

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment** Committee held in the
Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 31st July 2018 at 7.30pm

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

4 members of the public

*Denotes non attendance

APOLOGIES

Cllr Alan Penney

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th June 2018

8488 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2018 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

Updated action list (attached to agenda)

Noted.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Presentation from Compass Travel (Sussex) Ltd, regarding future provision of services and agree action

Representatives from Compass Travel gave a presentation about the 227/228/229 services that they provide:

- The bus service is not currently viable as it stands but Compass are working towards financial viability. In the meantime they are hoping for a financial contribution from Crowborough Town Council (CTC), Rotherfield and Frant Parish Councils. They asked CTC for £10,000, which they would need towards the end of this year. This would ensure the routes viability for the first year.
- If CTC were to provide financial support, Compass would regularly meet with them and provide financial reviews.
- Compass are customer focussed. They believe that with additional marketing and customer engagement there is a good opportunity to make the routes commercially viable.
- Rustington Parish and Lewes Town Councils already give financial support towards their local bus services.
- The Compass business model is to fill the gaps left by the big bus companies.
- Since taking over the route in March Compass have introduced smart bus stops, new timetables, new ticket machines and a real time app.
- There will be a new timetable from September taking into account customers comments and connecting with the train times. The 227 school bus timings and route has also been changed to co-ordinate better. The timetable has also been adjusted to avoid duplication of service with Brighton & Hove buses.
- Compass and Wealdlink provide different types of service so are not competing with each other.
- Compass estimate an approx. cost of £2,000 for re-branding and marketing.

An Alderbrook resident spoke about how much he and his neighbours value the service and how reliant on it many of the Alderbrook residents are.

Compass agreed to provide the Town Clerk with figures of how the bus services are used. i.e how many people board at each stop.

To note the update from ESCC Councillors, including progress on the yellow line consultation

Despite unforeseeable delays along the way, the consultation is now due to go out to public consultation imminently.

RAILWAY REPORT

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

The report was noted and the additional points discussed:

- Disabled access at Crowborough Station – The Town Mayor was advised by Nus Ghani MP that the Government will be launching an “Access for all” scheme after the summer recess. The Clerk will write to the rail operator to ask them to bid for this specific scheme for Crowborough Station.
- Additional carriages have been added and overcrowding improved.
- The existing Southern timetable that started 2 weeks ago will run unchanged until December.

- The parking is inadequate at most stations along the Uckfield line, but there isn't the money or space available to make improvements.
- The methods of payment available for station car parks is likely to change.
- The fares are complicated, so it is always worth checking for cheaper offers, including using 2 x single tickets.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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

The report was noted.

Ranger to confirm as to what stage the application to ESCC for the Pocket Park pond is at.

To discuss grass cutting issues in the town and agree action (attached to agenda)

When residents contact the Town Hall about grass cutting they will be asked for their views:

A) Have an increase in Council tax to fund additional cuts?

Or

B) No increase in Council Tax and to keep to two cuts per year?

This will aid Councillors with future decisions regarding grass cutting.

A suggestion was made that residents could help by cutting the verges outside their own homes.

To discuss the condition of the seats in the High Street and agree any action

The seats on the Piazza need refurbishing, which the Grounds Staff will look at doing themselves from 801/4115 Street Furniture Maintenance budget.

Schedule of benches to be checked to ensure these benches are the most urgent.

The seats in Clokes Corner been repainted by Grounds Staff and they've done a good job, but the lamps in that area also need cleaning and repainting.

COMMUNITY WARDEN

To note report from meeting of northern Wealden parishes (attached to agenda)

The proposal seems to be quite advanced so Councillors will await more details. It was thought to be a good idea in theory, but there was concern as to how this would be funded.

To review options for provision of electric bike and agree action (attached to agenda)

The decision regarding an electric bike will be postponed until it can be seen how transport within the Wealden Parishes scheme will work if it goes ahead.

SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM

To note update following the judging on 5th July

The results will be advised on 14th September. The Town Mayor thanked the Deputy Clerk for all her hard work on this project. He also advised that Ashdown Primary School were awarded a Silver Gilt Award and were the overall winner of Sussex in the schools category. The awards ceremony will be held at the Brighton Stadium. Initially only 2 tickets will be available, but more may be offered later. The Town Mayor and the Deputy Clerk will attend and if more tickets become available the Grounds Operations Manager will be invited.

FINANCE

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

The income and expenditure and material variances were noted.

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

Item for the next Environment meeting agenda – the replacement of the street light in Western Road. A quote for the replacement street light has been received and agreed and the contractor has been advised of the type of street light required.

Catesby are meeting with CTC on Monday 13th August at 6.45pm regarding their development north of Walshes Road. They will be discussing highways improvement and bus stop relocation on Walshes Road so this meeting may be of interest to Environment Committee members.

Item for the next Environment meeting agenda – relocation of post box in Jarvis Brook. The new landowner of where the post box is currently sited would like it removed, so an alternative location needs to be agreed and applied for. The grass verge by the phone box on the corner of Crowborough Hill and Burdett Road is one location that has been suggested.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm.