

Minutes of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT** Committee held at the Town Hall,
The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 27th September 2011 at 7.30 pm

Present	Councillors	Quentin Burch Elizabeth Fermor Philip Fermor Kay Moss * Ronald Reed David Shaw Matthew Street * Sandra Timms	Vice-Chairman Chairman
Also present		Cllr Peter Cowie John Coleman PC Richard Waters PCSO Chris Harrison Philippa Hewes David Foot Susan Barnard Lauren Hewes 1 members of the public	(left at 9 pm) Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Comm Sussex Police Sussex Police Town Clerk Operations Manager Operations Administrator Work experience

* Denotes non attendance

APOLOGIES

Cllr Kay Moss – attending inaugural meeting of Crowborough Chamber of Commerce.

Cllr. Matthew Street – attending inaugural meeting of Crowborough Chamber of Commerce.

East Sussex County Cllr Richard Stogdon

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

Minutes – 26th July 2011

6274 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2011 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS OUTSTANDING (including reports on updates)

Fingerpost repairs (6110)

Repairs have been completed. NOTED.

Installation of bollards outside the Post Office (6111)

The replacement bollards will be installed by ESCC when Croft Road is being resurfaced at the beginning October. NOTED.

UNCONFIRMED UNTIL NEXT MEETING

Maintenance of Conan Doyle statue (6221)

The statue has now been professionally cleaned/treated.

It was generally agreed that its appearance had improved. The white plinth has not been cleaned as it would quickly become stained green again from the bronze of the statue.

It was **AGREED** to leave the plinth uncleaned at the moment.

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

ESCC will be carrying out surface improvements to the footpath later this year; potholes have been repaired.

The Operations Manager reported that work has been carried out to clean up and improve the path by the various groups responsible for different sections of it.

Notice boards

Replacement notice boards for Jarvis Brook and Alderbrook and new notice boards for Whitehill Road and the junction of Ghyll Road / St John's Road have been ordered.
NOTED.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Uckfield-Lewes Railway

Mr. Coleman was thanked for his report, previously circulated to Councillors. He highlighted the issue of morning trains departing earlier as part of the Leaf Fall Timetable. He also emphasized the fact that if the revived gyratory road scheme in Uckfield achieves fruition it will put an end for ever to hopes of reinstating the line from Uckfield to Lewes. The recent closure for repairs of the Barcombe Tunnel, which resulted in no services to London on the Brighton main line for 3 days, reinforces the need for an alternative line from London to Brighton. With regard to overcrowding on the Uckfield line, even Transport for London has recommended 8 carriage trains at peak times. NOTED.

POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

PC Waters reported on the restructuring of Sussex policing with 5 response points to co-ordinate activity. Crowborough will fall within the Uckfield response point. Local neighbourhood policing in Crowborough will continue.

Problems identified at local street meetings are put forward to Panel meetings where priorities are adopted. This year the main priority for Crowborough is speeding. Last year it was anti-social behaviour. Major issues are dealt with at Joint Action Group (JAG) meetings. One JAG initiative is Operation Quality Street, whereby roads needing attention are identified and improved; earlier this year Farningham Road, Mount Pleasant and Western Road were targeted. Councillors are invited to recommend roads for consideration by the end of October.

A report was given of the activities undertaken by PCSOs which include audits of graffiti/litter, developing community contacts, assisting Neighbourhood Watch

schemes and maintaining a high visibility presence in each ward. 'Surgeries' held at Morrisons are proving to be successful. Operation Blitz has helped to tackle problems with anti-social behaviour.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes are seen as extremely beneficial in cutting crime and protecting the vulnerable, particularly with regard to rogue trader scams. There are 29 schemes currently in existence in Crowborough.

PC Richard Waters and PCSO Chris Harrison were thanked for their report.

CROWBOROUGH'S NATURAL HABITATS

MATTERS OUTSTANDING ON NATURAL HABITATS (including reports on updates)

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.

Sign for Silver Jubilee entrance to The Ghyll (6166)

The sign has been installed at the Silver Jubilee entrance. NOTED.

Country Park – improvements to car park (6222)

Fittleworth stone is no longer available and Coppards has confirmed that the resurfacing can be achieved using Type 1 aggregate within the agreed budget. NOTED.

Liaison with Crowborough Conservation

The Ranger is still to arrange a meeting between Crowborough Conservation and representatives from this committee. There is a link to Crowborough Conservation from the Town Council's website.

