

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment** Committee held in the
Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 20th November 2018 at 7.30pm

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

3 members of the public

*Denotes non attendance

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the Labour party spoke about the recent community meeting with Sussex Police. It was a non-political meeting and all parties were invited. They had been overwhelmed by attendance, which is an indication of public feeling. The meeting split into 4 discussion groups: road safety, youth issues, rural issues and community engagement.

Concerns that were repeatedly expressed were:

- Inconsistency of the speed limits surrounding Crowborough compared to other local towns.
- Parking issues, particularly on pavements.
- Youth activities – sports clubs reaching out to young people more. A BMX track. Young people being asked what they would like.
- The fact that PCSO's no longer patrol the Town.
- 101 is failing as it's so difficult to get through.
- The Operation Crackdown website is outdated as a method for reporting.
- Residents asked about the future of the Police Station. The Police acknowledged that it is located in the wrong area and it would be better situated in the town centre.
- Crowborough is the largest inland town and therefore paying the highest contribution, but not receiving the corresponding service.

A copy of the meeting report has been sent to the Police and the East Sussex County Councillors for Crowborough. The Acting Chief Inspector said at the meeting she would pursue some of the issues raised. Nothing has been heard back as yet. CTC were asked to consider the report.

APOLOGIES

Cllr Quentin Burch
Cllr Alan Penney
Cllr Richard Stogdon ESCC

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr David Neeves declared an interest in the police report by Wealden Labour as he is a member.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th October 2018

8603 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2018 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

Updated action list (attached to agenda)

- Wealden bus survey – Cllr Greg Rose will chase.
- Yellow line consultation – Residents objections need to be considered before it can be taken to an East Sussex County Council meeting.
- Access for All Scheme – The rail operator has been written to, but no response received yet. The Acting Town Clerk will chase.
- Compass Travel – Compass advised that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council have declined to contribute towards the service. Frant and Rotherfield Parish Councils haven't responded yet.
- Jarvis Brook post box – The Post Office have been contacted, but haven't responded yet.
- Litter bin in Southview Road – The sign was put up on the 11th October. The Groundstaff have been monitoring it every other day, unfortunately dog faeces and household waste are still being put in the bin.

COMMUNITY WARDEN

To note the officer's report and agree further action (attached to agenda)

To maintain a visible and experienced Community Warden presence in the community for the short term as well as provide for the longer term it was

8604 RESOLVED to employ a Community Warden on a shared basis as described in the Acting Town Clerks report for a period of 4 months until the end of March 2019. Additionally Full Council to examine employing a new Community Warden for Crowborough.

The Acting Town Clerk to negotiate hours of cover available etc with the other Council.

RAILWAY REPORT

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

Additionally:

- Trains are still terminating at Crowborough to keep the Thameslink trains on time.
- Time keeping on Southern and Thameslink is slightly better.
- Five trains were cancelled yesterday due to technical problems.
- During the Christmas period trains will be going to London Bridge not Victoria.
- Batteries for electric stock are being investigated.
- The East Croydon remodelling will take place between 2023 – 2030.
- BML2 is still active as a project with support from local MP's. It relies on private investment.

ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

To note the emails regarding Green lane and agree any action (attached to agenda)

Points raised:

- The Green Lane traffic problems have been going on for years.
- Speedwatch have done one session at a lunchtime and 39 vehicles were recorded speeding.
- Empty lorries are particularly noisy early in the morning, which was why the speed humps were altered previously.

To be put on the SLR agenda to be discussed again with East Sussex Highways.

To note the Community Speedwatch Report (attached to agenda)

The Speedwatch website is still showing as Crowborough Jarvis Brook and Crowborough Southview Road. The issue of having one Crowborough website listing was raised at the Co-ordinators meeting, but nothing has been done. It is still felt this is misleading and off-putting for potential volunteers.

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

- The 2019/20 requested Bluebell Wood budget has been allocated for signage in the Bluebell Wood.
- The current Bluebell Wood budget has been overspent. It was believed to be for a specific reason, but the Ranger to clarify for the committee.
- The Ranger is to obtain costs for the recommendations in his report.

