

Minutes of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT** Committee held at the Town Hall,  
The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.30 pm

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Present	Councillors	Margaret Brain Quentin Burch Peter Ellefsen Martyn Garrett David Larkin * Alan Penney Ronald Reed Heather Rogers Greg Rose Wendy Scrace Matthew Street Sandra Timms	Vice Chairman  Chairman
Also present		Cllr Kay Moss John Coleman Cllr Richard Stogdon Philippa Hewes Susan Barnard Two members of the public	Crowborough Town Council Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Comm. East Sussex County Council Town Clerk Operations Administrator

\* *Denotes non attendance*

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Cllr Kay Moss asked if there had been a reduction in the amount of litter being collected following the *I Care for Crowborough* initiative last year. Statistical information on the number of bags of litter collected by the Environment Warden will be reviewed. The recent *Clean for the Queen* campaign has helped to raise public awareness of the issue with litter.

A member of the public reported that visually impaired people had difficulty crossing at the traffic lights at Crowborough Cross as there is no audible signal to indicate when it is safe to cross. ESCC has advised that under the control box there is a wheel which spins when the green man is showing. Members agreed to raise the matter at the next Strengthening Local Relationships meeting.

### **APOLOGIES**

Cllr David Larkin – unwell  
East Sussex County Cllr Sylvia Tidy

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

## **MINUTES**

### **Minutes – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

**7694** **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

### **Matters Outstanding (including reports on updates)**

#### **Community Match funding for parking schemes (7639)**

The Community Match Funding scheme is on hold pending the start of the new highways contractor in May. ESCC has been advised of the Crowborough proposal for parking restrictions at three junctions.

#### **Traffic and Safety issues in North Beeches Road and East Beeches Road**

ESCC has advised that additional traffic measures will not be implemented and suggested an application under Community Match Funding. There has been no personal injury crashes recorded in the last three years.

Beacon Academy has advised that there are a number of control measures in place to ensure safety at the sites. The recommendation to install signage at the exit gate is to be implemented.

The closing date for the petition has been extended in order to collect further signatures before submission to ESCC in May.

Members were concerned at the number of requests that are being forwarded to the Town Council for consideration under Community Match Funding.

## **RAILWAY REPORT**

John Coleman expanded on his written report. No changes are proposed to the ticket office arrangements on the Uckfield Line. Work at the Crowborough tunnel has finished but there was some flooding in the recent heavy rain. Work has commenced on the 2018 timetable. Mr Coleman was thanked for his hard work and dedication on railway matters.

## **POLICE**

### **Local Policing in Wealden meeting 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Cllr Martyn Garrett and Cllr Kay Moss will be attending a Local Policing meeting 1<sup>st</sup> April and they have a short individual session to discuss issues relating to Crowborough. The changes to the role of PCSOs, and the impact this will have on neighbourhood policing, street meetings and LAT meetings, will be taken forward. The removal of the option for Town/Parish Councils to fund PCSOs continues to be of concern.

UNCONFIRMED UNTIL NEXT MEETING

Community Wardens are not associated with the Police and would be employed at Town/Parish Council level.

Katy Bourne, Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex, recently attended a meeting in Crowborough to explain the new model of Local Policing.

## **HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

### **Strengthening Local Relationships – next meeting 20<sup>th</sup> April**

The following items were raised for inclusion on the agenda for the Strengthening Local Relationships meeting 20<sup>th</sup> April:

- Cemetery at Summersales, London Road – how to manage the speed of traffic at the blind bend on London Road when there is a funeral cortege travelling slowly.
- London Road – poor condition of the surface of the road.
- Whitehill Road – the road has sunk again following repairs near the Scout Hut.
- Southridge Rise – poor condition of pavements
- Mill Lane/Beacon Close – issues with traffic flow and parking.
- Green Lane – issues with the speed of vehicles and the use by large vehicles at night.
- Pedestrian crossing at Crowborough Cross – difficulty for visually impaired people to cross at this location.

### **Wealdlick Report October – December 2015**

The Wealdlink report was reviewed and noted.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

### **Request for a litter bin to be installed at Myrtle Road/Church Road**

A request has been received for a litter bin to be installed at the junction of Myrtle Road and Church Road. There is limited space at this location. Wealden District Council is the litter authority and has two bins at the junction of Myrtle Road and Croft Road. The Town Council has six litter bins on nearby Chapel Green. A new litter bin costs £500 and there are on-going costs of staff time for emptying twice a week and the disposal of the litter. In view of the existing litter provision, members did not support any additional bins in this area.