To consider installing bridges at The Ghyll

Funds are available within this financial year for this project. Infrastructure is needed in order to move around the site more easily. The Ranger will give more information about this issue at the next meeting.

Boundary management at The Ghyll and The Country Park

The Ranger is obtaining quotations for the cost of carrying out a professional boundary survey with a view to dealing with instances of encroachment. The matter will be considered further at the next meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Planting in flower beds and hanging baskets

To review the summer planting and consider possible schemes for next year including planting to support the Queen's Diamond Jubilee or Olympics.

UNCONFIRMED UNTIL NEXT MEETING

Cllr Elizabeth Fermor had previously put forward two designs for consideration for beds at Chapel Green and Beacon Road. There was a discussion on possible planting schemes; any chosen design will have to be capable of being undertaken by the ground staff.

It was **AGREED** that the Operations Manager will research which plants may be suitable and any planting schemes being considered by other towns.

Hanging baskets need watering twice a week and this has a considerable staff cost implication. Due to parking issues it is difficult to water the baskets in Whitehill and Jarvis Brook.

- 6275** **RESOLVED** that next year hanging baskets would continue to be placed in the High Street, the Broadway, Croft Road (near junction with High Street), Chapel Green and Jarvis Brook, but not in Whitehill Road, Croft Road (between Saxonbury Close and Church Road) and at the junction of St. John's Road and London Road.

Notice/poster boards – to consider information to be displayed when boards are not in use

It was **AGREED** that Councillors would submit suggestions for information to be displayed in the Council's notice boards when they are not in use. Costings will be obtained for supplying information posters and the matter will be considered further at the next meeting.

TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

To consider possible areas for inclusion in future 'Quality Street' initiatives

This item was dealt with within the Police and Neighbourhood Watch Report.

To consider the replacement of bus shelters at Walshes Road and Aldervale Cottages and the request for new bus shelters at Warren Camp and Burdett Road

The existing bus shelters at Walshes Road and Aldervale Cottages are in a poor state of repair and need to be replaced.

It is not possible to install a bus shelter at Warren Camp because the site is on private land. A bus shelter at Burdett Road would be permitted only if located on Crowborough Hill on the footprint of an existing bench and a licence obtained.

- 6276** **RESOLVED** to replace the bus shelters at Walshes Road and Aldervale Cottages but to leave the installation of a bus shelter at Burdett Road for further consideration.

East Sussex County Council community transport grant scheme

ESCC is able to offer one-off grants to Community Transport providers following the receipt of £171,000 funding from the Department of Transport. Funding of £1,000-£12,000 is available for new or existing non-profit making local transport schemes. Wealdlink has been advised of the funding.

LIGHTING

To consider proposal for part-night street lighting

Maps showing the proposed part-night lighting were on display in the chamber.

Funding for conversion of the county council lights in being considered early next year.

To consider request for replacement column no.1 Palesgate Lane and installation of Vehicle Activated Sign

- 6277** **RESOLVED** to approve replacement of column no.1 Palesgate Lane by ESCC and for the light to be transferred to their ownership to enable the installation of a Vehicle Activated Sign.

FINANCE

Management Accounts to 31st July 2011 (sent to Councillors 15th August 2011)

Management Accounts to 31st August 2011 (sent to Councillors 9th September 2011)

- 6278** **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Accounts for the two periods ending 31st July and 31st August 2011.

To review projected spend to the end of the financial year and Reserves

Bridge work at The Ghyll is one of the largest projects still to be undertaken this year.

Erosion and encroachment are likely to be ongoing issues for which it would be beneficial to maintain a reserve. NOTED.

To consider draft committee budget 2012/13

It was **AGREED** to increase the Wealdlink/Dial-a-ride budget for next year from £3,000 to £3,300

- 6279** **RESOLVED** to take the draft Environment Committee budget of £179,640 forward for consideration by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

TO CONSIDER STAFF ISSUES

- 6280** **RESOLVED** that this Committee excludes the Press and Public from this meeting on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. This is in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 section 1.

Arrangements were outlined for managing the workload of a member of staff with a planned long-term absence.

The purchase and presentation of a gift to a retiring member of staff was considered.

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

A report of an overgrown hedge in Blackness Road will be investigated.

The meeting closed at 9.48pm.