

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment** Committee held in the  
Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 7.30pm

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Present	Councillors	Peter Ellefsen Martyn Garrett Richard Jury Kay Moss David Neeves Alan Penney * Ron Reed * Greg Rose Wendy Scrace * Matthew Street * Sandra Timms	Vice – Chairman      Chairman
Also present		Cllr Richard Stogdon Cllr Sylvia Tidy John Coleman Andy Beams	East Sussex County Council East Sussex County Council  Town Clerk

\*Denotes non attendance

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#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

#### **APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Alan Penney, Ron Reed, Wendy Scrace and Matthew Street

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

#### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017

- 8163** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

Action List (attached to agenda)

Members noted the updated action list and the dog bin item due for discussion at the next meeting. The Town Clerk to check if the light at Medway was now fixed.

**RAILWAY REPORT** (attached to agenda)

John Coleman spoke to highlight the main points of his report. Questions were raised about how other parish councils might get involved in the Railway Line Parishes Committee, and John agreed to pass on details of the main contact.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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

The Ranger spoke to highlight the main points of his report and to inform Members that the council had been successful with its grant application to the Lund fund for £4,500 for the creation of the Pocket Park.

Cllr Sylvia Tidy stated that the Lund fund had been impressed by the application, and would be open to further applications to develop the project next year.

Cllr Greg Rose raised the idea of forming a working group for the Pocket Park and it was agreed that Cllrs Martyn Garrett, Richard Jury, Kay Moss and Greg Rose form the working group.

The Ranger explained the change in policy of the Kent and Sussex Pony Conservation Trust, and agreed to explore alternate options for next year and report back to the committee.

Cllr David Neeves raised that the Jarvis Brook Residents Association (JBRA) were wanting to create a picnic area, and the Ranger agreed to meet with JBRA representatives to review the options and report back to the committee.

The surveys appended to the Ranger's report were reviewed and it was agreed to carry out the recommended electro-fishing in the Country Park.

Members thanked the Ranger for his report and also for his input to the South East in Bloom competition, particularly regarding the Country Park.

## HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Cllr Greg Rose provided background information for the specific items on the agenda:

- The grass between Fernbank and Hilders Farm Close had been confirmed as not belonging to ESCC. It was possible that the housing association owned the land, but an enquiry had been made to WDC and a response was awaited.
- Cllrs Sylvia Tidy and Greg Rose had visited the resident concerned about speeding traffic on the A26 and witnessed the problem personally. The resident had asked for the positioning of a permanent speed camera, but Rupert Clubb of ESCC had denied the request as it did not meet the criteria. The highway in that area was in the process of being redesigned, and that may help the situation.
- The issues in Melfort Road had been reported to the Highway Steward who was investigating and would report back any actions.

Cllr David Neeves informed Members that he was a member of Roadwatch which had been set up through the fire service, and it was hoped volunteers would come forward to help set up schemes around the town.

Cllr Kay Moss reported that Kate Graham of East Sussex Fire Service had spoken at the latest WDALC meeting about ways of managing speeding and other dangerous driving issues.

Members were made aware of a current campaign by a resident to reduce speed limits in locations across the town with the slogan '20 is plenty'.

Cllr Richard Stogden was asked for an update on the situation in Mill Lane. He stated that it was subject to a new traffic order, and once he was able to confirm a timescale for this, he would report back to the committee.

Cllr Sandra Timms stated that a litter bin had been removed from the corner of St John's Road and Beacon Gardens. The Town Clerk was asked to find out who the bin belonged to and enquire as to whether it was being replaced.

Cllr Kay Moss pointed out that there had been a traffic cone over a broken drain on the traffic island outside Goldsmiths for some time. Cllr Richard Stogden agreed to investigate when the repair work was due to be completed.

Cllr David Neeves reported that there was a collapsed stile on the footpath near the railway bridge in Palesgate Lane. Cllr Stogden agreed to find out if it was scheduled to be repaired or replaced.

Cllr Martyn Garrett reported he had received a number of complaints about anti-social parking in Batchelor Way and Highfields. It was confirmed this was one of the sites being considered for yellow lines.

#### To agree priorities for highways schemes

A number of Members recalled a priority list had been discussed in previous years, but the Town Clerk had been unable to find a record of what had been agreed. Members were asked to forward any details they had to the Town Clerk, and the sites put forward would be recorded and put to the next committee meeting to agree the priority order.

#### To agree priorities for highways schemes

The Town Clerk informed Members of a request received to consider providing a bus shelter on the A26 near the MOD training camp. Members recalled discussing the site in the past, and believed it had not been possible due to the width of the pavement. The Town Clerk was asked to investigate further and report back to the committee.

### **WORKING GROUPS**

#### South East in Bloom

Cllr Greg Rose circulated a report highlighting some of the comments received from the judges on the day. While the judging had been generally very good, there were some areas which could have been better. In particular, the Town Clerk was asked to check what maintenance schedule there was for the street furniture around the town.

The working group would remain in place to review the full report once the scores had been received, and to make any recommendations about changes for next year.

Cllr Martyn Garrett offered thanks to Cllr Greg Rose for his efforts leading up to and on judging day, and to all the grounds staff involved in the preparations for the town.

#### Community Warden

Following interviews conducted by Cllr Kay Moss and the Town Clerk on the 18<sup>th</sup> July, a warden had been appointed and would be in place by September at the latest. The selected candidate had previously been a warden for Kent County Council and was the unanimous choice of the interviewers.

During the interview process, a number of items for consideration had been brought up by the candidates, including the use of public transport by the Warden, provision of a mobile phone and facilities for breaks outside of Town Hall opening hours.

The Town Clerk was asked to investigate each of these, and the use of the SECAM station was suggested as a possible break facility.

#### I Care for Crowborough

A report of the working group meeting had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr Timms reported that the meeting had been very useful and had come up with a number of ideas for reinvigorating the campaign. As a result it was

- 8164 RESOLVED** to continue with the working group and that Cllr Greg Rose would join the group. The Town Clerk would also ask Melanie Street to join the group following her successful involvement previously.

Cllrs Richard Stogden and Sylvia Tidy, along with John Coleman, left the meeting at 9.10pm.

#### **GATE LOCKING**

Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of locking the Country Park and Ghyll and it was

- 8165 RESOLVED** to continue locking the gates at both sites.

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members reviewed the suggested amendments to the terms of reference and agreed to

- 8166 RECOMMEND** to Full Council the adoption with the addition of the Pocket Park as a named piece of amenity land, and reference to CIL money in addition to s.106.

#### **BUSINESS PLAN**

Members discussed a number of ideas for inclusion on the business plan, including:

- Taking over verge cutting services, street cleaning, street lighting
- Including the management plans as part of the business plan
- Including the priority listing for highways match funding projects
- The establishment of a bus station in Crowborough
- The possibility of using the grounds staff to carry out work in other neighbouring parishes
- Town centre regeneration, traffic flow / pavements / making the town more pedestrian friendly
- The pocket park
- Growing the Community Warden team
- Expansion of CCTV
- Additional land purchasing
- Contracts for dog waste and street refuse collections
- Operating / contracting a circular Town bus route
- Parking wardens should decriminalisation take place
- Sponsorship of green areas
- Crowborough walking trail

#### **FINANCE**

- 8167 RESOLVED** to note the income and expenditure and material variances

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

Cllr David Neeves raised the concern about motorbikes being ridden in Walshes Park. Cllr Greg Rose confirmed he had raised this with WDC who were investigating alternate padlocks for the gates as the previous ones had been cut off.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm