



Minutes of the Meeting of Crowhurst Parish Council held on 26 April 2022

	<p>PUBLIC QUESTIONS: There were no questions received.</p> <p>PRESENTATION BY RICHARD WATSON ON SOLAR FARM PROPOSAL. Councillors received a presentation by Richard Watson of Energise Sussex Coast. They heard that the substation would need to be agreed by Network Rail, as otherwise it is borderline feasible. Village consultation events would take place including information boards. Members pointed out that that it was important that insulation was improved as just having cheaper energy wasn't a sustainable solution. There were lots of grants around at present for more sustainable energy. Access was likely to be where the mini car park currently is at the bottom of Swainham Lane. The proposal was likely to generate additional traffic during the construction phase but in the operation phase there would be little extra traffic. Councillors asked what Energise Sussex Coast were looking for from the Council and were advised that Energise Sussex Coast would like the Council to support the proposal with the local planning authority and consider whether this should be part of the Design Guide.</p> <p>PRESENTATION BY FRANCES ROYSTON ON DARK SKIES. Members heard that the Environment Group was currently working on a Dark Skies Project which was measuring levels of light pollution across the Parish which could inform a Dark Skies Policy as part of the revised Neighbourhood Plan. They were planning a Festival in February 2023 in co-operation with other Parishes in the High Weald and supported by the High Weald AONB. This would involve having a programme of events and speakers, and the intention was to apply for a grant from the Sussex Lund, with support from the Parish Council. Further details would be forthcoming in the future.</p>
AGENDA	
17837	<p>MEETING ATTENDANCE:</p> <p>a) Present; Councillors Mrs. Day (Chair), Cllr. John Goddard, Cllr. Ms. Mitcheson, Cllr. Ms. Plato, Cllr. Linda Roller, Cllr. Geoff Thomas.</p> <p>b) Acceptance of Apologies for Absence – None received</p> <p>c) Absent - None</p>
17838	<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:</p> <p>Members declared the following interests in items on the Agenda:-</p> <p>Cllr. Ms. Day and Cllr. Thomas – Crowhurst Village Hall Cllr. Ms. Day – Arty Farties Cllr. Mrs. Roller – resident at Sandrock Hill Cllr Ms Plato – Crowhurst Youth Club and Crowhurst Environment Group</p>
17839	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:</p>

	The minutes of the meeting of Crowhurst Parish Council held on 26 April 2022 were agreed as a true record and the Chair duly signed them.
17840	MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA: There were none raised.
17841	CASUAL VACANCIES The Council noted that it now only had one casual vacancy as Cllr. Linda Roller had been appointed to the Council. It was agreed to continue with articles in the Crowhurst News and that members would take the opportunity to mention it at village events.
17842	REPRESENTATIONS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS: i. District Councillor Gary Curtis was currently on holiday and was unable to attend. ii. County Councillor Kathryn Field said that ESCC had agreed that students on free school meals would be supported with additional money for the school holidays, and this was welcomed by Councillors. Resolve: Members noted the report from Cllr. Field
17843	FINANCIAL MATTERS: (A) Members considered the year end financial report and AGREED that the balance of money left at year end totalling £2351 would be transferred into the play area reserve fund. (B) Members AGREED the payments report and that they would enter into the five-year contract with Edge ICT for the finance system at £264 p.a. rather than £292 p.a. for a three-year term. (C) Members considered the grant request from the Arty Farties. They were concerned about the price of tickets as they felt they might be prohibitive. Members felt there were additional questions outstanding but on balance AGREED to make the grant Provided that the free picnic at the Recreation Ground was suitably promoted and held by the Arty Farties. (D) Defibrillator. Members considered the new defibrillator costs. The Clerk was asked to find out whether it could be kept in an unlocked cabinet. It was AGREED to give delegated authority to the Clerk to agree the defibrillator costs in consultation with members.
17844	RECREATION GROUND: Nicola Stell had raised that the toilet cistern needs replacing, and the kitchen tap also leaked and so the Clerk was asked to get a plumber to inspect. In addition, the gate & slide need to be repaired and a slat is missing on one bench. Climbing wall and fixings need to be looked at. Cllr. Ms. Plato advised that the molehills have been dealt with. The Clerk had informed the PCSOs that the Recreation Ground and ASB was a top priority for the Council. Nicola Stell has also raised the issue of the defibrillator torch and whether it was working correctly, and the Chair agreed to look at this.

