

Minutes of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT** Committee held at the Town Hall,
The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 26th July 2011 at 7.30 pm

Present Councillors Quentin Burch
Elizabeth Fermor
Philip Fermor
George Moss *
Kay Moss
Ronald Reed *
David Shaw
Matthew Street *
Sandra Timms Chairman

Also present Cllr Peter Cowie
Cllr Andrew Steen
Cllr Richard Stogdon East Sussex County Council
John Coleman Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee
David Foot Operations Manager
Philippa Hewes Town Clerk
Emma Newman Ranger (left at 8.30pm)
Susan Barnard Operations Administrator
3 members of the public

* *Denotes non attendance*

Chairman welcomed the new Councillors to the committee.

APOLOGIES

Cllr Ronald Reed – prior engagement.
Cllr. George Moss – work commitment.
Cllr. Matthew Street – family commitment.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

Minutes – 24th May 2011

6220 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2011 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS OUTSTANDING (including reports on updates)

Fingerpost repairs (6110)

Repairs are scheduled to be completed by the end of July. NOTED.

Installation of bollards outside the Post Office (6111)

The bollards outside the Post Office have proved to be effective in controlling parking on the pavement. ESCC has agreed to install new bollards, purchased by the Town Council, when Croft Road is being resurfaced at the beginning of September. A site meeting was held with Glasdon and conservation style bollards have been ordered. NOTED.

Maintenance of Conan Doyle statue

There were some issues with the wax and the statue has been cleaned again. The sculptor has requested that the statue is cleaned/treated professionally and a quotation of £450 + VAT has been received for this work with subsequent annual cleaning/waxing £300 + VAT.

The statue has not been cleaned professionally since it was installed 10 years ago. The stone plinth on which it stands has now become discoloured.

6221 **RESOLVED** that the Conan Doyle statue be cleaned/treated professionally at a cost of £450+VAT and that the plinth be cleaned in addition.

Letter to Charles Hendry MP re. train issues (6162)

A letter was written to Mr Hendry to raise awareness of overcrowding on the Uckfield Line and to ask for his support with the Lewes/Uckfield line reinstatement and the Brighton Main Line2 project. Mr Hendry has taken this forward and a reply from Southern has been received.

The reply from Southern was NOTED.

Pedestrian gate at Canada Green (6163)

The gate has been removed. NOTED.

Tidy up of RoW footpath between Fermor School and Beacon Community College

The Operations Manager reported that different sections of the path are in different ownership and present varying problems. An old and damaged wire fence has been removed from one section and the litter removed from behind it. This section will be further cleaned up before school restarts. A new litter bin has been installed by WDC near to Fermor School.

Distribution of leaflet advertising the extended bus timetable

9300 leaflets were delivered to households in Crowborough. The cost of £2000 was funded from the County Council Passenger Transport budget.

Cllr Stogdon had been able to confirm which budget the costs had been funded from. Several Crowborough residents present had not received a leaflet.

Part-night lighting (6167)

Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council has confirmed that the conversion to part-night lighting has been positive. Only a few comments have been received to the consultation in the newsletter and the article in The Courier. A meeting took place on 19th July with ESCC to discuss the scheme in detail. NOTED.

Late night bus service

East Sussex County Council is to take over the running of the late night bus service from Tunbridge Wells on Friday and Saturdays nights. The evening service will not continue as the route is already supported by the no. 29 bus. NOTED

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Uckfield-Lewes Railway

Mr. Coleman was thanked for his report on the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee meeting held on 13th July, which was NOTED. He explained that Southern operates under the terms of its franchise and is not in a position to provide more rolling stock in order to ease overcrowding. The Parishes Committee will be writing again to MPs regarding the issues of overcrowding and the reinstatement of the Uckfield-Lewes line. The Community Rail Partnership is holding its AGM on 2nd August at which representatives of Southern and Network Rail will be present; Cllr Andrew Steen offered to attend this meeting with John Coleman.

CROWBOROUGH'S NATURAL HABITATS

MATTERS OUTSTANDING ON NATURAL HABITATS (including reports on updates)

Audit on the condition of trees on Crowborough Town Council land (5938)

An initial audit has been undertaken on land owned/managed by the Council and the results recorded – this does not include the Country Park, The Ghyll and the Bluebell Wood which are subject to an existing inspection programme. Specialist advice is required for some trees and it is expected that there will be urgent tree work required. Other work has been prioritised and will be undertaken in-house – the work will need to be supervised by the Ranger. NOTED.

Picnic benches at Silver Jubilee (6114)

Benches have been installed. NOTED.

Waymarkers – Silver Jubilee (6115)

In view of the outside work commitment during the summer months, no further action will be taken on the waymarkers at Silver Jubilee until November. NOTED.

Leaflet – The Ghyll (6116)

In view of the outside work commitment during the summer months, no further action will be taken on the proposed leaflet for The Ghyll until November. NOTED

Dedication of The Ghyll under The Crow Act 2000 (6117)

The dedication is complete under the Countryside Rights of Work Act. NOTED.

Country Park – dig ditch to address erosion of cliff by pond (6164)

The work has been completed. NOTED.

Country Park – install wire to fence by top bridge (6165)

Work completed 7th June. NOTED.

Sign for Silver Jubilee entrance to The Ghyll (6166)

Sign has been received and is scheduled for installation before the end of the month.
NOTED.

Ranger's Report (previously circulated to Councillors)
Treatment of Japanese Knotweed

The Ranger is licensed to treat Japanese Knotweed; this has resulted in a considerable cost saving by not relying on outside contractors. Each area requires more than one treatment and a programme of work has been established for inspection, management and control measures.

Country Park – to consider work to improve drainage in car park

Advice was sought from Ashdown Forest Ranger and Environment Agency in order to resolve flooding problems. Advice concurred with spending £2,125 on Coppards quote to grade and lay 30 tonnes of road planings and make up with 20 tonnes of Fittleworth fines, rolled to fall towards ditch. There is no requirement for a separator.

- 6222** **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Coppards and spend up to £2,500+VAT improving drainage to the car park at the Country Park.

Crowborough Conservation – to consider support and liaison

The Ranger explained about the work of Crowborough Conservation and how receipt of a grant for £10,000 will enable ecological surveys to be undertaken on Town Council land. Crowborough Conservation has provided reports on the preservation of habitats which has proved useful in the consideration of planning applications. It was **AGREED** that in order to find out more about the work of Crowborough Conservation and to improve communication, an informal meeting would be arranged with representatives from the Environment Committee. Cllrs Kay Moss, Quentin Burch and David Shaw expressed an interest in attending the meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Report on the Litter Review (previously circulated to Councillors)

- 6223** **RESOLVED** to accept the report's proposal to employ an Environment Warden for 24 hours per week on an initial 6 month contract starting in November, with the proposed work pattern to be monitored and amended as necessary.

To review the location and condition of notice/poster boards and consider the purchase of new boards.

- 6224** **RESOLVED** to purchase 4 new notice boards, 2 to replace those at Jarvis Brook and Alderbrook and 2 new ones for Whitehill Road and the junction of Ghyll Road and St. John's Road.

Planting in flower beds

A suggestion has been received from the Communications & Events Committee for the Summer planting in flower beds for 2012 to follow a red, white and blue scheme in support of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee event.

UNCONFIRMED UNTIL NEXT MEETING

Theme planting in the anniversary bed costs £2100 and it may be that local sports groups wish to contribute to planting to support the Olympics.

Some scepticism was expressed regarding the likelihood of local sports groups having excess funds with which to fund planting. The issue of planting will be reconsidered at the September meeting.

TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

To consider request for a bus shelter to be installed at Warren Camp

Due to the changed route of the no. 29 bus the stop outside Warren Camp is used much more and it would be appropriate to install a bus shelter there before winter.

Cllr Richard Stogdon agreed to make enquiries regarding the possible use of Section 106 funds for a new bus shelter. The issue will be considered again at the September meeting.

LIGHTING

To consider proposal for part-night street lighting

A report was circulated to Councillors following the meeting held with ESCC on 19th July. Following the successful Heathfield pilot, Uckfield is next in line for part-night lighting to be followed by Crowborough. The County Council owns 2,200 street lights in Crowborough and the Town Council 380. Conversion of the Town Council lights involves the installation of photocells at a cost of £30 per unit; savings in energy costs would result in payback for the installation over 3 years. A map showing the location of all Town Council street lights is to be provided. The matter will be considered further at the September meeting.

FINANCE

Management Accounts to 31st May 2011 (sent to Councillors 8th June 2011)

Management Accounts to 30th June 2011 (sent to Councillors 11th July 2011)

6225 **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Accounts for the two periods ending 31st May and 30th June 2011.

URGENT MATTERS

The possible installation of a bus shelter at the end of Burdett Road will be considered at the September meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm.