

Minutes of a meeting of **CROWBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall,  
The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 7.30 pm

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Present	Councillors	Paul Adams	
		Quentin Burch	
		Michael Cooke	
		Peter Cowie *	
		Elizabeth Fermor	
		Philip Fermor	Deputy Mayor
		Beverley Johnstone	
		George Moss	
		Kay Moss	Town Mayor
		Ron Reed	
		Wendy Scrace	
		David Shaw	
		Andrew Steen	
		Matthew Street	
Sandra Timms			
Neil Waller	(Wealden District Council)		

Also present	Cllrs	Antony Quin	Wealden District Council
		Richard Stogdon	East Sussex County Council
		Sylvia Tidy	East Sussex County Council
		Philippa Hewes	Town Clerk

1 member of the press

\* *Denotes non attendance*

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The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited them to stand for the opening Prayer.

### **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Peter Cowie due to a personal reason  
District Cllr Jim Hollins  
District Cllr Di Phillips  
Canon Andrew Cornes

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Elizabeth Fermor declared a Personal Interest in the consideration of a Tree Inspection Policy as her son is a tree surgeon.  
Cllr Philip Fermor declared a Personal Interest in the consideration of a Tree Inspection Policy as his son is a tree surgeon.  
Cllr Kay Moss declared a Personal Interest in the proposal to change Beacon Community College to an Academy as she is an employee of East Sussex County Council.

## MINUTES

To resolve that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

- 6259** **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

## **TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE TOWN MAYOR MAY WISH TO LAY BEFORE THE COUNCIL**

The list of the Mayor's engagements was noted. The Mayor reported on a visit to Montargis for the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration where she was presented with an original drawing of Montargis and a plaque from the Friends of Crowborough.

## COMMITTEE MINUTES

To note the acts and proceedings of the following committee meetings:

Planning and Development – 25<sup>th</sup> July 2011

- 6260** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

Environment – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011

- 6261** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Environment Committee meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

Sport, Recreation and Cemetery – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011

- 6262** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Sport, Recreation and Cemetery Committee meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011.

Planning and Development – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2011

- 6263** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

Planning and Development – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011

- 6264** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Finance and General Purposes – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011

- 6265** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Personnel – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011

- 6266** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Personnel Committee meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Communications and Events – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011

- 6267** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Communications and Events Committee meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

**TO RECEIVE RESOLUTIONS MOVED ON NOTICE**

None.

**TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

None.

**TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF MEMBERS**

Cllr Sandra Timms reported on the Economy, Transport and Environment conference held 16<sup>th</sup> September where the following items were covered:

- Trading Standards and the need to protect vulnerable members of the community.
- Highway improvements. Efficiency savings have enabled more work to be undertaken.
- Village Maintenance Team which can undertake minor highway works for town/parish councils.
- Environment Strategy 2010 – 2026. Dutch Elm disease is a potential issue in the county.
- Partnership working to meet the priorities of town/parish councils.
- Street lighting and conversion to part-night lighting.
- Funding available under the Community Transport grant scheme.
- Access to skills and broadband. There is a shortage of 'technician' level qualifications required for economic growth. Government funding is available for superfast broadband, subject to match funding.

Cllr Matthew Street reported on the final meeting of the Retailers Association. The Chamber of Commerce is to be launched 27<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm at All Saints.

Cllr George Moss reported that the community centre is on schedule and within budget. Noise issues during construction are controlled by a S 61 Agreement; there are regular meetings between parties and the procedures are working well. Many town councillors attended a recent visit to see the progress of the new building. The CCA2010 AGM is to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm in the old hall.

**TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Wealden District Council

Cllr Antony Quin reported that work continues towards the development of a proposal for joint waste collection functions with other districts.

The Pine Grove Landholdings – Disposal Strategy was considered at a Cabinet meeting 31<sup>st</sup> August. The proposed decision was amended to include consultation with the Town Council. The decision has been called-in and will be considered by the Internal Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

Further work is required on the LDF Core Strategy as the Inspector is not satisfied that due consideration has been given to the South East Plan which remains in existence until removed by legislation. A preliminary hearing has been set for 12<sup>th</sup> October.

#### East Sussex County Council

Cllr Sylvia Tidy reported on meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board which aims to go 'live' later in the year. The official board must be in place by 2013.

The birthing centre at Crowborough was included within a review of maternity care. It is recognised that the birthing centre is very popular and offers different maternity facilities than those available at the hospitals at Hastings and Eastbourne.

The consultation on the future of Hookstead has closed and a report will go to Cabinet in October.

Cllr Richard Stogdon referred to the important work of foster carers and the need to recruit more people for this important role. He further reported that at the quarterly meeting of the Safer Wealden Partnership, the promotion of Neighbourhood Watch and how to increase schemes and membership was considered.

### **CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED MERGER BETWEEN EAST & WEST SUSSEX FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES**

Information on the proposed merger had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. There were no objections to the proposed merger and members were asked to complete and return the questionnaires on an individual basis. It is recognised that there will be costs associated with joining the two authorities and a request was received to limit spending on any re-branding. If the merger proceeds, the control room will be based at Chichester; the location of the headquarters is not yet known.

### **TO CONSIDER COMMUNICATION WITH WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL ON THE PINE GROVE LANDHOLDINGS – DISPOSAL STRATEGY**

The various sites as shown on Appendix A and Appendix B of the Cabinet papers were reviewed and discussed. Appendix A includes the district council offices, community centre, library, Beaconwood, car park and woodland areas. The car park at this location is long-stay and provides an important facility for people working in Crowborough. The majority of the woodland area is owned by East Sussex County Council and it was reported that the intention is to include this area within the overall disposal strategy.

Appendix B covers the main car park area, the redundant public convenience site and the Bluebell Wood. There is an arrangement for parking provision with

Waitrose. Parking for the new community centre is also a consideration. The Bluebell Wood, which is currently managed by the Town Council, provides an important amenity space which should be retained for the benefit of the town. It was reported that the Wealden Residents Group is negotiating for the public convenience site for use as a resource centre.

Item 22 of the Cabinet report refers to the need to achieve a capital receipt to meet a shortfall in financial resources associated with the Single Site Project. Members were concerned that disposal of district and county council land should not be to the detriment of the town. The loss of car parking could result in Crowborough becoming isolated and would affect the social and economic viability of the area. One member referred to the disposal of land at Pine Grove as an opportunity to improve Crowborough.

- 6268** **RESOLVED** to invite District Cllr Pam Dodes to a meeting with Crowborough Town Council to discuss the future of Pine Grove landholdings and for councillors to submit questions to the Clerk to be collated prior to the meeting.

It was requested that an invitation to the meeting should also be extended to East Sussex County Council.

#### **CLOSED CHURCHYARD – ALL SAINTS**

##### To consider the process and funding of closed churchyards

Wealden District Council is considering the funding of the 9 closed churchyards in the district, possibly by use of a Special Expense. Parish/town councils are being asked to consider taking over the grass cutting requirements under an agency agreement. Using the Council's ground staff to cut the grass at the closed churchyard at All Saints would cost £750 pa. It was suggested that the grass cutting could be a project under Localism. Grass cutting is only one expense associated under the legal responsibilities of maintaining closed churchyards.

- 6269** **RESOLVED** to select option 1 for Wealden District Council to continue with all maintenance responsibilities for closed churchyards as substantial savings cannot be achieved.

#### **TO APPROVE A TREE INSPECTION POLICY**

Discussion on the proposed tree inspection policy. Work to a protected tree can be carried out immediately if the tree is dying, dead or dangerous.

- 6270** Subject to the inclusion of 'or conservation management' in item 3d. it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Tree Inspection Policy.

Cllr Ron Reed was thanked for his help with the policy.

**CROWBOROUGH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION HALL, PARK ROAD, CROWBOROUGH**

Proposed transfer of ownership and sale of old hall

A brief report was given by the working party; a meeting is to be scheduled. It was AGREED that Cllr Ron Reed will join the working party.

Report on the progress of the community centre

Dealt with under Reports of Members.

To note arrangements for the loan

A loan of £1 million has been drawn down (6214) for 20 years on an annuity basis at an interest rate of 3.75%.

**TO AUTHORISE THE SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial

**6271** **RESOLVED** to authorise the following grants of exclusive right of burial:

Certificate	Name	Grave space
876	Mr K Plowman	3342
877	Mrs J Hatton	3343
878	Mrs M Page & M D Page	3185A
879	Mrs C M Buchanan	879 (replacing deed issued 1927)

**OTHER ITEMS**

It was noted that there is a consultation on Beacon Community College becoming an Academy. Grove Park will remain under the Local Education Authority.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm