

Minutes of a meeting of **CROWBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall,
The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 15th November 2011 at 7.30 pm

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	Stephen Isted	Wealden District Council
		David Larkin	Wealden District Council
		Di Phillips	Wealden District Council
		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 public

1 member of the press

* *Denotes non attendance*

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

APOLOGIES

Cllr Sandra Timms due to a personal reason
Canon Andrew Cornes

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Neil Waller declared a personal interest in the Community Centre report due to his employment within the energy sector.

MINUTES

To resolve that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 20th September 2011 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

- 6315** **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council meeting held 20th September 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

Olympic Torch

Crowborough has been chosen as one of two locations within Wealden to receive the Olympic Torch on 17th July 2012. The route will not be known until 4 weeks before the event. The town has been asked to adopt the 'Olympic look' with banners, planting and bunting and to allocate £2500 towards the expenditure which will be matched funded by Wealden District Council.

- 6316** **RESOLVED** to spend up to £2500 + VAT to support the Olympic Torch event. The spending is permitted under the Local Government Act 1972 section 145.

The torch bearers in Crowborough will be from Wealden district. Volunteers will be needed for the day and local leaders will be asked to organise celebratory events on the day. A representative from CCA2010 registered an interest as an organisation which would like to participate in the event.

The Town Mayor's engagements

The list of the Mayor's engagements was noted.

The Mayor reported on the success of the Fireworks event which had been attended by approximately 15,000 people. Thanks were recorded to Caroline Miles, the Council's Events Co-ordinator for organising the event and to the Lions Club, Bonfire Society and Councillors for their help with collecting donations totalling £3723.99 for the Mayor's Charities.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Planning and Development – 26th September 2011

- 6317** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held 26th September 2011.

Environment – 27th September 2011

- 6318** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Environment Committee meeting held 27th September 2011.

Sport, Recreation and Cemetery – 3rd October 2011

- 6319** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Sport, Recreation and Cemetery Committee meeting held 3rd October 2011.

Planning and Development – 17th October 2011

- 6320** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held 17th October 2011.

Personnel – 24th October 2011

- 6321** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Personnel Committee meeting held 24th October 2011.

Sport, Recreation and Cemetery – 25th October 2011

- 6322** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Sport, Recreation and Cemetery Committee meeting held 25th October 2011.

Communications and Events – 1st November 2011

- 6323** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Communications and Events Committee meeting held 1st November 2011.

Planning and Development – 7th November 2011

- 6324** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held 7th November 2011.

Finance and General Purposes – 8th November 2011

- 6325** **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held 8th November 2011.

TO RECEIVE RESOLUTIONS MOVED ON NOTICE

None.

TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

None.

TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF MEMBERS

Cllr Kay Moss reported on the District/Parish Conference which she had attended with Cllr Andrew Steen and the Clerk. The main focus of the conference was the forthcoming Localism Bill and interactive sessions were held to gauge the response to various proposals.

Cllr Andrew Steen reported his attendance at a conference on Neighbourhood Planning held by the Department of Communities & Local Government and the Royal Town Planning Institute.

Cllr Kay Moss reported on a meeting of the Joint Action Group, which is made up of representatives from the District Council, Police, Fire Service and other agencies. Fly tipping is an issue on the Ashdown Forest; 140 tyres were removed in one month. The Alderbrook Estate has been selected under the Quality Street initiative and the clean-up will take place 6th December. As from 1st November, there is a new non-emergency number of 101 for the Police. Requests can be submitted for the use of the Community Payback Team,

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Wealden District Council

Cllr Antony Quin reported on the progress of the Transformation Programme. There will be a change to staff arrangements in order to minimise redundancies. Office based staff will operate a 'hot desk' system.

Meetings have been held regarding the Pine Grove Land Disposal Strategy. There is concern about the future of the Pine Grove site which is a Wealden based asset.

Work continues towards the development of a proposal for joint waste collection functions with councils at Rother, Eastbourne and Hastings. Part of the criteria is for standards to be maintained and savings of £500,000 pa to be achieved.

The official opening of the Jarvis Brook play project will be held 17th December.

East Sussex County Council

Cllr Richard Stogdon reported on a Cabinet decision to allocate £15 million for the provision of fast Broadband in East Sussex; there will be match funding from Central Government and BT.

The Environment Agency has identified East Sussex as the third best county council in the country for performance in 'green' issues and carbon reduction.

