

Minutes of a MEETING of the 112<sup>th</sup> **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY** of the Local Electors of the Parish of Crowborough held at All Saints Church Centre, Chapel Green, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30pm.

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Town Councillors present:

Maggie Brain	Alan Penney
Quentin Burch	Ron Reed*
Martyn Garrett	Heather Rogers
David Larkin	Greg Rose*
George Moss	Wendy Scrace
Kay Moss*	Matthew Street
David Neeves	

\*Denotes those also WDC councillors

In attendance:

WDC Councillors: Stephen Isted Phillip Lunn Jeannette Towey

ESCC Councillors: Sylvia Tidy

Philippa Hewes	Town Clerk
Caroline Miles	Events Co-ordinator
Melanie Street	Customer Services Officer
Insp. Tony Wakefield	Sussex Police Inspector
Gareth Dalton	Assistant Group Scout Leader, 1 <sup>st</sup> Crowborough Scouts
Hilary Lyon	Chairman of Society of Friends of Montargis

46 members of the public

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The Town Mayor, Cllr Ron Reed, welcomed all those present and explained the format of the evening.

**HILARY LYON, CHAIRMAN OF SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF MONTARGIS**

Hilary Lyon detailed the events which will form part of this year's celebrations to mark the fiftieth anniversary of twinning with Montargis and thanked the Town Council for the grant which will be used to provide funding for the weekend's entertainment.

**GARETH DALTON, ASSISTANT GROUP SCOUT LEADER,  
1<sup>ST</sup> CROWBOROUGH SCOUTS**

Gareth Dalton introduced other scouting leaders present and then proceeded to give a talk on his background in scouting, the history of scouting in Crowborough, fundraising and current projects. He thanked the Town Council for the grant the

group received and explained how it has been used to update their tents. Mr Dalton finished by showing a video detailing the history of Crowborough scouting.

### **INSPECTOR TONY WAKEFIELD, SUSSEX POLICE**

Inspector Wakefield thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to speak at short notice. He explained the changes to policing taking place as part of the review which commenced in 2010 and is due for completion in 2020. He spoke about the need to adapt to new threats and the financial constrictions that are being felt nationally. Inspector Wakefield wanted to reassure residents that there would be no change in response policing. He then explained the changes that will occur with the PCSO roles in July 2016.

Inspector Wakefield proceeded to answer questions from members of the public. There was a proposal, duly seconded, to have a vote of No Confidence in the Chief Constable and Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner; this was carried with support from half of the room.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from: Cllr Peter Ellefsen (CTC)  
Cllr Sandra Timms (CTC)  
Cllr Neil Waller (CTC)

### **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were approved and signed.

### **TO RECEIVE THE RECORD OF ATTENDANCES OF TOWN COUNCILLORS FROM MAY 2015**

The record of attendances of Town Councillors to meetings of the Council and its committees was received by the meeting.

### **TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS OF TRUSTEES/GROUPS**

The following reports were received by the meeting:

Smith and Fermor Charities Report  
Annual Rail Report  
Crowborough Fairtrade

### **TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Town Mayor's Report was received by the meeting.

Cheques were presented to representatives of the Mayor's chosen charities. Joan Brookbank from Sussex High Weald Dementia Social Group and Jeannette Towey from the Jarvis Brook Community Centre project both thanked the Mayor for the money raised.

## **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES**

Questions were invited on the Chairmen's reports.

### **Communications and Events**

Chairman Cllr Matthew Street spoke on the success of the year's events and encouraged residents to support upcoming events including the Boundary Walk and the lighting of the beacon for the Queen's ninetieth birthday celebrations. He thanked Caroline Miles, Events Co-Ordinator, for her hard work during the year and also paid tribute to Andrew Lyon, recently deceased, who had taken photographs for the committee for many years.

In answer to questions, Cllr Matthew Street explained that the day and time of events are reviewed annually and updated residents on the couple chosen to light the Queen's birthday beacon.

### **Environment**

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Cllr Wendy Scrace, invited questions. None were forthcoming.

### **Finance and General Purposes**

Chairman Cllr Quentin Burch informed residents that the Town Council portion of their council tax will remain unchanged for the coming year. He gave a report on the purchase of the Pine Grove office building from Wealden District Council. Cllr Burch reported that the Town Council had successfully passed its internal and external audits, and he thanked staff for their hard work.

Mayor, Cllr Ron Reed, spoke in response to questions and re-affirmed the Town Council's commitment to purchase the Pine Grove office building. He also explained that the money raised from last year's council tax for the repayment of the Pine Grove loan was being held in a reserve.

### **Planning and Development**

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Greg Rose, updated residents on the development at Steel Cross and the Jarvis Brook depot. He spoke about the interaction the committee has with Wealden District Council and then thanked the committee members and Town Council officers.

### **Sport, Recreation and Cemetery**

Chairman Cllr Kay Moss reported on the cinder running track at Goldsmiths; a recent inspection has deemed the track safe to use. The committee is looking at a new facility which will still allow the field to be used for events. Cllr Kay Moss also spoke about the new World War One area at Canada Green and the new burial ground at Summersales which will provide burial facilities for up to one hundred and fifty years. She thanked Operations Manager, David Foot, who has recently retired, for the support he has given the committee.

## **OPEN FORUM**

There was a request to know how much had been raised for the Mayor's charities and it was confirmed that each received £650.

There was disappointment that, as a Fairtrade town, the town's supermarkets had not had Fairtrade displays. It was suggested that the Fairtrade group may wish to contact the supermarkets directly ahead of next year's event to discuss possibilities.

In response to a question regarding the termination of the Neighbourhood Plan and the suggestion in the Mayor's report that this was due to lack of public involvement, Cllr Ron Reed replied that this was a town plan which had needed the involvement of the general public rather than councillors. He then informed residents that the Town Council will be updating the Vision Document instead which looks forward over the next twenty years.

Further questions raised the issue of vandalism at the miniature railway and the police presence in town.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.