

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment** Committee held in the
Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 31st January 2017 at 7.30pm

Present	Councillors	Quentin Burch Martyn Garrett Chris Moss Kay Moss David Neeves Alan Penney Ron Reed Greg Rose Wendy Scrace Matthew Street* Sandra Timms	Chairman Vice – Chairman
Also present		Cllr Peter Ellefsen Cllr Richard Stogdon John Deller John Coleman Andy Beams Amanda Negus Dan Colborne 5 members of the public	East Sussex County Council Wealden District Council Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee Town Clerk Committee Clerk Ranger

*Denotes non attendance

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

4 members of the public addressed the committee in regards to item 11.2 on the Agenda; Dangerous parking in Mill Lane. They detailed the problems that they have experienced: delayed access for emergency vehicles whilst on call, vehicles driving on the pavement and abusing pedestrians, accidents, oil leakages, physical threats, being forced to exit Beacon Close on wrong side of road with restricted visibility, people sleeping in vans on the road, difficulty accessing own driveways for parking. Problems were exacerbated when Croft Road was closed for the Christmas Fair.

Taking photos of offenders has proved to be too hazardous and notices on cars have been ineffective.

Kelly Burr ESCC Highways Dept. advised in March 2016, agreement that yellow lines were necessary but a stage 2 consultation process was needed. Stage 1 is to consult with CTC, which has not been done yet. Residents requested CTC assist them.

All members of the public left the meeting at 8.00pm.

APOLOGIES

Cllr Matthew Street

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on the 29th November 2016

- 7982 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2016 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS OUTSTANDING

Community Match Funding for parking schemes (7639)

This has now been submitted.

Street Lighting – Structural Testing 2016

This has been completed and no issues have been reported.

SANGS – WALSHES PARK

John Deller gave a presentation about the new SANGs Walshes Park (see Appendix 1 attached). Most of the park should be open by early May with a boardwalk on the lower areas. Once completed there will be a minimum of 3km of hard surface pathways and additional mown paths in the summer. John Deller advised they did not want to discourage the people that are already using the park.

Next year's budget to manage the park is £200k, with a budget of £100k each year after. WDC will be putting out to tender for a company to maintain and manage the park according to WDC's plan. The Ranger suggested CTC tendering for the park management.

Residents have been liaised with at all stages and the concern of privacy and outlook is being addressed by a fence being erected and trees planted therefore creating 2 boundaries in addition to the home owners own boundaries.

All Alderbrook Association members present at their last meeting (except 1, a resident from Adam Close) were in favour of the new access via Adam Field. Cllr Kay Moss expressed concern that the Alderbrook Way car park may not be big enough, and parking will overspill into Adam Close.

There will be an additional car park situated in the new development area.

There is no predicted usage at the moment because WDC is unsure how the numbers used in the planning application were arrived at and by whom.

Cllr Sandra Timms enquired whether having the SANGs Park was just an expensive way of allowing the development to go ahead and Cllr Quentin Burch asked if it now allowed for additional development to take place in Crowborough and the surrounding villages. John Deller replied that the idea of SANGs Walshes Park is that the residents of the new development will use it instead of driving out to the Forest. Also that existing residents of the surrounding area will use it as an alternative. He did confirm that it would allow for additional house building.

Cllr Greg Rose enquired about the deer on the site and if there are plans to ensure they are not disturbed into moving to another area. John Deller said that although deer proof fences had been erected to protect new trees, the deer route had been observed.

The Ranger advised that an ecological wildlife plan is needed; this is valued by CTC at its own sites.

There will be dog waste bins at the main points of access; 4 have been identified at present. These will be erected, maintained and emptied by WDC.

Part of John Deller's presentation was to show an area of woodland at the bottom of Adam Field currently leased to CTC by WDC and enquire whether CTC would exclude it from their lease so it could be incorporated into the SANGs Park. It would be fully maintained and managed by WDC and would enable an access point more suitable for wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

It was **AGREED** that once a proposal has been received from WDC it will be put on the next Environment committee meeting Agenda (28 March) for discussion.