The Council heard that the contractor was not intending to increase his quote for the PIR sensors and it was AGREED that the solution was appropriate and that he would be asked to start the work. The posts and fence were to be removed, and Cllr. Goddard would take away the wood.

With regard to the car park, the contractor had asked for an additional £110 extra for using a wacker plate on the surface. The Council AGREED that the contractor be asked to complete the job to the original specification (and leave a ton behind for the pathway).

The sandboxes which had been ordered in March have not arrived yet and the Clerk agreed to chase up the company.

17845 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING:

Members considered the below planning applications:-

RR/2022/509/P – 6 Woodland Way, Oakleigh, Crowhurst TN33 9AP. Proposed extension and conversion of existing garage building to create annexe/overspill ancillary living accomodation.

Members debated this item, and reviewed the revised application. The previous recommendation was to Object and it was felt that the revisions did not change their view. It was therefore agreed to OBJECT on the grounds that the Council do not consider the building is subservient to the bungalow as the height has only been reduced by 0.5m and it is visible from all public areas.

RR/2022/453/P – Hillcroft Farm, Royal Oak Lane, Crowhurst TN33 9BY Erection of 2 holiday lets (revised resubmission of previously approved application).

Members considered the revised application (which already had planning permission) and felt that the pods will look nicer than the previous ones particularly as they have been moved. There was no objection but members requested that the previous conditions should remain. In addition, RDC were to be asked to impose a condition that external lighting complies with the Neighbourhood Plan and Design Guide, and that biodiversity measures were imposed.

RR/2022/362/P – Moorbank Farm, Old Forewood Lane, Crowhurst TN33 9AA Proposed detached garage building.

This was not considered as it had already been approved.

RR/2022/319/P – Fordlands, Crowhurst Road, Crowhurst TN33 9BT Proposed agricultural barn and access

Members heard that there is already planning permission for a 4-bay garage including a tractor/mower store. They did however feel that the width of the access track is disproportionate at 4.5M. They agreed not to object to the application, but to ask that external lighting comply with Neighbourhood Plan.

Members discussed the Neighbourhood Plan website hosting which was soon to end. It

	was AGREED that that the Council and Neighbourhood Plan would be hosted together on the Ionos hosting site, and that a price would be considered for email access for Councillors.
17846	<p>CLERK'S REPORT:</p> <p>The Council considered the request from the Village Hall Committee for consent to the renewal of the lease of the school classroom and this was AGREED.</p> <p>The Council noted that the Clerk had resigned for personal reasons, and it was agreed that Councillor Roller would assist the clerk in creating a new JD and person specification in order that the role could be advertised, and that it would also go into the Crowhurst News.</p> <p>The clerk was awaiting a cost for a feasibility study to be carried out at Sandrock Hill to look at alternative proposals for the verge, in order that Councillors could consider if they wishes to proceed with this action.</p>
17847	<p>COUNCILLOR UPDATES ON EXTERNAL BODIES (IF ANY):</p> <p>It was agreed that the minutes from the RALC meeting (attended by Cllr. Ms. Plato in the Chairs absence) would be circulated.</p>
17848	<p>INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS:</p> <p>Members agreed to hold the parish Meeting on Thursday 19 May at 7.pm. Other organisations would be asked if they wished to attend, and the future of the Recreation Ground could be discussed.</p>
17849	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>To note that the next meeting of the Council will be <u>Monday 16 May 2022</u></p>
	CLOSE OF MEETING 21.55

Signed..... Chair

Dated.....2022