

Minutes of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT** Committee held at the Town Hall,
The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 29th November 2016 at 7.30 pm

Present	Councillors	Quentin Burch	
		Martyn Garrett	
		Kay Moss	
		David Neeves	
		Alan Penney	
		Ronald Reed*	
		Greg Rose	Chairman
		Wendy Scrace	
Also present		Matthew Street	
		Sandra Timms	Vice Chairman
		John Coleman	Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Comm.
		Dan Colborne	Ranger
		Cllr Peter Ellefsen	
		Cllr Richard Stogdon	East Sussex County Council
	Andy Beams	Town Clerk	
	Moira Hoare	Committee Secretary	

* *Denotes non attendance*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mike Tuffley addressed the meeting on the increase in the availability of drugs globally and in the Crowborough area. Ranger Dan commented that he had smelt drugs in the areas that he worked in and had raised this increase in usage with the Police Commissioner as a private citizen. The Chairman requested that incidents be reported to staff and that the PCSO teams would be made aware. The Town Council was looking at the potential for recruiting a Community Warden and reporting drug use could form part of their remit.

ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIRMAN

Nominations were invited for the office of Vice Chairman of the Environment Committee following the resignation of Cllr Margaret Brain.

7919 **RESOLVED** that Cllr Sandra Timms be appointed Vice Chairman of the Environment Committee for the remainder of the Council year 2016/17.

APOLOGIES

Cllr Ronald Reed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

UNCONFIRMED UNTIL NEXT MEETING

MINUTES

Minutes – 29th September 2016

7920 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2016 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman once the following amendment had been made:

replace “the future of the Bluebell Wood would be explored when the Town Council was in budget and the Enterprise Centre had been completed.” with, “the future of the Bluebell Wood would be explored when the Town Council owned it and the Enterprise Centre had been completed.” (Page 10472 refers)

Matters Outstanding

Community Match Funding for parking schemes (7639)

This had not been formally submitted after the SLR meeting.

Street Lighting – Structural Testing 2016

Notification had not been received from ESCC that this had been completed.

Litter in the Fernbank Centre

The Town Council had not received a formal response from Morrisons, but the issue appeared to have been resolved.

Ghyll Land Purchase

The purchase of the second parcel of land at the Ghyll had been completed.

Dog Bins

An update on this item would be on the next Agenda.

Speeding at Beeches Estate

The County Council Members meeting had been attended and an application made for 20mph signs to be erected on the Estate. Speed gun testing would also be considered.

RAILWAY REPORT

John Coleman was thanked for the presentation of his report and the update that the Parish Committee had submitted its response to the 2018 timetable consultation. Concern was expressed about the impact of the continuing train strikes on individuals and businesses.

BRITAIN IN BLOOM

The Chairman introduced the report and advised that judging for South East in Bloom took place from the end of May to the end of July. Following discussion it was

7921 **RESOLVED** that:

- i) the Town Council would enter South East in Bloom 2017; and,
- ii) a Working Party comprising, Sandra Timms, Martyn Garrett, Greg Rose, David Neeves and Wendy Scrace be appointed to deliver the Town Council's entry/entries into South East in Bloom 2017 with a budget of up to £250 to cover potential fees.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

The Chairman advised that following an article in the Town Council newsletter only 4 people had come forward to participate in the scheme. It was hoped that if the Town Council were to appoint a Community Warden, this would be something that they could take on. It was noted that the Police liked participants to be trained and that there was only one camera.

It was **AGREED** that the Chairman would put the volunteers in touch with Cllrs Burch and Ellefsen to enable them to contact the existing co-ordinators in the Southview Road and Jarvis Brooks teams to help them participate and/or set up other groups.

WARDEN WORKING PARTY

The Chairman stated that the Working Party had met and discussed its guidelines. In addition, the Police Commissioner had been contacted regarding funding options and an acknowledgement had been received. Representatives from the Working Party were meeting with Forest Row Parish Council on Thursday 1 December 2016. It was suggested that the Community Warden could form a discussion item on the Agenda for the Crowborough Town Conference.

It was **AGREED** that the Working Party would report to full Council once its investigations were complete.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Rangers Report

COUNTRY PARK - The Committee considered the Ranger's report and asked what impact the proposed new housing would have on the Country Park. Ranger Dan was most concerned about the impact on the stream which was already experiencing erosion caused by surface water run-off from the housing estates to the north of the Country Park. The proposed development included a reed bed pond and the stream would form part of the overflow route from that which would add to the pressure of water in the stream and

exacerbate existing problems. He was also concerned about the safety of children and dogs in proximity to the stream.

It was **AGREED** the Town Clerk would write to the Planning Inspector with these new comments on the impact of the proposed housing development on the Country Park stream.