RAILWAY REPORT (attached to agenda)

John Coleman talked the committee through his written report. He also advised there was a BML2 meeting yesterday with Chris Grayling; Transport Secretary. International investors are looking at linking the line from Brighton to Canary Wharf.

SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM

The South East in Bloom Working Group met this evening and agreed to enter 4 categories in the competition:

- Town Centre – up to 1 square mile
- Country Park – enter Crowborough Country Park
- It's Your Neighbourhood – involve Brighter Crowborough and I Care for Crowborough.
- Our community

They agreed to spend £215 of the £250 budget for this project.

As it's the first year of entering, Mr Holman of South East in Bloom has agreed to come to a Working Group meeting to help. The judging will take place in July and this year the specific date will be advised in advance (in future years this will not happen).

I CARE FOR CROWBOROUGH

The committee discussed previous approaches such as involving schools by providing education and encouraging them to take part in litter picking. It takes a lot of organising and volunteers are vital.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Ron Reed would lead the project with help from Cllr Sandra Timms, Cllr Chris Moss and Cllr Greg Rose.

GREAT BRITAIN SPRING CLEAN (3rd – 5th March)

Although this is a valuable campaign it was **AGREED** that with all the other projects currently being managed by the Environment Committee it would not be practical to take an active part in this too.

However, if other groups would like to take part, support would be offered in the form of publicity, loan of litter pickers and the supply of bags and banners.

PLANTERS

Alderbrook Community Association: has been granted 11 planters and £100 per planter by WDC. They have obtained permissions and leases from ESCC Highways and locations have been agreed. ACA will plant and maintain all planters.

ACA have asked if they can be part of the agreement between CTC and their plant supplier to enable the receipt of more competitive pricing and also advice on what to plant to give consistency with CTC's planting scheme.

It was **AGREED** that an introduction could be provided to the nursery with a request for advice to be given to ACA and pricing consistent with that given to CTC.

Jarvis Brook Community Association: Cllr David Neeves advised the committee of parking problems in Jarvis Brook where cars are left on grass verges instead of driveways. This is churning up the grass, making the area look unsightly and causing difficulties for pedestrians. He suggested planters could help alleviate these issues.

After discussion, it was **AGREED** that JBCA should approach WDC in the same way as ACA. A plan of suggested locations will be needed and ESCC Highways will have to approve them.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Rangers report and Proposed Ranger Projects Feb 2017 – Mar 2018 (attached to agenda)

In addition the following was also discussed:

- Bluebell Wood: The posts and railings on the side closest to Waitrose are looking tatty and collapsing. It may be possible to patch them up using some left over bits from when the fencing in Burdett Road was replaced. There isn't enough to do all of it though. The management plan has expired, but as this is a small area and the Ranger is a qualified Ecologist he proposes to do it himself.
- Pocket Park: Some clearing work has been undertaken in anticipation of the lease being signed. A brief site survey will take place next week at a cost of £350 from this year's Environmental Projects budget. A vegetation survey will take place over the spring/summer and this will need to come from next year's budget. Once the reports have been received and discussed a management plan can be worked out and a budget agreed. There is a litter problem mainly caused by children entering the park from the school side, so measures need to be put in place to keep them out. This area has been cleared over the last 2 years with help from Brighter Crowborough and I Care for Crowborough.
- Ghyll: Dormice surveying and management plan costs come from the Ghyll budget. The Ghyll management plan is valid until 2019.
- Country Park: The plan to remove the fish from the top pond is now under consideration as there is a Kingfisher in residence.

The Ranger has emailed WDC about his concerns regarding the risk of exacerbated stream erosion caused by increased water run-off from the new development and the lack of consultation with CTC about it. Funding (approx. £500) will be needed from the existing budget for digger and operator hire for work on the bottom pond and top ridge. Cllr Sandra Timms suggested asking the Crowborough Conservation volunteers for their permission to take photos of them at work to create a presentation as part of the South East in Bloom entry

It was **AGREED** that although the management plan does not need renewing until Spring 2018, the Ranger should start initial reviews to show South East in Bloom that it is being thought about.

