

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment** Committee held in the  
Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.30pm

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Present	Councillors	Peter Ellefsen*	
		Martyn Garrett	
		Richard Jury	Vice – Chairman
		Kay Moss	
		David Neeves*	
		Alan Penney	
		Ron Reed*	
		Greg Rose	Chairman
		Wendy Scrace	
		Matthew Street	
		Sandra Timms	
Also present		Caroline Miles	Deputy Town Clerk
		Amanda Negus	Committee Clerk
		John Coleman	Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee

6 members of the public

\*Denotes non attendance

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## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Vice Chairman of Mrs De Lannoy and Haven Homes Almshouse Charity requested help from CTC in regard to parking problems outside the Almshouses in East Beeches Road. There is a grass verge in front of the Almshouses with no concrete path so the residents have to cross the grass to get to their vehicles. The residents are vulnerable, elderly and one a wheelchair user. Parents collecting from Beacon Academy park on the grass verge in front of the Almshouses causing deep ruts of mud. This has created great difficulty for the residents to cross and one resident has fallen trying to do so. The Vice Chairman showed members photographs of the damaged verge. The Principal of Beacon has written to Beacon parents but this has not helped.

The Charity would like bollards installed along the verge to prevent parking and asked whether CTC would support this request and assist with the application to ESCC. Near neighbours and residents are supportive of this action to prevent parking on the verge, particularly as they are met with abuse when asking motorists not to park on the grass.

Members discussed similar parking problems in other parts of Crowborough, the de-criminalisation of parking in other areas of the country where councils have introduced byelaws to enable issuing fines for parking on verges and the limitations on Police unless a pavement is blocked

Members agreed to add to agenda for Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April with ESCC and Highways and report back to the Charity. Prior to the SLR meeting The Vice Chairman will email the photos and any relevant financial information to the Chairman.

Members were advised that CTC had previously supported a disabled resident with a parking problem. Although ESCC were unable to permit bollards because of visibility limitations a white line restricting to disabled parking only was painted on the road outside the residents house and the grass verge was concreted over.

## **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Peter Ellefsen  
Cllr David Neeves  
Cllr Richard Stogdon ESCC  
Daniel Colborne CTC Ranger

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

## **MINUTES**

### Minutes of the meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018

It was noted that Cllr Wendy Scrace had given apologies for absence and Deputy Clerk, Caroline Miles was present at the meeting.

- 8361 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

### Updated action list (attached to agenda)

Although Katy Bourne has not met with the Town Council, her press office has been in contact and conversations have taken place. No funding for the Community Warden has been awarded as yet but conversations are ongoing. Nus Ghani will also follow up with Katy Bourne.

A conversation has taken place with Nus Ghani and she will be making representation within the Department of Transport regarding Wealdlink.

The Ranger will be bringing a business case for a flail mower collector to the next meeting.

The yellow line consultation was delayed as one road had been missed off and consequently the paperwork had to be resubmitted, but it is now progressing.

## **HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

### To note report from Cllr Richard Stogdon regarding the footpath between Oliver Close and Crowborough Hill (attached to agenda)

It was noted that the path will be surfaced during the course of this financial year.

A member of the public who campaigned for the path's registration and for it to be surfaced explained how she would like to see the drainage issues along the path be addressed prior to its surfacing, so water doesn't accumulate later on. She also hopes ESCC would schedule the work for during the school holidays. For issues of safety she would like to see solar lights installed where the path bends and waste bins added to both ends. CTC were asked to assist with these requests either financially and/or by helping to push them through.

Members agreed in principle the need for lighting and bins. Lighting is the responsibility of ESCC, the provision and subsequent emptying of bins would rest with CTC. The lighting will be added to the SLR agenda for next week's meeting. Although there is not any money in the current budget, the bins will be added to a future agenda for consideration and the Environment Warden will be consulted. As the footpath is situated next to a new development the possibility of CiL funds will also be investigated.

Presentation by the Commercial Manager of Compass Travel (Sussex) Ltd, new operator of the bus service in Crowborough

The Commercial Manager of Compass Travel spoke to the committee. Compass is an independently owned company based in Worthing. Seaford & District approached them when they decided to give up the routes. The route from Crowborough to Tunbridge Wells is commercial, but the local bus routes are supported by ESCC. The timetable has been left as they inherited it for the moment.

The local routes need to be made commercially viable. The company has invested in new ticket machines which will allow contactless payments, smart cards and real time displays. New real time displays are being added to the bus stops, timetable cases and flags are being replaced. They hope to introduce new types of tickets for better value and flexibility. Compass will have its own new app for all bus routes once the new ticket machines have been installed.

They need to confirm KCC will continue with school bus pass funding as this is an important source of income for them. They now do major timetable changes around September to tie in with schools. Compass are asking for ideas on what is needed from the timetable. It was suggested that:

- Buses need to link up with the trains.
- It would be beneficial if the route could be extended so it goes through to Knights Park and doesn't end at Tunbridge Wells station.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> April there will be a bus in the Town to promote the route and bring awareness to residents.

The evening bus service to Knights Park for young people that used to run was funded by ESCC.

**Standing orders were suspended**

A member of the public asked if there is a number you can text to get bus times texted back. This service is currently provided through the Traveline website. It will be available in the future on Compass's app.

**Standing orders were reinstated.**

The Commercial Manager advised that rail tickets can be used on the buses from Crowborough Station to Tunbridge Wells Station in the event of train cancellations at Crowborough.

