Minutes of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT** Committee held at the Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 29th May 2012 at 7.30 pm

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Present	Councillors	Quentin Burch	
		Michael Cooke	
		Peter Cowie *	
		Elizabeth Fermor	
		Philip Fermor	
		Ronald Reed	Vice Chairman
		Wendy Scrace	
		David Shaw	
		Andrew Steen	
		Matthew Street	
		Sandra Timms	Chairman
Also present		John Coleman	Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Comm
		Cllr Richard Stogdon	East Sussex County Council
		Philippa Hewes	Town Clerk
		David Foot	Operations Manager
		Susan Barnard	Operations Administrator

* *Denotes non attendance*

APOLOGIES
Cllr Peter Cowie – personal reasons.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

MINUTES
Minutes – 27th March 2012

6526 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2012 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

Minutes – 15th May 2012

6527 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2012 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

Matters Outstanding (including reports on updates)
Replacement bus shelters (6276)
The bus shelters have now been installed. NOTED

Conan Doyle – clean statue (6398) and plinth (6460)
The statue and plinth have been cleaned.

It was noted that the staining cannot be removed from the plinth but cleaning has improved its appearance.

Town Map
The Town Council is waiting for the cartographer to be ready to proceed with this project.

New dog waste bin – pedestrian entrance in Tollwood Road (6461)
Request has been submitted for a new bin to be installed. NOTED

Conversion to part-night street lighting (6462)
The conversion work is under way and to date there has been little public feedback.

RAILWAY
Uckfield-Lewes Railway
A written report by John Coleman had previously been circulated to Councillors. Mr Coleman reported that the Community Rail Partnership (CRP) has had an increase in funding approved for next year and he urged Councillors to attend the CRP AGM for stakeholders in September. He also reported that the Parishes Committee had received positive replies from several MPs and the Secretary of State with regard to overcrowding on the line.

John Coleman was thanked for his reports.

CROWBOROUGH'S NATURAL HABITATS
Matters Outstanding on Natural Habitats (including reports on updates)
Waymarkers – Silver Jubilee (6115) and Leaflet – The Ghyll (6116)
Both projects have been deferred due to the maternity leave of the Ranger. NOTED

Boundary management – The Ghyll and Country Park (6335)
Reports from Aworth Survey Consultants have been received and a number of areas of encroachment have been identified. Officer time will be scheduled for a more detailed review with the aim of reporting to the Committee in July. NOTED

The Ghyll – interpretation boards (6337)
The interpretation boards have been installed. NOTED

The Ghyll and Country Park
General maintenance work has continued at The Ghyll and the Country Park. The recent treatment of Japanese Knotweed by ground staff (21.05.12) will be repeated in the autumn.

Relocation of vehicle gate at the Country Park
It was **AGREED** to investigate possible methods of mitigating the noise issues associated with opening and closing the gate.

Threatened Species Project and volunteering
The recent dormouse check attended by the Clerk and the Operations Manager is part of a national survey. 50 dormouse boxes were checked at The Ghyll.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
Summer planting
The anniversary bed will be planted on 30th May with a Diamond Jubilee themed display in red, white and blue. The remaining flower beds in Chapel Green will be planted in June in the Olympic colour scheme in time for the Olympic Torch run through Crowborough. Hanging baskets are scheduled for the end of June/beginning of July.

It was reported that vandals have been damaging trees at the miniature railway site.

To consider the planting of a tree for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

6528 **RESOLVED** to participate in the Jubilee Woods Project by purchasing an oak tree sapling from the Woodland Trust's limited edition of Royal Oak Saplings at a cost of £30 which will be planted at a suitable location in the autumn.

FINANCE
Management Accounts to 31st March and to 30th April 2012 (the reports to 31st March are noted subject to year end adjustments).

6529 **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Accounts for the two periods ending 31st March and 30th April 2012.

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

None

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.