC Ranger ESCC Committee Clerk Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee

3 members of the public

*Denotes non attendance

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident of Aviemore Road spoke about the dog mess problem in the Warren area due to the lack of dog bins. She suggested an additional dog bin at the 5 way junction of Warren Road, Rannoch Road, Melfort Road and Fielden Lane. She suggested another in St Johns car park, although this would be a decision for Withyham Parish Council. The resident also suggested publishing a map of dog bin locations to raise dog walkers awareness. The requested dog bin location will be added to the list and the map will be put on the CTC website.

APOLOGIES

None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on the 28th November 2017

8294 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2017 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

A member of the public left the meeting at 7.35pm.

Updated action list (attached to agenda)

The action list was noted with the following additional comments made:

- Voicemails and emails to Katy Bourne Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner regarding Warden funding, have not been responded to. The Town Clerk and Cllr Greg Rose have both tried contacting her to no avail. Cllrs expressed concerned at the lack of courtesy and respect by not replying particularly as £15,000 had previously been promised. Cllr Greg Rose will write to Nus Ghani MP concerning the lack of response from Katy Bourne and also try contacting Katy Bourne again.
- In response to Cllr Greg Rose, Nus Ghani advised that she needs more information regarding Wealdlink. Cllr Rose has written to her again since her appointment as Minister in the Department for Transport.
- The Police Speedwatch Co-Ordinator is working on amalgamating the online groups into one for Crowborough.
- Regarding new Speedwatch sites the action sheets states no new sites have been requested, but new sites have been requested and approved.
- The collective letter that was sent to Sussex Police, the Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable needs to be forwarded to the press.
- Steve Scott has been ill, hence the delay in arranging a meeting with him.

RAILWAY REPORT

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

Standing orders suspended.

John Coleman advised a few updates further to his report and is hopeful for some support from Nus Ghani in her new position as Minister in the Department for Transport. A question was asked regarding dual lines and he explained the problems that might be incurred if this was considered after electrification. Dual tracks are believed to be a possible solution to make a more reliable service.

Standing orders reinstated.**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

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

The Rangers report was noted and the Ranger added the following points verbally:

- He explained the intricacies of Ash Die Back.
- Pocket Park – student participation in form of work experience will take place during half term. He will confirm with Beacon Academy that all permissions have been obtained. The Lund Fund has advised there may be monies available for the creation of a pond. Access is a big consideration. The Ranger will try and have a draft plan available for the next meeting as to what the park may look like.

- Country Park – Now the fish have been removed dragonflies, toads, frogs and newts should increase in numbers. Both bridges have now been ramped to provide disabled access. A radar operated kissing gate will be installed at the top of the park. An access map will be created and installed at the car park. Drainage is terrible at the moment and is holding water at the bottom, he is working on this.
- Top field at The Ghyll – ponies are ideal for grazing, sheep run the risk with loose dogs, horses are too big for the area and would cause damage. A flail mower can be used if necessary in the absence of ponies.
- Proposal for specialist equipment – Flail Mower Collector. The points explained in the Rangers report were discussed. The Ranger confirmed it would take 5 years to recoup the cost of the equipment, but it should last for 20-25 years. Points raised by Members were:
 - The proposal would have been better presented before 2018/19 budgets were set.
 - Would other Councils want CTC to do this work for them and would there be staff available when it is a busy time of year for CTC Groundstaff?

The proposal is to be brought back to the next Environment meeting making a business case including financial information and demonstrating the prospects of recouping some of the costs. It will then be the end of this financial year and consideration can be given to using any underspend from The Ghyll budget if still remaining.

Cllr Sandra Timms thanked the Ranger for his enthusiasm and work.

The Ranger and Cllr Matthew Street left the meeting at 8.14pm.

COMMUNITY WARDEN

To receive a verbal report from the Community Warden

Kevin Back started in October and got to know Crowborough by walking round the area. He has been to various community association meetings and liaises with youths in Goldsmiths. He has attended residents meetings at Care Homes and feels it's been going well. Residents have talked to him about their parking concerns in the Town.

