

Minutes of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT** Committee held at the Town Hall,
The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 27th September 2016 at 7.30 pm

Present	Councillors	Margaret Brain* Quentin Burch Martyn Garrett Kay Moss David Neeves Alan Penney Ronald Reed* Greg Rose Wendy Scrace Matthew Street* Sandra Timms*	Vice Chairman Chairman
Also present		John Coleman Trevor Leggo Dan Colborne Cllr Peter Ellefsen Cllr George Moss Linda Butcher Moira Hoare	Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Comm. CEO, SSALC Ranger Town Clerk Committee Secretary

* *Denotes non attendance*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public suggested that a convex mirror be placed on a lamppost opposite the exit of the station car park to improve road safety for commuters as they left the station. Overhanging vegetation and on street parking were making this exit dangerous. The Chairman suggested that this be discussed under Agenda Item 8.4

APOLOGIES

Cllrs Margaret Brain, Ronald Reed, Matthew Street and Sandra Timms.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Kay Moss declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5.1 as she was a Director of SSALC.

MINUTES

Minutes – 26th July 2016

7875

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2016 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

Matters Outstanding (including reports on updates)

Community Match funding for parking schemes (7639)

An update is still outstanding. NOTED.

It was **AGREED** that this would be added to the Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) Agenda.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Trevor Leggo, CEO, SSALC re. Community Wardens

The Chairman welcomed Trevor Leggo and reminded the Committee that a Working Party had been set up at Council to consider Community Wardens for Crowborough.

Documents were issued explaining the scheme and are attached at Appendix 1. The following points were made in discussion:

- Forest Row and Haywards Heath were piloting Community Wardens. Forest Row started a Warden in July at a salary of about £28,000 plus training (£5K), uniform (£700) and IT (£500). Haywards Heath had deployed a warden as part of a partnership initiative at a cost of £36,000 pa of which the Town Council was responsible for £10,000.
- Wardens had a range of powers which could be enhanced if the Warden was accredited under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme, The Scheme provided the option to grant the Warden certain police powers aimed at community safety and which tackled crime, disorder, public nuisance and anti-social behavior. Wardens could carry cuffs and make arrests.
- The changes to the Police Operating Model had left the Town Council feeling that it had lost police support for parking issues and traffic management of event such as the Firework Display. It was suggested that the Chief Inspector be invited to talk to the Council about its plans for a warden. Also, that policing issues should be provided to the Clerk for the SSALC meeting with the Chief Constable. Anyone could report parking issues to the police under “Operation Crackdown”.

It was **AGREED** that the Forest Row Parish Chairman and Clerk would be invited to a meeting of the Community Warden Working Party.

Policing of Firework Event

The Chairman had received an email from the Communications and Events Manager that the Police were unable to support the event or provide PCSOs as they were fully engaged at the Lewes Bonfire event on the same night. The Town Councils options were to:

- i) Employ 2 Coppards staff at a cost of £400 to operate Stop/Go boards on the A26. Town Council to take the liability;
- ii) Use Town Council staff and take the liability
- iii) Do nothing.

The Locum Town Clerk advised that this was a Town Council event on Town Council land and it was not liable for highways issues.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Council would not address the highways issues associated with the event, that it would complain to the police about the lack of support and advise the public to be vigilant.

Ranger Dan presentation on the Pocket Park

ESCC had accepted the proposal for the pocket park nature reserve and it was noted that footpath maintenance and access were part of the ongoing negotiations

It was **AGREED** that the Ranger would submit a “plan for a Plan”.

Update on the Ponies

The ponies work had been extended until 30 September 2016 at no extra charge.

To review Ranger’s report of tasks completed against Management Plans and other work

In addition to his written report the Ranger requested a hand held angle grinder with battery pack as the cheapest option to secure gates in The Ghyll where bolts could be loosened and gates removed.

It was **AGREED** that the Ranger would by 28th September provide an email of options and costs to secure the gates.

Following the destruction of 5 dormouse boxes this year, it was proposed that all boxes be removed for 2 winters to allow time to create a better protected environment and that boxes be put back in 2018. This action would be undertaken following the dormouse survey in November 2016.

It was **AGREED** that the Ranger would bring a land management proposal for Poundfield Farm land to a future meeting.

Owing to its location it was suggested that the Bluebell Wood could be opened up more for public use. It was **AGREED** that the future of Bluebell Wood would be explored when the Town Council was in budget and the Enterprise Centre had been completed.

