

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16 May 2022

	<p>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</p> <p>There were no public questions.</p> <p>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR</p> <p>Councillor Rosalyn Day was appointed as Chair for the year 2022/23.</p>
17850	<p>MEETING ATTENDANCE: Councillors Mrs. Day (Chair), Cllr. John Goddard, Cllr. Ms. Mitcheson, Cllr. Ms. Plato, Cllr. Mrs. Roller, Cllr. Geoff Thomas</p> <p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were no apologies for absence.</p>
17851	<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: Declarations of interest were received as follows:-</p> <p>Cllr. Ms. Plato – Crowhurst Environment and Ecological Working Group and Youth Club Cllr. Thomas – Crowhurst Village Hall</p>
17852	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of Crowhurst Parish Council held on 26 April 2022 were duly signed as a correct record, save that minute no. 17846 was corrected by the Chair in manuscript to read ‘lease of land for the classroom’ and this was agreed by members.</p>
17853	<p>MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA:</p> <p>There were no actions undertaken on the matters arising from previous meetings which were not covered in the Agenda.</p>
17854	<p>REPRESENTATIONS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. District Councillor Gary Curtis was not present at the meeting. ii. County Councillor Kathryn Field sent apologies as she was unable to attend.
17855	<p>POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Financial Regulations 2022/23 were approved.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) The Standing Orders 2022/23 were approved. c) The Risk Register was discussed by members and approved. d) The statement of assets was discussed. Members felt that the Recreation Ground should be included as an asset but a value needs to be set. The defibrillators were also to be included as assets with a value of £1100 each. The trees in the orchard were raised but on balance, members did not feel that these should be on the asset register. e) The monthly playground rota for 2022/23 was agreed and Councillors were to notify the Clerk if there were any agreed changes in order that the copy on the webpage could be updated. f) The Councils insurance policy runs from October in each year. Members have already considered whether the insured sums are adequate for the year and a copy of the schedule is attached for information. g) The schedule of Councillors responsibilities is attached as appendix 7 and is based on historic responsibilities. Members are asked to consider whether they wish to agree this schedule.
17856	<p>FINANCIAL MATTERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Members noted receipt of the first half of the precept and that income of £430 had been received from the football club for the last season. The VAT return for the last financial year had been submitted and a refund of approximately £1700 was due. b) The payments report for May 2022 was noted and approved. Members questioned the two payments to John O’Conner and the Clerk explained that this was because the direct debit had expired in April 2022 and so they had not received payment last month. The Clerk was requested to ask John O’Conner for their schedule of cuts. The meters at the pavilion were also to be read so that a reading could be supplied to EDF and Castle Water as they had both raised their direct debits. c) Members noted that the Bank Reconciliation would be sent to them. d) Members noted that the direct debits report would be provided in June.
17857	<p>RECREATION GROUND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) An update was received on monthly inspections, in particular the small items of work needed to the play equipment. The Chair offered to put a bolt cover on, and the gate closure was discussed. It was agreed to find a magnetic closure if possible and Cllr. Mitcheson offered to look at this. Other items were with Joe

	<p>Ford for repair. The Clerk advised that she had told the playground inspector that if the inspection was not carried out by end June then the Council would source an alternative contractor. There were mole hills which needed removing again. The finials on the steps also needed to be looked at and Joe Ford was to be asked to look at this. A bin was to be moved from the car park by Cllr. Goddard and moved to the area near the tennis court, to see if it helped to promote less litter, and the Clerk was to advise Nicola Stell accordingly.</p> <p>b) It was agreed that members did not want to take responsibility for storage of the electrical contractors' equipment, as this would create an insurance liability for the Council. A start date was awaited from the groundwork team.</p> <p>The car park surface was to be completed and members had been offered a choice of dates. It was agreed to close the car park for May 20th and appropriate signage would be put in place, as work was to be undertaken to the Youth Club area on 23 May. The benches were still in need of repair but Cllr. Goddard offered to look at this.</p>
17858	<p>TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING:</p> <p>(a) <i>RR/2022/954/P – Court Lodge, Forewood Lane, Crowhurst TN33 9AJ Conversion of outhouse including infill of courtyard. Proposed double garage block</i></p> <p>Members felt that this was a very similar application to the previous one, with the height being the same. The dormers have been removed from this application. Councillors felt comfortable with works to the property but not with the garage block. They agreed to OBJECT due to the size and mass of the double garage and in particular the increased height, even though the footprint was reduced, and proximity to the scheduled ancient monument.</p> <p>(b) <i>RR/2022/765/P – Wychelms Cottage, Forewood Lane, Crowhurst TN33 9AB Variation of condition 2, to accommodate new dormer windows on detached garage and solar panels on southwest roof slope of main house.</i></p> <p>Members considered the change to condition 2 and AGREED not to object to the application.</p> <p>(c) Members considered a request to apply to register the land adjacent to Sabon Gari, Chapel Hill, Crowhurst as a community asset. Councillor Ms. Plato declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the room for the debate, however she addressed the Council prior to their consideration of the item.</p> <p>Cllr. Plato is concerned that the area is ancient woodland with bats and other wildlife and the site the other side of Sabon Gari has been left and is in poor condition, as planning permission was refused. She felt this site is unlikely to be developed as it is steeply sloping and is unlikely to have proper drainage. It would also cause further traffic issues in the village. Cllr. Plato felt it could be part of the green lung of the village and registering it as a community asset would</p>

	<p>allow 6 months for the village to raise funds. The RSPB have looked at this and feel it is suitable and the CEEWG feel they would get some support to put in paths etc. Cllr. Plato said there would be a meeting this week of a group of villagers for the possibility of fundraising. The auction information pack isn't ready yet, but a pre-auction bid could be put in. The title plan to Oak View (Sabon Gari) seemed to suggest the woodland as going round to the bottom of the property and there is no stream access. There would be no obligation on the parish council to purchase the land and the group were looking at ways of holding the property if they purchase it.</p> <p>The Council had a lengthy discussion about this. The Chair advised that the Council had tried to keep the land for open space for the village as part of the Regulation 14 in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Council agreed that it would support the application and agreed as a policy decision that if other land is up for development which the Council had previously tried to keep for open space in its Neighbourhood Plan, then they would also support register that land as community assets.</p>
17859	<p>HIGHWAYS ISSUES</p> <p>(a) Councillor Roller declared a personal interest in this item, as a resident of Sandrock Hill. ESCC have advised that the cost for a feasibility study to be carried out on behalf of a community group or parish council for a layby would be £500 and may include one site visit and one meeting. This would assess the viability of the scheme and give an indication of the likely cost. There is community match funding available to cover 50% of the cost of a scheme, but there would need to be community consultation and support. The scheme closes on 31 December for this year. The Clerk advised members that she had received a letter objecting to any proposal other than bollards on the land. However, the Council agreed to proceed with a feasibility study and prior to anything further being done, there would be community consultation with residents in that area.</p> <p>(b) ESCC have now published their programme of urban and rural grass cutting on their website. Their rural programme starts on 23 May and Members noted that as they agreed Crowhurst would take part in the rural grass cutting trial, the verges will only be cut once this year.</p>
17860	<p>COUNCILLOR UPDATES ON EXTERNAL BODIES (IF ANY):</p> <p>a) Visit by Huw Merriman. A wide range of topics was discussed, and Hugh Merriman had offered to contact Network Rail to try and facilitate access for the solar farm. He had advised that ESCC had been given money for rural transport which was an issue in Crowhurst.</p> <p>b) Village Hall Management Committee (Cllr. Thomas). The Committee were looking at Health and Safety issues and were also considering decorating in the summer holidays.</p> <p>c) Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group (Cllr. Ms. Plato) including</p>

	Crowhurst Warmer Homes. A meeting to discuss insulation was being held in the village on 21 June at the village hall.
17861	<p>CLERK'S REPORT:</p> <p>a) Members agreed to put an advert in the Crowhurst News and Rother RDC alerts and RVA. The Chair would put up adverts across the village, and a CV and covering letter would be requested asking why candidates felt they were suitable. There would be a closing date of 17 June.</p>
17862	<p>INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS:</p> <p>Members were to forward any agenda items to the Clerk.</p>
17863	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would be <u>Monday 20 June 2022</u></p>
	CLOSE OF MEETING 9.45pm