Cllr Martyn Garrett witnessed an incident with some youths and was impressed with the way the Community Warden dealt with the matter and how the youths responded.

The Warden's mobile number is on the website: 07927 549701.

To note the Clerk's report on the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (attached to agenda)

It was noted that the Town Clerk will have to attend the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme course.

The Community Warden left the meeting at 8.34pm.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

To note verbal updates from Cllrs Richard Stogdon and Sylvia Tidy, including A26 improvement works and new operator for the 228/229 service

Cllr Greg Rose provided the following updates:

- A26 - A resident has been very pro-active and consequently the pot holes between Mill Lane and the Cross are being filled imminently. The road down to The Crow and Gate will be having improvement works in the new financial year.
- Compass have the 228/229 bus contract until July, it is unclear what is happening after. Cllr Greg Rose will obtain a copy of the Wealden bus survey undertaken a couple of years ago. Although it's great that the service is continuing to run some of the timings don't meet up with train arrival times and come within minutes of alternative services.

To discuss residents' requests received for one-way system in Harlequin Lane and speed reduction measures in Fermor Road/Whitehill Road/Hurtis Hill/Walshes Road

The requests were discussed and the following points made:

- Whitehill Road – parked cars slow the traffic quite considerably.
- Fermor Road - has been requested as a speedwatch location.
- Harlequin Lane – if it were made one way it would increase traffic speed. Cllr Richard Stogdon advised that there was little chance Highways would support a one way system in Harlequin Lane. However, there may be some merit in making Highways aware of residents concerns and they would then be looked at individually.
- Hurtis Hill - has been subject to speed assessments done in the past that showed there wasn't a speeding issue. Speed bumps would be very noisy for residents with all the lorries going over them, as demonstrated previously in Green Lane.
- The cost with match funding for just one road would be in the region of £100,000.
- The residents concerns will be reported to Highways at the next SLR meeting.

To note confirmed costs of '20 is plenty' scheme

To be advised.

To agree future content and frequency of SLR meetings

8295 RESOLVED to have quarterly SLR meetings in future.

The date of the next SLR meeting to be adjusted so it is after the next Environment meeting.

The issue of illegally placed signs all over the Town should be raised at the next SLR meeting.

BUS STOPS AND SHELTERS

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

- John Coleman mentioned some additional bus stops/shelters to be added to the map.
- Cllr Greg Rose thanked Sara Mitchell and Amanda Negus for plotting the bus stops.
- Now there is a map to refer to it can be used to decide where to install shelters once the quotes and designs have been received.

SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM

To note verbal update from the working group and agree any recommendations

Crowborough in Bloom will be entered so organisations in the Town can be involved in other categories.

8296 RESOLVED to enter the Town and Country Park categories this year. The £350 fees to be funded out of the CTC SEIB budget.

CTC will hold their own competition in May or June to encourage businesses to have their own displays and improve this point in the competition, which was noted by judges last year.

RIGHTS OF WAY REGISTRATION

To note the report of the Town Clerk and agree any actions (attached to agenda)

8297 RESOLVED to implement the Town Clerks recommendation to review the rights of way within the Town to ensure they are recorded on the Definitive Map.

Particular notice of Crowborough Common will be taken to ensure it is registered on the Definitive Map.

A request will be made on the CTC website to residents to advise CTC of any unregistered rights of way that they are aware of.

A member of the public left the meeting at 9.06pm.

FINANCE

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

Cllr Peter Ellefsen pointed out that it had previously been agreed to record variances down as well as up.

Cllr Kay Moss suggested using the remaining 2017/18 "Seats" budget to refurbish some of the towns benches.

It was noted the "Bus Shelters" budget is for repairs, not new shelters.

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

The Emergency Plan meeting is 9th Feb 2pm.

The meeting closed at 9.09pm.