TO RESPOND TO WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION ON THE PINE GROVE LANDHOLDINGS – DISPOSAL STRATEGY

- 6326** **RESOLVED** to submit to Wealden District Council the response on the Pine Grove Landholdings – Disposal Strategy which had previously been circulated to members.

PROPOSAL FOR CALL-OVER PROCEDURE

Cllr Neil Waller explained that a proposal for establishing a call-over procedure had been discussed earlier in the year at a Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting where comments received included continuing a committee structure with delegated powers and supporting democracy. A paper will be drawn up on possible changes for discussion at the next meeting.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Transfer of ownership and sale of old hall

There was nothing to report from the working party.

Report on the progress of the community centre

Cllr George Moss reported that the community centre roof is almost complete and that the building will be weather tight soon. Most services are in. Authority has been received to connect the PV system to the National Grid although this is not expected to occur before the reduction in the feed-in tariff in December.

Further loan advance

An application was submitted to the Department of Communities & Local Government in April for borrowing approval of £1.4 million and approval was received to borrow £1 million initially. A further request will need to be submitted for the remaining £400,000. Subject to receipt of the borrowing approval, the funds will be drawn down at the appropriate time according to the progress of the building. It is recommended that the additional loan is drawn down on the same 20 year annuity basis as for the loan for £1 million.

- 6327** **RESOLVED** that subject to receipt of approval from the Department of Communities & Local Government to borrow a further £400,000, a loan should be drawn down from the Public Works Loan Board for 20 years on an annuity basis, in order to meet the approved funding arrangements for the Crowborough Community Centre.

TO AUTHORISE THE SEALING OF DOCUMENTSGrants of Exclusive Rights of Burial

- 6328** **RESOLVED** to authorise the following grant of exclusive right of burial:
- | Certificate | Name | Grave space |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| 880 | Mr R Johnstone | 3344 |

To approve the signing of the JCT Collateral Warranties for Funder relating to Crowborough Community Centre

- 6329** **RESOLVED** to approve the signing of JCT Collateral Warranties for Funder for the Crowborough Community Centre for:
- MacConvilles Limited
 - Anderson Acoustics Limited
 - Morgan Carn Limited
 - PJR Services Limited
 - VKHP Consulting

To approve the signing of the Alderbrook Neighbourhood Agreement (2)

This Agreement follows on the success of the first Neighbourhood Agreement. It is between the Alderbrook Community Association, Wealden District Council, Crowborough Town Council, Sussex Police and East Sussex County Council and sets out targets for the future.

- 6330** **RESOLVED** to approve the signing of the Alderbrook Neighbourhood Agreement (2).

To approve the signing of the Lease for Jarvis Brook Recreation Ground

- 6331** **RESOLVED** to approve the signing of the Lease for Jarvis Brook Recreation Ground.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Crowborough Town Council's response to Wealden District Council on Pine Grove Landholdings – Disposal Strategy

Crowborough Town Council has reviewed Wealden District Council's report to Cabinet dated 31st August 2011 on the Pine Grove Landholdings – Disposal Strategy, the Cabinet Decision and the *Workbaseplus* report. The following comments are made on the approach and issues:

1. The Pine Grove site is an important, prestige area for the town which needs to be developed as the 'heart' of Crowborough. The Town Council will do everything possible to work with the District Council to achieve the best possible economic package whilst retaining the community aspect of the site. This is in accordance with the aims and aspirations in the published Vision for the town.
2. The District Council offices (area E) should be retained for civic, community and commercial use, and discussions should be re-opened with service providers and community organisations. Providing a one-stop shop, library and other facilities will meet the needs of the community and enhance the link with the new community centre which is due for completion in 2012. This supports item 4.9 of the *Workbaseplus* report which refers to the need to retain the Pine Grove office building as an employment space to avoid the town becoming a 'dormitory' town.
3. It is appreciated that the District Council does not wish to become a landlord. However, in order to consider a possible business case, a valuation of the District Council offices should be provided together with the cost value as included within the Council's Business Plan. The Town Council owns assets within the centre of the town which may be suitable for an asset exchange.
4. Residential development within areas A, B, C and D may be appropriate. Measures should be included within any residential scheme to retain the existing 'green' road frontage along the A26 and Mill Lane.
5. The Brief for Disposal should include a wider consultation within the community, possibly by use of a 'Planning for real' exercise to explore all options.
6. The additional land holdings as identified in Appendix B should remain unchanged. Car parking is vital to the viability of the town; there should be no reduction in the extent of the facility or change to the existing policy of providing 'free' parking. The Bluebell Wood provides an important natural space within the town centre.