

Minutes of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT** Committee held at the Town Hall,  
The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 7.30 pm

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Present	Councillors	Quentin Burch Elizabeth Fermor Philip Fermor Kay Moss (arrived 7.52pm) Ronald Reed David Shaw Andrew Steen Matthew Street Sandra Timms	Vice-Chairman Chairman
Also present		John Coleman Philippa Hewes David Foot Emma Newman Susan Barnard 1 member of the public	Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Comm Town Clerk Operations Manager Ranger Operations Administrator

\* *Denotes non attendance*

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### **APOLOGIES**

None.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **MINUTES**

Minutes – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011

- 6334** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

### **MATTERS OUTSTANDING (including reports on updates)**

Installation of bollards outside the Post Office (6111)

*The replacement bollards were installed by ESCC when Croft Road was resurfaced.*  
NOTED.

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

*The footpath has been resurfaced and other maintenance work undertaken.*  
NOTED

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 were installed week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> November.*

*No suggestions have been received for information to be displayed in notice boards when not in use. So far this year, there have only been 2 weeks when none of the boards have been in use. A quotation of £21 + Vat has been received for a laminated A1 poster.*

It was **AGREED** to refer suggestions made by Councillors to the Communications and Events Committee for consideration.

Replacement bus shelters (6276)

*Meeting held with ESCC re licence for replacement bus shelters at Walshes Road and Aldervale Cottages. Bus shelters have now been ordered with anticipated delivery in February. Groundstaff to remove old shelters.*

NOTED

Street light column no.1 Palesgate Lane

*ESCC has been advised of transfer of ownership of this street light.*

NOTED

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Uckfield-Lewes Railway

In response to questions relating to his written report, John Coleman confirmed that Wealden District Council supports the proposed road scheme for Uckfield. A public consultation will take place in the New Year. The scheme will prevent the future reinstatement of the Uckfield-Lewes line. No new carriages will become available on the current line until 2020.

John Coleman was thanked for his report and his attendance at the meeting.

**CROWBOROUGH'S NATURAL HABITATS**

Matters Outstanding on Natural Habitats (including reports on updates)

Waymarkers – Silver Jubilee (6115)

*An order has been placed for the waymarkers.*

NOTED

Leaflet – The Ghyll (6116)

*No further action will be taken on the proposed leaflet for The Ghyll until January in accordance with the management plan.*

NOTED

Country Park – improvements to car park (6222)

Improvements were completed by 31<sup>st</sup> October and it proved possible to include within the budget repairs to the Country Park track, which had become eroded near the pond.

NOTED.

Liaison with Crowborough Conservation

*An informal meeting to find out more about the work of Crowborough Conservation and improve communication was held 21<sup>st</sup> November.*

NOTED

Boundary management at The Ghyll and Country Park

Letters have been delivered to all residents bordering the Country Park and The Ghyll requesting removal of encroachments and cessation of fly-tipping. A quotation has been received from a surveyor for a boundary survey of both sites and additional quotations are to be obtained in accordance with Financial Regulations.

There are a number of instances of encroachment, particularly from houses bordering the Country Park. In Medway, the dumping of garden rubbish into The Ghyll has caused the death of several significant trees. Land Registry drawings are of poor definition.

- 6335** **RESOLVED** to spend up to £8,000 + VAT to commission boundary surveys at The Ghyll and Country Park and to delegate authority to the Clerk to select the contractor.

Closing times at the car parks at The Ghyll and Country Park

Requests have been received to extend the weekday car park closing times at The Ghyll and Country Park. The current signs advising opening and closing times have proved too small and are often missed by drivers.

- 6336** **RESOLVED** to change the summer (April – September) car park closing times at The Ghyll and Country Park to 8.30pm and to erect new A3 signs beside the entrance gates to display the revised opening times.

Interpretation boards for The Ghyll

An A1 timber-framed interpretation panel with site map and visitor information is needed at both the Burdett Road and Green Lane entrances to the site, for which quotations have been received totalling £3,600 + VAT.

- 6337** **RESOLVED** to spend up to £3,600 + VAT to commission two timber-framed interpretation panels to be sited close to car parks at The Ghyll.

It was **AGREED** that a draft of the bye-laws proposed for The Ghyll be made available for consideration at the next meeting.

Threatened Species Project

This project, funded by a £10,000 Lottery grant, has been running since August and will need to continue in the absence of the Ranger. Surveys will be conducted in association with Crowborough Conservation.

To consider working arrangements with volunteers

To enable the Threatened Species Project and other volunteer work to continue without the direct supervision and management of the Ranger, a set of draft regulations is to be drawn up for consideration at the next meeting. All volunteer work will be subject to consent from the Council and will conform with site management plans.

The Committee wished to record thanks for all the work undertaken by volunteers belonging to Crowborough Conservation and the support given by them to Town Council environment projects.

Items from Ranger's Report for noting

The car park at Silver Jubilee is small and the vehicular access route to The Ghyll is often blocked by parked cars. It may be possible to enlarge the car park and provide a disabled access point to The Ghyll. A site visit is to be arranged for members.

The first survey of trees on Council land has been completed.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Planting in flower beds and hanging baskets

Crowborough is to receive the Olympic torch on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2012. In order to create the Olympic 'look', a list of plants/colours has been provided and a meeting is to be held with the Council's supplier.

- 6338** **RESOLVED** to create one celebration bed for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and to plant the remaining beds in Olympic colours.

**TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

To consider new items for the next Strengthening Local Relationships meeting with East Sussex County Council.

It was **AGREED** to raise the following issues at the next meeting:-

- The lack of management of road works on Crowborough Hill.
- The need for a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Tesco on Rotherfield Road.
- A safe means for pedestrians to cross the A26 near Goldsmiths Leisure Centre as the traffic island is not wide enough for a pushchair.
- The dangerous junction of Luxford Road with Walshes Road.

Damaged wire mesh fencing bordering the footpath between Fermor School and Beacon Community College will be inspected in order to identify and notify the body responsible for its repair.

**LIGHTING**

Replacement light at Limekiln Court, Palesgate Lane

The Council's lighting contractor has advised that a day-burning light at Limekiln Court needs to be replaced. The light is in a vulnerable position between 2 garages.

- 6339** **RESOLVED** to write to residents asking if the street light is required.

**FINANCE**

Management Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011 (sent to Councillors 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011)  
Management Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 (sent to Councillors 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011)

- 6340** **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Accounts for the two periods ending 30<sup>th</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011.

**TO CONSIDER STAFF ISSUES**

- 6341** **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 discussed for managing the Ranger's workload during her planned long-term absence.

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

A bus shelter outside Woodlands on Beacon Road has been covered in graffiti. It was questioned whether buses still use this route. It was agreed to inspect the shelter to see if the graffiti can be removed.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.