

Crowhurst

PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17 January 2022 at 7.30pm at Crowhurst Village Hall, Forewood Lane, Crowhurst.

	<p>PUBLIC QUESTIONS:</p> <p>The Clerk advised that she had received a question asking if the Parish Council could consider the provision of bridlepaths within the area, due to the increasing number of cars. Councillors agreed that this wasn't within the remit of the Parish Council, but they are constantly looking at ways to get the County Council to carry out traffic calming in Crowhurst. Also, the path through Adams Farm was now open and this would help to keep horses off the roads.</p> <p>A question had been received from Will Kemp, asking whether the Parish Council could contact Optivo regarding the air source heat pumps in the Blacksmiths Field flats. They were installed some time ago and are very noisy, ineffective, and expensive. The Parish Council agreed to write to Optivo and ask them to look at this heating and make them aware of the Warmer Crowhurst Project and their need to engage.</p>
<p>17793</p>	<p>MEETING ATTENDANCE:</p> <p>a) Present – Cllrs. Mrs. Day (Chair), Goddard, Ms. Plato, and Thomas. b) Acceptance of Apologies for Absence. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Jill Mitcheson.</p>
<p>17794</p>	<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:</p> <p>The following members declared personal interests in items on the agenda: -</p> <p>Cllr. Thomas in the Village Hall. Cllr. Ms. Plato in the Youth Club and Environment Group. Cllr. Goddard declared a prejudicial interest in Item 10 on the agenda (Planning Application).</p>
<p>17795</p>	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:</p> <p>Members approved the minutes of the meeting of Crowhurst Parish Council held on 13 December 2021 with the change from 1066 Steering Grp to 1066 Railway Steering Grp in section 17790 (d), and these were duly signed by the Chair.</p>
<p>17796</p>	<p>MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA:</p> <p>Members noted the actions undertaken on the matters arising from previous meetings.</p>

	<p>Cllr. Ms. Plato advised that she had a Dark Skies meeting on 1 Feb to look at the policy within the AONB. The Clerk was asked to find out from RDC whether they would be prepared to enforce any Dark Skies Policy if it was encompassed within the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that a date had been set for the Highways Liaison meeting, and that she had asked Huw Merriman MP's office if he was still able to meet in February or March. Also, the Cricket Club had advised that there was no problem with the low boundary fence being removed, and that Kevin Bailey had confirmed he would be doing the lighting at half term. The Clerk advised that the best day to carry out the car park work was Tuesdays, and Cllr. Goddard agreed to let the Clerk have details of where the scalplings could be purchased.</p>
17797	<p>CASUAL VACANCIES:</p> <p>The Council discussed the two casual vacancies, and it was agreed that this would be referred to again in Crowhurst News this month.</p>
17798	<p>REPRESENTATIONS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS:</p> <p>Cllr. Curtis advised that the Planning department is still in disarray, although he confirmed that RDC are now doing pre-application advice.</p> <p>Cllr. Field advised that the ESCC budget is likely to go up to the maximum amount. An Assistant Director (Education) has been appointed at ESCC.</p>
17799	<p>FINANCIAL REPORTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Members reviewed the Finance report and noted that the Council is likely to spend the majority of its budget by the end of the financial year and there is only a small surplus forecast. b) The payments report for January 2022 was considered by members and approved. c) The draft budget was approved. Members agree a 2% increase in the precept for the year 2022/23 and the clerk was authorized to request the precept from Rother District Council. d) The Council has had the same internal auditor for a number of years, and it is good practice to make a change after three years. However, the Clerk had contacted three separate firms, and none had the capacity to take on the work for this year. She therefore suggested that they continue with the current auditor for this year and make arrangements for a different auditor for next year's audit, and this was AGREED. e) The Council's payroll provider, Simon Goacher, has given notice that he will be retiring from the end of the financial year. Members noted that the clerk proposes to manage the PAYE through the HMRC website, which will make a saving to the Council of approximately £150 p.a. but will result in additional work for the clerk.
17800	<p>RECREATION GROUND:</p> <p>Members received an update from Councillors on their monthly inspections. Cllr. Goddard agreed to order the scalplings for the car park and also enough for the pathway, and get it delivered in a corner of the car park. Cllr. Day has chased ESCC on the abandoned van,</p>

	<p>and Groundworks have offered to volunteer, and Cllr. Ms. Plato suggested that they be asked to help clear the area next to the Youth Club.</p> <p>The left-hand side shower in the pavilion trips, and the Clerk has organized a plumber to repair this in February.</p>
17801	<p>TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING:</p> <p>Members noted the following planning application had been submitted by Parish Councillors (who declared a prejudicial interest) and in the circumstances they decided not to comment on the application and to let RDC know why.</p> <p>RR/2021/2765/P – Barleyfield, Catsfield Road, Crowhurst TN33 9BU. Demolition of existing agricultural building and erection of dwelling.</p>
17802	<p>VILLAGE MATTERS:</p> <p>Councillors considered the nominations that have been received for the Community Award. All agreed that there had been a huge amount of effort by volunteers in the community in the last year throughout the Covid period, and in recognition of those special efforts the Council agreed to three awards. The awards would be given out at the next Village Market (5th March).</p> <p>Members noted that there is a consultation from ESCC regarding high-speed broadband, which closes at 9am on 18 January 2022. A draft response has been provided and it was agreed to submit this to ESCC. Cllr. Thomas asked that community broadband be put onto a future agenda, and he is keen to take this forward. Other villages have achieved a project on this, and it was noted that Ashburnham, Sedlescombe and Westfield will all have learning.</p>
17803	<p>COUNCILLOR UPDATES ON EXTERNAL BODIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Rother Association of Local Councils (RALC) update (Chair). No-one from Highways attended and there was unhappiness with this. Speed limits on unclassified roads were discussed and West Sussex County Council were to look at this. Trees were to be encouraged for green canopy and the Queen's Jubilee. Members heard that it was unlikely that remote meetings would be introduced under legislation. A monthly bulletin on rural policing was published, and this would be a future agenda item. RDC is launching a lottery for good causes on 17th Feb. RDC also have a fixed amount of funding for grants towards Jubilee celebrations. RDC has also ringfenced a proportion of its CIL receipts for environmental projects. b) Village Hall Management Committee (Cllr. Thomas) This had not met due to being inquorate. c) Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group (Cllr. Ms. Plato) including Crowhurst Warmer Homes. Surveys had been done and a meeting was to be held to follow up and look at data to inform what next steps are. No survey of village hall or youth club has been done, which was disappointing. d) Neighbourhood Plan Design Task Group (Cllr. Mrs. Day) This group had not met. e) 1066 Railway Steering Group (Cllr. Ms. Plato/Cllr. Thomas). The village map was progressing, and the group were wanting any photos of old farms that could potentially be used.
17804	<p>CLERK'S REPORT:</p>

	3 people had responded to the letter about the sandbox at the Recreation Ground. New grants for the defibrillator at the Village Hall are being investigated.
17805	INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS: Members asked for the following future agenda items - Combe Haven CIC and Policing. It was also agreed that the April meeting would be moved to 26 April, if possible, due to the clash with Easter.
17806	DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 21 February 2022
	CLOSE OF MEETING 8.50 p.m.