BUS SHELTERS

To note the verbal report from the Acting Town Clerk regarding the Council's current supplier of bus shelters

The Acting Town Clerk advised that Queensbury Bus Shelters are closing down. This is the Council's normal provider of the agreed bus shelter design. A new supplier will have to be sourced who can adhere as closely as possible to the standard CTC design.

To note the report regarding a request for an additional bus shelter (attached to agenda)

- A new bus shelter supplier and costs have to be found before anything can be agreed.
- Information also needs to be obtained as to which are the most frequented bus stops where a shelter would be of most benefit.
- The bus shelter from Walshes Road may be able to be used in a different location as it will be too wide for the new bus stop position on Walshes Road. A smaller bus stop may need to be sourced for the new Walshes Road bus stop.
- Bus shelter outside Holmes Place to be put on SLR agenda.

COMMUNITY POLICING IN CROWBOROUGH

To note the documentation arising from the public meeting on Community Policing in Crowborough and agree any action (attached to agenda)

A discussion took place with the following points raised:

- Inspector Gross has been invited to attend the Town Conference.
- CTC fought the removal of PSCO's and have consequently employed a Community Warden since their loss. The Council was offered funding by Katy Bourne, but nothing has been received so the position has been entirely funded by the Town Council.
- CTC recognise that the local sports clubs do a lot of work with promoting youth engagement. They acknowledge the difficulties from previous efforts at starting a youth club and youth bus.
- In regard to the Police Station having a town centre location, it was suggested to the Police by CTC some time ago to have a space in the Pine Grove facility, but nothing was heard back.
- CTC recognises that Crowborough residents feel they have been abandoned by the Police and has written numerous letters on various issues including burglaries and parking issues.

Four members of the public left the meeting at 8.33pm

SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM

To note the report on the Town's SEIB entry for 2018 and agree further action

A written report was distributed to members prior to the meeting giving information of judges comments and scores received:

Country Park

Silver Gilt Award won. CTC scored 162 out of a possible 200 (8 marks short of Gold). This was only 4 marks more than last year.

Although the disabled accesses and signs have been improved less points were scored this year on those areas than last year.

Town Centre

Silver Gilt Award won. CTC scored 154 out of a possible 200 (16 marks short of Gold). This was 22 marks more than last year.

The competition is subjective to judges interpretation of categories as to how they are scored.

It was noted at the awards ceremony that lots of towns have an "In Bloom" team that are spearheaded by non-councillors.

Despite the points raised, SEIB has been a very positive experience encouraging residents and businesses to get involved and for CTC being given new ideas on how to improve public areas. It was therefore

8605 RESOLVED to enter The Ghyll in the Country Park category of SEIB next year.

LITTER BINS AND REQUESTS

To note the list of requests for litterbins/street furniture and agree any action (attached to agenda)

Southview Road litter bin – The hospital have requested its removal as it is being misused with dog and household waste and they felt it was unhygienic to the hospital. A sign was put on it, but it hasn't improved the situation.

Household waste being dumped in public litter bins is actually classed as fly tipping. The Safer Wealden Partnership have covert cameras for fly tipping which can be borrowed and may have to be considered.

Another suggestion was to block up the bin.

Concern was expressed for where the litter would be put if the bin was blocked or removed, particularly as it is situated next to a bench where hospital visitors and staff eat and smoke.

The situation will continue to be monitored until the next meeting and household waste photographed as offenders may be able to be identified.

COMMEMORATIVE TREE

To note the report on the commemorative tree for Crowborough and agree further action (attached to agenda)

As the commemorative tree is quite small and it would get eaten by wildlife, or trodden on if planted out straightaway, the Ranger has potted it up and will look after it until it is a bit bigger and more resilient for planting out.

FINANCE

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

The income and expenditure were noted.

The RFO to clarify what the entry "Movement to/from General Reserves" means.

To note and agree the prepared budget for 2019-20 (attached to agenda)

Quotes need to be obtained for the planting. The nursery needs to know requirements by February.

Acting Town Clerk to check the CCTV contract and statistics, so members at the next F&GP meeting can see if the results warrant the cost to CTC.

8606 RESOLVED to agree the prepared 2019-20 budget.

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

The Acting Town Clerk advised that the Streets Ahead Archway has now been built and is almost ready for signwriting.

The meeting closed at 9.31pm.