It was **AGREED** that the Ranger would provide options and costs for the replacement information boards in the Country Park before the next meeting to enable costs to be allocated in the budget.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would write to the Ranger and request that he provide projects and their costs in writing a year in advance to allow budget to be allocated.

RAILWAY REPORT

John Coleman was thanked for the presentation of his report and a copy is attached at Appendix 2.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Dog Waste

Complaint about dog fouling on the footpath between Glenmore Road East and Old Lane. Request for signage and a dog waste bin and a query about who owns the path.

Confirmation was awaited from ESCC that they owned the path. Signs were available and could be put up. The request for a dog waste bin was noted and would be added to the list.

Transfer to Environment from SRC

It was noted that the emptying of dog bins had been transferred to Environment from SRC.

More information/options for litter bins as discussed at last meeting

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would continue to investigate the possibility of employing a local contractor to supply and empty dog waste bins in the longer term.

It was confirmed that the Council had reported the removal of 2 dog waste bins and a litter bin from Poundfield Path to WDC. The District Council were looking to make the current system more efficient and to make this part of a wider review whereby WDC were looking to introduce new bins which would collect dog waste and general litter.

It was **AGREED** that a dog waste bin and a litter bin for Brook Close and a dog waste bin for the path leading to the Wheatsheaf be added to the list for review.

Britain in Bloom

A meeting had been set up on 10th October 2016 at 8am in the Town Council Offices that would be attended by South East in Bloom, the Chairman and Caroline. All councillors welcome. NOTED

Ghyll Land Purchase Update

The 5 acre site had gone through. The other site was still with solicitors. NOTED

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Bus services

The new 228/229 service which came into operation on 4th September was welcomed.

The Chairman updated the meeting on Wealdlink following a meeting on 10th August. Wealdlink will pick up those parts of the route not covered by the new service. The new 262 route was a hop on hop off service and could be picked up at Uckfield, New Road. Revised timetables were out for routes 224/225 and 226 as services had changed. Wealdlink needed more volunteers to act as trustees, apply for grants and funding and undertake office work. In future Wealdlink services would come up on the digital boards.

Street Lighting – Structural Testing 2016

The street lighting structural testing was underway and has yet to be completed.

Motorbike on Footpath between Luxford Lane and Welland Close

It had been reported that motorbike useage on the footpath between Luxford Lane and Welland Close was a regular occurrence facilitated by the removal of the gates that protected the path. Once the ownership of the land had been established the replacement of the gates would be pursued.

Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) Agenda Items

Councillors proposed the following items in addition to those listed on the Agenda for the meeting to be held on Wednesday 5 October at 14.00 hours:

- Community Match Funding;
- Overhanging vegetation at Warren Street;
- Loose stones on pavement outside Mulberrys;
- Overhanging vegetation at junction of Gladstone Road/South Street;
- Footpath Beacon Road/Pinegrove;
- Footpath Goldsmith Avenue;
- Overgrowing vegetation and trees – Beacon Gardens/Road;
- Pothole outside old stables – Beacon Road;
- Manhole cover up – Beacon Road;
- Bus Stop for 228/229 to be reinstated – Alderbrook Cottages;
- One off Community Speedwatch at Stonecross Road;
- Add drinking in Jarvis Brook Rec to By-Laws;
- Invite ESFRS to meeting to discuss community speedwatch and help reduce speeding in the town – Goldsmith Avenue is being used as a rat run for the school.

In addition, Councillors discussed the request made at the beginning of the meeting that a mirror be erected on a lamp post opposite the exit to the Station. It was suggested that it be added to the Highways Issues list and that it could go on the SLR Agenda as could overhanging vegetation at Farningham Road.

It was **AGREED** that the above items be added to the SLR Agenda.

FINANCE

Management Account Reports to 31st May and 30th June 2016

7876 **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Account Reports to 31st July 2016 and 31st August 2016.

URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND/OR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

Litter in the Fernbank Centre

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would write to Morrisons regarding their responsibility for this area.

Speeding at Beeches Estate

Cllr Garrett advised the Committee that he would be representing them at the County Council Members meeting on speeding at Beeches Estate. NOTED

Street Lighting Report

Cllr Neeves advised that he would be reporting faulty street lighting in his ward.

The meeting closed at 09.30 pm.