

Minutes of a meeting of the 117th **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY** of the Local Electors of the Parish
of Crowborough held at the United Church, Croft Road, Crowborough
on Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 8.15pm

Town Councillors Present:

Alison Arthur
Peter Bucklitsch
Martyn Garrett
Richard Jury

Kay Moss*
David Neeves
Alan Penney
Ron Reed*

Matthew Street
Neil Waller*
Natalie Whittle

*Denotes those also WDC Councillors

In attendance:

Melanie Street	Assistant Town Clerk
PCSO M. Duvall	Sussex Police
PCSO M. Jarvis	Sussex Police

11 members of the public

Crowborough Town Councillors held 'surgery time' prior to the formal meeting in order to enable residents to ask them questions individually.

MAYORS CHARITIES – PRESENTATION OF CHEQUES

The Mayor, Cllr David Neeves, presented representatives from his two chosen charities (Crowborough Foodbank and Abbeyfield Crowborough Society) with cheques for the monies raised at the annual town firework display.

The Mayor welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

CTC Cllr Tracey Lovewell
CTC Cllr Gareth Owen-Williams
CTC Cllr Colin Stocks

ESCC Cllr Johanna Howell
ESCC Cllr Philip Lunn

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st APRIL 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st April 2021 were approved.

PCSOs MATTHEW DUVALL AND MATTHEW JARVIS – SUSSEX POLICE

Sargeant Graham Bond was unable to attend but had arranged for Police Community Support Officers [PCSO] Duvall and Jarvis to attend in his place.

The PCSOs began with an update regarding the speed camera on A26 Eridge Road. They confirmed that this had been switched off in order to facilitate repairs and allow for an upgrade but that it would be in use again soon.

PCSO Duvall explained how the new police station was set up and how it was being utilised by the various policing teams. He described the role of the PCSO and how it included responding to calls, scam-awareness, neighbour disputes, general nuisance calls, anti-social behaviour calls and keeping local partners up to date. He shared that there is a direct number for residents to call regarding Operation Blitz so that calls can be dealt with quickly on a Friday or Saturday evening.

TO NOTE THE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF TRUSTEES/GROUPS WITH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

The reports were noted and received by the meeting.

TO NOTE THE RECEIPT OF THE TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Town Mayor's Report was noted and received by the meeting.

TO NOTE THE RECEIPT OF REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

The reports were noted and received by the meeting.

OPEN FORUM – QUESTIONS FOR COUNCILLORS

The Mayor invited questions from those present.

Q: Can you share any information on the Vision Document? What stage is it at and how will it shape the town?

A: [Answered by Cllr George Moss] The town council has a working group reviewing and updating the Vision Document. The group has only recently formed. It has met twice with the next meeting scheduled for 14th May 2022. Work is in its early stages. So far, each of the aims of the document has been assigned a 'lead' councillor and work is just commencing. Any comments are welcomed.

Q: [Follow-on from previous question] Does everyone know what the Vision Document is for and what it aims to do?

A: [Answered by Cllr George Moss] It is an aspirational document which sets out town aims for the next five, ten or twenty years. The document was last updated in 2014 and is currently being reviewed. It is based around core aims which include transport, being a visitor destination, working with youth, sport/leisure, environment and various other aims. When finalised the document will be lodged with Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council to inform decision making in Crowborough.

Q: [Follow-on from previous question] Will a questionnaire or survey go out to residents?

A: [Answered by Cllr George Moss] When work has progressed on the document, workshops will be held to involve local residents. This is an interactive document, and the working group would like to involve as many people as possible.

- Q: Many residents are concerned that the Number 29 bus only runs once per hour. Can you put pressure on the bus company to return the service to half-hourly?
- A: [Answered by the Mayor] Bus services are not within the remit of the town council and as a private business the council cannot insist the bus company runs any services, however, it could investigate asking the bus company to do this. It may be helpful to contact your East Sussex County Councillor for more detailed information.
- Q: There was a recent article on Radio Sussex which stated that the local bus companies were hoping to provide electric buses which would result in an improved service.
- A: [The Mayor acknowledged this comment]
- Q: Is it possible to have a regular item on the town council's Environment Committee agenda relating to buses? A lot of attention is given to rail transport, and it would be good to give an equal weighting to buses. Is the town council doing anything to lobby for the electrification of the rail line?
- A: The comment regarding buses on the Environment agenda will be forwarded to the Chairman of the Environment Committee for his attention as he is unable to attend this meeting. The council's representative regarding local railways is Mr John Coleman. The comment regarding electrification will be passed to Mr Coleman at the next Environment Committee meeting and an answer sought.

There were no further questions. Cllr Matthew Street shared information regarding the town council's 2022 free-to-attend events including the Boundary Walk, Queen's Jubilee lunch, Queen's jubilee lighting of the beacon and CrowFest.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.