- Tree Inspection Policy: Needs to be reviewed April 2017. As this covers all trees in Crowborough it comes under the Head Groundsman's remit.

Dog bin locations: A plan of the dog bin locations was reviewed (see Appendix 2 attached) There is an additional dog bin at Owlsbury, which is not shown on the map.

Possible additional locations in Adams Field, Southview Road, Harecombe Road and Hurtis Hill were discussed. Also discussed were costs of emptying the dog bins.

It was **AGREED** that existing locations would be left unchanged.

It was **AGREED** the Clerk will investigate alternative contractors nearer to the time the current contract with WDC expires in March 2018.

It was **AGREED** for the dog bin locations to be added to the Parish Online Mapping Portal.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

ESCC Updates from Cllr Richard Stogdon

It has been proposed the match funding money to be put aside for next year should be more than doubled to £235k approx.

Cllr Stogdon reiterated that CTC mustn't hold back in applying for any Highways schemes. 3 plans have already been submitted: Osborne Road, Sybron Way and Medway. (See Appendix 3; match funding list attached).

Cllr Kay Moss advised there was approx. £950 CIL money to be spent on infrastructure and the list could be used for this.

Dangerous parking in Mill Lane

The committee discussed all aspects of the problem thoroughly taking into account the points made by the public and it was agreed to support the application for yellow lines as follows:

- Cllr Richard Stogdon will investigate at what stage the application is at and whether match funding is a requirement.
- A letter will be sent to Inspector Wakefield from the Council.
- If no response received a further letter will be sent to Katy Bourne; Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner.

- Write to both East Sussex County Councillors Crowborough Representatives so the letters are logged prior to the May election.
- Raise the committees concerns with Nick Skelton; Assistant Director Communities at ESCC for this issue to be looked at as a matter of priority.

ESCC Highways response times to damaged lights

A member of the public approached Cllr Martyn Garrett in December 2016 in regard to a street light that was knocked over in Charity Farm Way (off Millbrook Road) in Spring 2016. The resident was advised a replacement would take 6-8 weeks; the base was actually replaced 12th January 2017. It will not be connected by UK Power Network for another 6-9 weeks. Cllr Garrett is concerned about the safety issues caused by the time the replacement has taken.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Garrett will provide correspondence to Cllr Stogdon who will then follow up.

Cllr Stogdon advised the broken light in the twitten between Medway and Bracken Close is the responsibility of WDC. WDC have admitted it needs replacing.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Rose will ask Cllr Steve Isted to pursue this.

FINANCE

Management Accounts to 31st December 2016

Cllr Wendy Scrace queried the amount listed for cleaning the tractor shed. The Clerk clarified that it is actually payment for several items to the same company, but a flaw in the accounts system only allows for it to be shown as one item.

7983 RESOLVED to adopt the management Accounts as presented.

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

Crowborough Cross Traffic Lights

Cllr Greg Rose has received correspondence from Karl Taylor; ESCC Assistant Director for Operations (please see Appendix 4 attached) advising the phasing has been adjusted several times and formal monitoring will now take place to determine the cause of the problem.

Pedestrian Crossings

Cllr Greg Rose has received correspondence from Nick Skelton; ESCC Assistant Director Communities (please see Appendix 5 attached) advising that plans towards new pedestrian crossings in Crowborough are progressing.

Streets Ahead Archway

It was **AGREED** to add this item to the next meeting agenda.

WDC wild flower bulbs

WDC have offered (free of charge) to plant wild flower bulbs, CTC just need to advise of possible locations to be in with a chance of being selected. It was **AGREED** the Clerk would reply to WDC suggesting:

- The banks at the entrance of Goldsmiths Recreation Ground.
- The grass area between the planters at the side of Chapel Green.
- The bank alongside the MOD pitch.

The meeting closed at 9.47pm.