

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment** Committee held in Pine Grove
Crowborough on Tuesday 4th June 2019 at 7.30pm

Present	Councillors	Martyn Garrett Richard Jury Kay Moss Gareth Owen Williams Alan Penney Ron Reed* Greg Rose Colin Stocks	Vice- Chairman Chairman
Also present		Caroline Miles Cllr Richard Stogden Cllr Sylvia Tidy John Coleman	Town Clerk ESCC ESCC Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee

1 member of the public

*Denotes non attendance

APOLOGIES

None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th March and the 14th May 2019

8777 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2019 and the 14th May as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

Standing orders were suspended

Cllr Richard Stogden explained why there had been concerns about the continuation of the 228/229 bus service after the contract had expired with Compass travel. However, Cllr Stogden confirmed that ESCC had no further concerns about the loss of the service. After discussions between Compass Travel and East Sussex Council, a new 228/229 timetable was implemented from the 7 January 2019 and this has resulted in an improved financial position for Compass Travel. Although not as frequent as the previous arrangement, it will continue to provide local journey opportunities in Crowborough and Jarvis Brook as well as to/from Tunbridge Wells, including the journeys serving Showfields and the Tunbridge Wells Grammar Schools. Kent County Council have also agreed to make a funding contribution in relation to the service for school pupils in Kent.

The new timetable, which is much more cost effective for the bus operator to provide, appears to have settled well. Compass Travel have confirmed they now believe the service is secure, subject to current level of passenger use being maintained and the continuation of funding from East Sussex and Kent County Councils.

Councillors thanked both Cllrs Tidy and Stogden for the work that they had carried out to ensure the continuation of this well used service in Crowborough.

Standing orders were reinstated

Updated action list (attached to agenda)

Members reviewed the action list. Cllr Stocks provided members with an update regarding cuts in services provided by Wealdlink due to Parish Council funding cuts. It was noted that the effect of reductions in parish funding have been relatively small and have not resulted in the withdrawal of any of the shopping services.

Two of the scheduled bus services provided by Wealdlink on behalf of East Sussex County Council have been effected minimally. The 224 service no longer operates on Monday following the withdrawal of financial support from Wadhurst Parish Council. Heathfield Town Council are not contributing to the 262 service so the route has been modified.

RAILWAY REPORT

A Passenger Benefit Fund has been established following the disruption experienced by passengers during the implementation of the May 2018 timetable. It has now been confirmed by Govia Thameslink Railway that Crowborough Station has been allocated £30,000. The company is engaging with passengers, MP's, passenger groups and Councils to understand how they would like the money to be spent. The consultation will close on the 31st July with the approval process starting in August. There is a fund website: [www. passengerbenefitfund.co.uk](http://www.passengerbenefitfund.co.uk) where groups can select their preferred scheme.

Suggestions, together with costs, were put to members. The sums involved will pay for minor improvements to the station.

Members are asked in view of the time constraints involved in the consultation period to contact the Council representative with suggestions.

RANGERS REPORT

Pocket Park Nature Reserve

Members noted the report from the ranger and requested clarification from the ranger as to when the Pocket Nature Reserve will be open. Members also requested that the dates of the tours for residents are distributed as they would like the opportunity to see the reserve and the work being carried out. Two quotes had been obtained to purchase security fencing however members require three in practice with Council financial regulations.

8778 RESOLVED to delegate the decision of the purchase of security fencing for the Pocket Nature Reserve to the Town Clerk on the basis that the ranger obtains a third quote for the work. To be paid from budget code 802/4092.

Members noted the rangers request for an ecological management plan for the Pocket Park and the Bluebell Wood.

8779 RESOLVED to approve an ecological management plan to be carried out at both the Pocket Park and the Bluebell Wood.

The cost to not exceed £1800 with the cost being split between the two sites. Budget code 802/4962 for the Pocket PARK Budget code 802/4656 for the Bluebell Wood.

Bluebell Wood

Members discussed the type of signage needed at the Bluebell Wood and the importance of learning from comments made by judges as a result of the last SEIB entry. Signs should be at the right height for people with disabilities. People with colour blindness cannot recognise red or blue so signs should not have too many of these colours. Members were happy with The Bluebell Wood being designated as a nature reserve but but this must be at no cost to the Council. Similarly, the installation of the 2 bar chestnut fencing was approved but that this was at no material cost and that the work is carried out after the car park has been installed.

- 8780 RESOLVED** to approve posters for the Bluebell Wood. Budget code: 802/4656

Flail Mower

In line with the Sports, recreation and Cemetery committee the committee agreed to accept quote 1 for the Flail mower. Members asked that the facility should be made available for hire if hirers want to create a wild flower meadow.

- 8781 RESOLVED** to approve the purchase of the refurbished Rytex professional flail mower at quote 1.

South East in Bloom

It was noted that judging for SEIB will be taking place on the 11th July. A working group will be convened to prepare for the judging of the Ghyll. The ranger to install new information boards on site before the 11th July.

- 8782 RESOLVED** to spend up to £435.00 to be spent on enhancements for signage at the Ghyll. Budget code: 801/4114

STREET LIGHT REPAIRS

The officer's report on street lighting was noted.

- 8783 RESOLVED** to repaint the 17 lampposts in Pleasant View at a cost of £1130.18. Budget code: 801/4654

- 8784 RESOLVED** to replace column 6 in Farningham Road if the lamppost is one which CTC has responsibility for. Budget code: 801/4601

8.30pm 1 member of the public left the meeting.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Members noted the Finance Report

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

Hanging baskets have been installed at the Fernbank centre and Morrisons should, as last year, be approached for a contribution towards cost. To be reviewed in 2020.

CCTV Cameras should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Community Warden should provide a report for the next meeting.

The metal inner of the bin at the top of Millbrook is missing and should be replaced.

Transport/highways should be a regular agenda item for future committee meetings.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.