

Minutes of a meeting of the 115th **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY** of the Local Electors of the Parish of Crowborough held at the United Church, Croft Road, Crowborough on Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 7.30pm

Town Councillors Present:

Peter Ellefsen	David Neeves	Matthew Street
Martyn Garrett	Alan Penney	Sandra Timms
Richard Jury	Ron Reed*	Neil Waller*
Chris Moss	Greg Rose	
Kay Moss*	Wendy Scrace	

*Denotes those also WDC Councillors

In attendance:

WDC Councillors: Philip Lunn

ESCC Councillors: Richard Stogdon

Caroline Miles	Town Clerk
Melanie Street	Customer Services Officer
Insp. Jon Goss	Sussex Police
Christine Vant	South East Water

24 members of the public

Crowborough Town Councillors, Wealden District Councillors and East Sussex County Councillors held 'surgery time' prior to the formal meeting in order to enable residents to ask them questions individually.

The Town Mayor, Cllr Greg Rose, welcomed all those present and introduced the new Town Clerk, Caroline Miles. The Mayor then introduced Inspector Jon Goss and invited him to address the assembly.

INSPECTOR JON GOSS – SUSSEX POLICE

Inspector Goss gave a brief update as to his role and informed residents that Sussex Police is recruiting again; seeking an additional 250 officers before 2022, with some of these officers already on the beat. Inspector Goss expects a 40% uplift in this team. Inspector Goss then proceeded to give examples of engagement during the previous month and invited members of the public to ask questions.

CHRISTINE VANT – SOUTH EAST WATER

Christine explained the role of the Customer Care Team at South East Water and outlined the services that they can offer to customers who require extra support.

MAYORS CHARITY – PRESENTATION OF CHEQUES

The Mayor, Cllr Greg Rose, presented representatives from his two chosen charities (Acorns for Cancer Research and Clueup.info) with cheques for £2,188.18 – representing the monies raised at the annual town firework display.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

CTC Cllr Quentin Burch
CTC Cllr David Larkin
CTC Cllr George Moss
WDC Cllr Jeannette Towey
ESCC Cllr Sylvia Tidy

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25th April 2018

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2018 were approved and signed.

TO RECEIVE THE RECORD OF ATTENDANCES OF TOWN COUNCILLORS FROM MAY 2018

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

TO NOTE THE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF TRUSTEES/GROUPS WITH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

The reports were received.

TO NOTE THE RECEIPT OF THE TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Town Mayor's Report was received by the meeting. The Mayor drew residents' attention to the new ward boundaries which are now in effect. There will now be six town council wards, incorporating the creation of the new Crowborough Central ward. There will be no increase in the number of seats on the Town Council, which will remain at sixteen. The number of Wealden District Councillors will be reduced from eight to six at the next election.

TO NOTE THE RECEIPT OF REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

The following reports were received by the meeting:

Communication and Events
Environment
Finance and General Purposes
Planning and Development
Sport, Recreation and Cemetery

OPEN FORUM

The Mayor invited questions from residents.

Q: We have lost ninety-nine car parking spaces in the town. This is affecting the Community Centre. When and how will this be resolved?

A: [Answered by the Mayor] The Town Council is actively pursuing the possibility of extra spaces along the edge of Bluebell Wood, with a meeting set up with WDC on 22nd March 2019. This includes the creation of a zebra crossing.

- Q: [Follow-on from previous question] I believe the District and County councillors did not stand up well enough for the residents of Crowborough and would like to hear from them now.
- A: [From four WDC councillors] We have tried to expedite this work as much as possible. As Crowborough councillors we fought vigorously for the retention of the spaces but we were eight out of forty-seven WDC councillors, and all other councillors wanted the sale to proceed.
- Q: I would like to thank CTC for working hard on this and for what they did. Can I ask why a planning application for the car park was not put in two years ago?
- A: [Answered by ESCC Cllr R.Stogdon] I am surprised to hear ESCC has not been willing to install a zebra crossing; I can only reiterate the assurances given to you previously with regard to the zebra crossing. Unfortunately it is not possible for these things to be installed immediately.
- Q: I would like to reiterate how difficult it is to run the Community Centre whilst the parking is in its current state. I am disappointed to see how much visitor parking has been allocated to the library. I had previously been assured the Community Centre could use the parking at the Enterprise Centre during the evenings – this does not now seem to be the case.
- A: [Answered by the Mayor] I am not aware of any previous conversations regarding the parking. CTC has a lease with Basepoint and the library. The Enterprise Centre is made up of Easy-in/Easy-out units which require parking spaces. CTC would be happy to look at what more can be done to help in the Pine Grove area – please do bring any suggestions to the Council.
- Q: Is there anything you can do about the zebra crossing for Pine Grove? I understand it won't be going in until the first residents move in.
- A: [Answered by the Mayor] I believe it is a planning condition that it is placed there for the first residents, however, I believe conversations are more advanced and the working group is pushing for it to be installed much sooner.
- Q: I would like to thank the Town Council for its work on the Enterprise Centre. I see there is £30,000 allocated for moving the Town Hall to its new offices – please could you explain why it is costing £30,000?
- A: [Answered by the Mayor] The cost of moving the Town Hall is unknown and therefore this was allocated as a maximum cost. This figure will include new furniture and equipment needed for the new offices.
- Q: I would like to give CTC my thanks for being courageous in taking on the Enterprise Centre project.
- A: [The Mayor acknowledged this comment]
- Q: I have seen the poster boards around town have been empty for the past couple of months, with the 'For Hire' posters visible. I think this gives the wrong impression of Crowborough. I think we should have historical photographs/pictures and commentary on each location. Please could the committee look at this?
- A: [Answered by CTC Cllr Matthew Street] This is something that the committee reviews regularly and was discussed last year when we refreshed the 'For Hire' posters, however, I will happily include this as an item for discussion on the next agenda of the committee.
- Q: Do you know what is happening with the current Town Hall building yet?
- A: [Answered by the Mayor] The working group is currently looking at a number of different options. We are keen that it doesn't remain as an empty building in the High Street.

The meeting closed at 9.22pm.