

Minutes of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT** Committee held
remotely on Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 7.30pm

Present	Councillors	Alison Arthur Martyn Garrett Richard Jury Kay Moss David Neeves Gareth Owen-Williams* Alan Penney Ron Reed* Greg Rose Colin Stocks	Vice – Chairman Chairman
Also present		Caroline Miles Cllr Richard Stogdon Cllr Sylvia Tidy Eric Ware Jeremy Thorpe	Town Clerk ESCC ESCC ESCC Highways ESCC Highways

*Denotes non - attendance

APOLOGIES

Cllr Gareth Owen-Williams

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th November 2020

It was noted that budget code 801/8654 was still showing as the overspend. This should read 801/4654. To be rectified in the minutes of 17th November.

9263 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2020 as confirmed be ratified by the Chairman.

The Chair welcomed Eric Ware and Jeremy Thorpe of ESCC Highways who addressed the committee regarding the caveat that will accompany all quotes for street lighting repairs.

It was noted that street lighting is not a statutory requirement for CTC despite it owning 385 streetlights in the town.

CTC would not be expected to take on any new streetlights, developers must pay for any streetlights on new housing developments with ESCC adopting and maintaining them.

It was noted that an additional streetlight had been added to CTC's asset list by ESCC. Eric Ware to investigate further and report back .

Eric Ware and Jeremy Thorpe left the meeting at 20.15pm.

STREET LIGHTING

To note the officer's report and agree any action

It was established that Col 4 School Lane refers to the streetlight near the Scout hut on Whitehill Road and that the Goldsmiths streetlight refers to the column on the junction between the leisure centre and the caravan site.

- 9264** **RESOLVED** to carry out the work on cols: 8 Green Lane, 6 Fermor Road, 2 Fermor Road immediately and the work to be funded from the streetlights budget. Code - 801/4601. The remainder of this budget to go into EMR for the new financial year.
- 9265** **RESOLVED** to carry out the structural work on cols: 4 Fermor Road, 3 Goldsmiths Rec Ground, 1 Melfort Road, 4 School Lane, 2 Palesgate Lane at the beginning of the new financial year and to be funded from carried over street light EMR funds from 20/21 and the remainder from budgeted funds from 801/4601.

RURAL VERGES AS WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

To note the correspondence from ESCC Contracts Management and agree any action.

Members noted the report. Concerns were raised in respect of possible drain off from Palesgate Lane and the narrow verge which if left uncut may cause a visual obstruction for drivers. It was agreed that this would be addressed as ESCC state that safety issues would remain a priority.

- 9266** **RESOLVED** that CTC takes part in the trial on the understanding that it receives copies of the trial results.
A recorded vote was requested.

AGAINST: Cllr Martyn Garrett.

FOR: Cllr Alison Arthur
Cllr Richard Jury
Cllr Kay Moss
Cllr David Neeves
Cllr Alan Penney
Cllr Greg Rose
Cllr Colin Stocks

RAILWAY REPORT

To note the railway report.

Members noted the railway report.
Clarification was requested on the funding for the demolition of the current footbridge.

ELEC CHARGING POINTS

To note the officer's report and agree any action

It was noted that WDC are installing charge points in its car parks and whilst members were supportive of charging points it was agreed not to proceed at this time.

- 9267 RESOLVED** to defer consideration of the project until February 2022.

GREEN SPACES PROJECT

To note the proposal from Sussex Local Nature Partnership and agree any action

Members agreed that the project would be a good training opportunity for the new Ranger when Covid restrictions are lifted and that the Country Park would be the preferred site.

- 9268 RESOLVED** to express CTC's willingness to take part in the project and to propose the Country Park as a possible trial site.

PLANTING

To note the officer's report and agree any action.

Members noted the officer's report.

- 9269 RESOLVED** that the Operations Manager obtains quotes for a two-year contract.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

To note the Income and Expenditure report and agree any action

Members noted the income and expenditure.

To note the EMR and agree any action

Members agreed that the EMR noted at appendix 2 were still required.
All underspends to be moved to committee EMR's.

- 9270 RESOLVED** to obtain a fixed two-year electricity contract with Good Energy for electricity supply for CCTV.
- 9271 RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the discussion of the confidential items on this agenda the press and public be excluded under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

ASH TREES

To note the confidential officer's report and verbal report from the Chair and agree further action.

Members noted the confidential report.

9272 RESOLVED that a further independent tree survey is to be commissioned with the cost to be split between the SRC committee and the Environment committee.
The funds for the Environment committee to be taken from the following three budgets:
Tree works. Budget code – 802/4116 £3300
Pocket Park. Budget Code – 802/4962 £2500
The remainder to be taken from Planting. Budget code: 801/4651 £4145

It was agreed to call an extraordinary meeting of the Environment committee to decide on the funding for tree felling when the survey's findings are complete.

It was noted that the planting of trees should take place in areas where felling has taken place and that funding for this could be available. The new Ranger to research what trees should replace those felled and to obtain funding for this initiative.

It was agreed that the public should be informed in advance of any tree felling through CTC's website and social media channels.

URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING

The Environmental Policy to be brought to the next Environment Committee meeting.
20 is plenty for Crowborough to be added to the next Environment Committee meeting agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.23pm.