BLUEBELL WOOD – Ranger Dan was confident that he would have the capacity to manage the ground cover growth resulting from the removal and thinning of trees. He would also be looking to add some wildflower seeds. It was noted that it could be some time before the Bluebell Wood came under the Town Council and that caution when spending money should be exercised.

MANAGEMENT PLANS – The Bluebell Wood Management Plan had expired in 2012, the Country Park Management Plan went up to 2017 and the Ghyll Management Plan ran until 2019. The Tree Inspection Policy was dated 2012.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would prioritise the updating of these documents and inform the Committee at the next meeting.

POCKET PARK – The Key Project information was discussed. The Town Clerk had been in touch with East Sussex County Council and understood that all agreements to hand over the Park to the Town Council were ready and that they were keen to get the lease resolved by Christmas 2016. Until the lease was in place Ranger Dan could not commence any work. Time was of the essence as some work needed to start in January. It was noted that the Town Council could use the Park to store materials. In addition, as Beacon School students went into this land, the School should be contacted regarding the changes.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk and the Ranger would liaise to take forward the governance of this project and that there was no need for a Working Party.

It was **AGREED** that Ranger Dan would submit the Grant Applications to Veolia/Lund Fund/Tesco bag fund etc

It was **AGREED** that the proposal that £22k be budgeted to create the park and £3k pa be allocated to maintain it be discussed under Agenda Item 11.

Review of Request List for litter bins/dog bins/bus shelters

The lists provided for this meeting were a statement of current requests. It was **AGREED** that the next Agenda would look at dog bins.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

SLR

The contents of the report were noted. The next meeting of the SLR would take place on Wednesday 26 April 2017 at the Town Council offices.

Outstanding S.106 monies

The Chairman reported that he had attended a Highways meeting as a District Councillor. Four locations were to be reviewed for pedestrian crossings (Jarvis Road/Tesco, Croft Road, Church Road, A26 Goldsmiths Crossing) after which Wealden District Council would be approached to see if they would release S106 monies to pay for them.

Cllr Stogdon confirmed that Wealden DC had been approached by ESCC and he was thanked for his efforts in this area.

Review of Highway Improvements Requests/New Request for yellow lines and speed limit reductions from St Johns panel meeting.

Agenda Items 10.3 and 10.4 were taken together. It was noted that for Agenda Item 10.3 there was a typo and Hurst Hill should read Hurtis Hill. Since the Agenda had been issued a request had been received for yellow lines either side of the Brook Health Centre to be added to the list.

It was **AGREED** that all requests identified at Agenda Items 10.3 and 10.4 would be added to the lists and that residents would be advised.

Cllr Stogdon had been made aware of a complaint regarding the overgrown state of the southern aspect of Farlingham Road. ESCC had investigated and agreed there was a problem but were struggling to establish ownership of the land to the east. The Committee advised that it belonged to the railway and the Chamber of Commerce held information on this.

FINANCE**Management Account Reports to 30th September 2016**

7922 **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Account Reports to 30th September 2016.

The Town Clerk was asked to correct the anomaly regarding the funds for purchase of land at the Ghyll which had previously been agreed would come out of general reserves.

Movement of poster boards budget (code 4605) from Environment budget to C&E

7923 **RESOLVED** to agree to move the poster board budget (code 4605) out of the Environment budget and into C&E.

Consideration of draft committee budget for 2017/18

In putting together the draft committee budget for 2017/18 the Town Clerk explained that he had looked at last year's budget, this year's budget and what was known about likely spend in 2017/18. It had been prepared before Ranger Dan's projects and costs for 2017/18 had been received and these had not been included.

It was **AGREED** that Ranger Dan's proposals for the Ghyll and the Bluebell Wood as set out at Agenda Item 9.1 would be met out of existing budgets. He was requested to bring back his scaled down priorities to the next meeting of the Committee.

7924 **RESOLVED** that the following changes be made to the draft committee budget for 2017/2018:

- i) the unspent balance from Environmental Improvements (4654) be moved to 9058 (Environmental Projects Reserve);
- ii) the NWCT budget be increased to £3,185
- iii) £2,500 to be allocated to a new budget code for the Pocket Park Nature Reserve;
- iv) £250 for SE in Bloom to come out of the Miscellaneous Budget (4016);
- v) Miscellaneous Budget (4016) to be reduced by £1,000;
- vi) Salaries Budget (4000) to be increased by £1,000;
- vii) The unspent £30,000 from the PCSO budget (4659) to be transferred to a Community Support Staff Reserve;
- viii) All remaining unchanged lines of the draft budget were approved.

A revised version of the draft budget is attached at Appendix 1.

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

There were none.

The meeting closed at 21.42 hours.