4 members of the public left the meeting at 8.10pm

To note request regarding grit bins at Elim Court Gardens and to agree any action (attached to agenda)

The resident decided not to attend the meeting, but the Chairman advised the following information:

- In 2004 CTC resolved not to buy grit bins.
- In 2015 CTC resolved not to replace damaged ESCC grit bins.
- The cost for a new grit bin to be installed is £275 with initial fill.
- Further refills are £70.

Members discussed the options and agreed that the previous resolutions were still applicable. If CTC pay for a grit bin in one road then in reality they have to pay for one in every road. The cost for a couple of days a year is not the best use of the limited funds.

To note report from Cllr Richard Stogdon regarding the Yellow line consultation (attached to agenda)

The report was noted.

To note confirmed costs of '20 is plenty' scheme and verbal update from Cllr Sylvia Tidy (attached to agenda)

The total cost for the feasibility study on the 6 roads within the Warren is £2,100. This has to be carried out before ESCC are able to consider speed reduction measures and does not guarantee any further action.

A policy for spending CiL monies needs adding to the agenda for consideration at Full Council and this item could possibly go on that list.

To note the Speedwatch report from Cllr David Neeves (attached to agenda)

The Deputy Clerk will follow up with the Police Speedwatch Co-ordinator regarding the amalgamation of the two Crowborough watches on the website as it is causing confusion. In practice, people can register with either watch that is listed, because they will be covering all the approved Speedwatch sites in Crowborough regardless of which one they have registered for.

To consider making a written representation to ESCC regarding the condition of several main roads in Crowborough (attached to agenda)

All the roads listed have been mentioned to ESCC and Highways and will be added to the SLR agenda. The A26 and Old Lane to be added to the list. The patching work on the A26 is already failing but it will be resurfaced in this budget year from Crowborough Cross to Sheep Plain and speed measures are also being looked at. This years schedule of works hasn't been issued yet, so the time scale is unknown.

The timings of road repairs need to be followed up with Cllr Richard Stogdon and whether there is evidence of the new contractors performance.

**8362 RESOLUTION** to write to Highways and the Lead Member for Communities and Safety reiterating how unhappy CTC and Crowborough's residents are about the roads.

## **RAILWAY REPORT**

To note the report from John Coleman (attached to agenda)

The train timetables are changing in May so it is vital that passengers check times before travel. The train service is still not running how it should.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

To note the report from the Ranger and agree any actions (attached to agenda)

A question was raised regarding the Pocket Park's suggested pond depth of 1.5m and whether it would cause health and safety concerns, it was confirmed that the Ranger has already investigated all requirements.

The inclement weather has taken its toll on the Country Park and this needs to be kept in mind for the budget reserves.

To note the verbal report from the Chairman following a Pocket Park site visit and to agree any action

The Chairman advised that a large amount of work has already been done in terms of clearing the area and fences being installed.

There is continuing anti-social behaviour along Poundfield Path outside the Pocket Park. Fires have been lit, damage caused to new fencing, kids with bolt cutters cutting down wire fencing and drug taking. Large groups of kids are always present. The Police are involved.

## **GRASS CUTTING IN CROWBOROUGH**

To note report and agree further action (attached to agenda)

ESCC will continue to cut grass verges around junctions and roundabouts the same number of times as currently. ESCC will reduce the cuts in other areas to twice a year. As it is not possible to gauge exactly what affect this reduction will have, members agreed not to take action at this time to funds extra cuts. It can be reviewed in the future once the effects are clear.

It was suggested possibly adding grass cutting to the CiL monies spending policy should it become necessary for more regular grass cutting. However, grass cutting is a regular expenditure and CiL monies are not a regular income.

## **SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM**

To note verbal report from the working group and agree any recommendations

Ashdown Infant Primary School have entered into the Crowborough in Bloom category. 1<sup>st</sup> Crowborough Scouts will plant up the anniversary bed on Chapel Green. Consideration was being given to delivering leaflets to the businesses in the Town to encourage involvement.

To note verbal report from the Deputy Town Clerk regarding the hanging baskets at the Fernbank Centre

CTC have been paying for the hanging baskets in the Morrisons owned Fernbank Centre for the last 10 years, but Morrisons have agreed to fund all the hanging baskets in the Fernbank Centre in future.

**TREE WARDEN ROLE**

To note report from the Chairman and to agree any action (attached to agenda)

After discussion it was agreed to leave the Tree Warden as an outside role.

John Coleman left the meeting at 9.01pm

**FINANCE**

To note the income and expenditure to date and material variances (attached to agenda)

Environment - 4664 - Road safety is a minus figure, but will be cancelled out once the grant has been received.

Environmental Projects – 4962 -- Pocket Park is minus figure, but will be cancelled out once the Lund Fund grant has been received.

2 members of the public left the meeting at 9.02pm

Environment – 4402 – The Ghyll is a minus figure, but appears to have been mis-coded and should be in Environmental Projects – 4402 – The Ghyll.

To consider balances to carry forward into next year's budget and / or move to Environment Committee reserves

**8363 RESOLVED** to carry the following balances forward:

1. Environment
  - a.4602 – Litter Bins to Environment Reserves.
  - b.4603 – Seats to Environment Reserves.
  - c.4651 – Planting to 4654 Environmental Improvements.
  - d.4659 – Community Warden (less salary costs which will go to F&GP) to Community Support Staff Reserve
2. Environmental Projects
  - a.4402 – The Ghyll to Natural Habitats Reserve.
  - b.4475 – Country Park to Natural Habitats Reserve.
  - c.4656 – Bluebell Wood to Natural Habitats Reserve.

To agree which budget codes the committee wishes to see as standard on committed expenditure

Committed Expenditures procedures need adding to the agenda for Finance and General Purposes to review.

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

None.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.