### **Dog waste issues at Willowmead/Hurtis Hill and the footpath between The Wheatsheaf and Farningham Road**

The issue of dog waste at Willowmead/Hurtis Hill was reviewed in 2013 and 2015. The new style of signage was introduced at this location last year to encourage people to clear up after their dogs.

At Willowmead/Hurtis Hill and the footpath between The Wheatsheaf and Farningham Road, reports have been received of bags of dog waste being left on the paths. Requests have been received for dog waste bins to be installed. A dog waste bin costs £500 to install and £250 per year to empty.

It was agreed to review the location of existing dog waste bins at the next meeting.

To consider litter clearance events and groups

A Brighter Crowborough group has been established and has undertaken a number of litter clearance events. It was agreed to invite a representative from the group to talk to the committee at the next meeting.

The Committee agreed that another *I Care for Crowborough* event should be arranged to build on the success of last year. Cllr Maggie Brain will take the lead in organising the event, with the assistance of Cllrs Kay Moss, Heather Rogers and Greg Rose.

Replacement fingerpost at Eridge Road/Green Lane

**7695** **RESOLVED** to replace the fingerpost at Eridge Road/Green Lane at a cost of £1197.

**CONSULTATION ON DRAFT REVISED LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

East Sussex County Council is consulting on a Draft Revised Flood Risk Management Strategy; the consultation ends 10<sup>th</sup> April. Any comments from members on the consultation should be forwarded to the Town Hall for submission to ESCC.

9.05pm – Cllr Richard Stogdon, John Coleman and a member of the public left the meeting.

**CROWBOROUGH'S NATURAL HABITATS**

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

The Ranger's report was reviewed and noted.

**To consider a proposal for creating a Pocket Park Nature Reserve**

**7696** **RESOLVED** to submit a proposal to ESCC for creating a Pocket Park Nature Reserve in the former sports area adjacent to Beacon Academy

**FINANCE**

**Management Account Reports to 31<sup>st</sup> January and 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**7697** **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Account Reports to 31<sup>st</sup> January and 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

**Transfer of funds to Reserves**

No funds were transferred to reserves.

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

Cllr Sandra Timms advised that she will not be standing for Chairman of the Environment Committee in May and thanked the committee members for their help over the last year.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

## **RAIL REPORT for the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**29<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016**

### **MEETING ATTENDED**

#### **Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Southern was represented and was able to report on the Network Rail work on the Line.

Services remain variably poor and are always overcrowded in the peak hours. Turning back at Crowborough is still a major problem and recently has been affecting the busiest down train of the day. Southern will raise this problem with Network Rail again.

Information on short formed trains is now available on the Southern web-site.

The work to bring an additional track into operation at Bermondsey (between London Bridge and New Cross Gate) should be completed during the coming Christmas and New Year Thameslink Project engineering blockade. The increased capacity at this bottleneck should enable a much improved service to be provided from early 2017.

Platform lengthening has now started at all of the Uckfield Line's stations. Edenbridge Town, and Cowden are now very nearly completed. Buxted is also well advanced. Works at Crowborough and Eridge have only commenced recently and these are using a different constructional method from that at the other stations. Track maintenance work is also being carried out around Crowborough during the second off-peak closure period which is now nearing its end.

The first of the additional trains is now at Wolverton works for the final stages of its repair and overhaul. The remainder will follow in due course. After the work there, they will go on test and then have short line trials prior to entering service.

It is possible that Edenbridge Town's lengthened platforms may be opened after Easter. Although the trains will be no longer than at present, this should enable easier and faster loading of the peak trains, and hopefully speed up these services.

The longer trains should be running by the end of July 2016 as planned.

Southern is proposing to reduce the opening hours of their ticket offices and to provide staff on general passenger assistance for much of the day. No details are available and the plans have not been agreed with the staff.

There are also plans to remove conductor/guards from some Southern services but these do not affect the Uckfield Line trains.

### **OTHER**

The latest Southern Passenger Performance Indicator (PPI) for the 4 weeks to 6<sup>th</sup> March has fallen back slightly and, after 2 periods of improvement, is now below 80% again.

It has been noted that the station car parks are generally full for the whole day during the week. This is in part due to the use of some parking spaces by contractors for the platform works. When the works are completed these spaces will become available for parking again. However, it seems likely that when this happens and also the longer trains are running, passengers, who may have changed their train journeys to other lines, will return and the car parks will be filled again. There appears to be no easy solution to this problem.

UNCONFIRMED UNTIL NEXT MEETING

It is now understood that the South Coast Rail Study being produced for the DfT at the behest of the Chancellor, will not be completed before the autumn of this year.

The Community Rail Partnership's new Uckfield and East Grinstead Line guide has just been published and is available from the CRP and from many local authority, tourist information and railway station outlets.

J N Coleman 17th March 2016