

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment** Committee held in the Council Offices, Pine Grove, Crowborough on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.30pm

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Present	Councillors	Alison Arthur*	
		Martyn Garrett	
		Richard Jury	
		Mia Lederman	
		Kay Moss	
		David Neeves	
		Gareth Owen-Williams	
		Alan Penney	
		Ron Reed	Vice – Chairman
		Greg Rose	
		Colin Stocks	Chairman
Also present		Clr Richard Stogdon	ESCC
		Caroline Miles	Town Clerk
		Amanda Negus	Committee Clerk
		John Coleman	Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee
			1 member of the public

\*Denotes non attendance

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#### **APOLOGIES**

None.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **MINUTES**

##### Minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**8850 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

##### Updated action list (attached to agenda)

- Quotes are currently being obtained for plant suppliers. It is unrealistic to expect the Grounds Staff to count thousands of plants individually.
- A third quote has been obtained for the security fencing at the Pocket Park and the lowest cost option has been ordered.

#### **Standing orders were suspended**

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Further to his attendance at the recent SRC meeting and at the invitation of the Environment Committee a member of the public asked if CTC would consider allowing areas of its land and verges to be managed for wild flowers and wildlife. Even though smaller areas have limited wildlife potential they would additionally serve to encourage members of the public to consider doing the same in their own gardens.

**Standing orders were reinstated****RAILWAY REPORT**

To note the report from John Coleman (attached to agenda)

The Passenger Benefit Fund consultation has now closed. Overall £30,000 will not go far towards station refurbishments.

Some suggestions submitted were:

- Free water.
- Additional information screens.
- Bus information display screens.
- A disabled toilet.

Maintenance such as painting should be undertaken anyway, so the fund should be used towards new improvements.

Access for all is a priority at Crowborough station and the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee will continue to chase to try and make it happen sooner rather than later. They will see if there is anything CTC can do to help.

**RANGERS REPORT**

To note the Rangers report and agree any action (attached to agenda)

- Walshes Park – The concern was raised as to whether WDC were intending to ask CTC to tender for the management contract and if so, whether it would be too much work for the Ranger as his workload is already extensive.

**8851 RESOLVED** to allow the CTC Ranger to demonstrate the flail mower to WDC contractors at the proposed site at Walshes Park, subject to it being less than a days work.

- Boating Lake – The Boating Club added water to the lake from the Model Railway's tap which has caused it to go green. The Ranger has advised them not to do this again and to contact CTC if they have any other problems. There is no money left in the budget for the Boating Lake. This issue comes under SRC's remit and will be brought to the next SRC meeting.
- Development dormice mitigation –

**8852 RESOLVED** to allow the Ranger to go ahead with asking for funding for dormice mitigation at The Ghyll and the Country Park.

- Wild flower verges/areas – The Business Plan has been deferred, but within it there will be a verges management strategy. It was felt that the Ranger is unlikely to have time to produce a management strategy at the moment. Removing weeds would be part of the wild verge management. A suggestion was made to leave some areas to meadow and mow paths through. A meeting between the Committee Chairman, the Ranger and the interested member of public was agreed to view possible suitable areas.
- The Ghyll – A quote for a water supply to the ponies is being waited for. It will be on the next Environment meeting agenda. An outside contractor unrelated to CTC has left a mess on the banks of the Ghyll from cutting back vegetation. The Clerk will investigate this further.

- Jubilee Meadow – A Member commented that he had seen young children playing football in the Jubilee playground area. Although children can play in the meadow grass it's too long for kicking a ball around, he requested a small area be mowed for playing football.

## **SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM**

To note the verbal update from the Chairman

The Ghyll was entered into the Country Park category. The morning of judging was lovely and the visit went well with the judge being provided with detailed information about The Ghyll. Results will be released in September.

## **TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS**

To note the response from ESCC to Councillors Richard Stogdon and Sylvia Tidy on Crossings in Crowborough (attached to agenda)

Cllr Richard Stogdon met with ESCC Officers in Jarvis Brook to discuss the existing zebra crossing on Crowborough Hill and the proposed crossing at the bottom of Crowborough Hill, near to the end of Western Road. They noted the traffic behaviour:

- A vehicle parked on the zig zag lines by the crossing for a long time.
- ESCC are considering upgrading the zebra crossing to a Puffin crossing. No time scales have been decided.
- Metal railings have been requested and these are being considered, but it is difficult because of access requirements.
- It is not practical to have a raised crossing as it is not part of a traffic calming scheme.
- The proposed mini roundabout and pedestrian crossing at the end of Western Road have been through the first stage of safety assessments.
- One concern is whether an electricity substation can be moved as it interrupts the sight line.
- The car valets staff in that location have witnessed accidents at the junction and are keen for new safety measures to be put in place.

The Community Warden talks to parking offenders, records registrations, issues yellow cards and reports them to Sussex Police's Operation Crackdown. The Town Clerk will provide information of the number of people spoken to from his reports at the next Environment meeting.

## **CCTV**

To note the officer's report and agree further action (attached to agenda)

The high number of incidents shown as filmed in the report indicates the cameras do not act as a deterrent and the arrest rate is low. It was therefore

**8853 RESOLVED** that CTC doesn't continue to fund the Police CCTV cameras in the town.

## **COMMUNITY WARDEN**

To note the officer's report on an additional p/t warden and agree any action (attached to agenda)

An electric bike has been mentioned before and it was suggested to ask the Community Warden his views on having one. To be discussed at the next meeting.

As the most important thing is to find the right person for the role, it was

- 8854 RESOLVED** for Forest Row Town Council to employ a part time Community Warden and for the CTC Town Clerk to be involved in the interview process.

#### **LAMP POST PAINTING**

To note the officer's report and to agree further action (attached to agenda)

- 8855 RESOLVED** to spend an additional £1,233.84 to complete the works. To be paid from the Environmental Improvements budget 4654/801.

#### **RIGHTS OF WAY CONSULTATION**

To note the response to the Rights of Way Consultation (attached to agenda)

It was noted that many of the ESCC footpaths are overgrown with brambles and nettles and difficult to walk along. Better maintenance of them would be appreciated.

#### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

To note Finance Report and agree any actions (attached to agenda)

A lot is spent on dog waste collection. There have been recent complaints on social media that the dog bins are over-flowing after weekends, particularly the one on Poundfield Path. This needs to be monitored.

The income and expenditure to date and the EMR position were noted.

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

- Future agenda item – A policy on Pesticide and Herbicide use on CTC land.
- PCSO Drop-in sessions – the session held in the Council Chamber was very successful. It was busy for the whole hour and residents were engaged and positive. The event was tweeted by CTC and a board put up in the atrium to advertise. Two further sessions have been booked:
  - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 3 – 4pm
  - Tuesday 6 – 7pm
- Police Stakeholder Meeting - Cllr Owen-Williams will follow up with Sussex Police regarding when the next Stakeholder meeting will be held in Crowborough.

The meeting closed at 8.43pm.