

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.05pm** in the Village Hall

Parish Councillors present: Cllrs Geoff Thomas (GT), Sonia Plato (SP), Lynda Roller (LR), Sue Laimbeer (SL), Paula Rivett (PR) and John Goddard (JG).

County/district councillors present: Cllr Nicola McLaren, RDC.

The Clerk was absent from the meeting, and the minutes were taken by the Chairman, Geoff Thomas.

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### 1. Public Questions

There were no questions from members of the public.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Kathryn Field, ESCC.

### 3. Declaration of Interests

Received from:

Cllr Thomas – Village Hall Committee

Cllr Roller – Crowhurst Environment Group

Cllr Laimbeer - Annual Fayre Committee, Strolling Group, Drama Group & Crowhurst Environment Group

Cllr Sonia Plato - Crowhurst Environment Group and Youth Club

### 4. Adoption of Minutes

The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 as a true and correct record.

### 5. Councillor vacancy

An application for co-option as a Councillor from Paula Rivett was considered and unanimously approved. Following her co-option, Paula Rivett signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting as a member of the Council.

### 6. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

**Councillor vacancy** – The remaining vacancy will continue to be advertised locally.

**Annual Parish Assembly-** Arrangements are progressing for the Parish Assembly. The date strips have arrived. The artwork for Community Award should be with us sometime this week. They are aware of our deadline. The award must be collected from Hailsham. The order for the wine, soft drinks and nibbles has been made. The glasses need to be collected soon from Annual Fayre Committee and washed.

**SLR meeting** – New date for the meeting has been agreed – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 10:00am.

**Paediatric First Aid Pads** – The clerk had difficulty paying for the paediatric and adult defib pads by debit card. Defib Supplies have issued a Proforma Invoice and will despatch the defib pads once payment has been made. The payment has been added to this month's payments for approval.

## **7. Representations from District & County Councillors**

### **Report from District Councillor McLaren.**

Cllr. McLaren informed the meeting that the Government had not made a final decision “about the future shape of Local Government in East Sussex” but will instead consult on a variation of the One East Sussex proposal after the elections in May. This mainly focuses on expanding Brighton to include areas such as Peacehaven and Saltdean etc.

The British Horse Society are arranging an event at Brightling Village Hall regarding road safety. Poster to be sent to Steve Royston for circulation and to be put on the PC noticeboard.

Support is available for households who use oil as their main heating source, are on a low income, and are at immediate risk of being unable to heat their home or access hot water due to rising oil costs. Residents meeting these criteria can apply for assistance through Citizens Advice 1066, either online via the Energy Self-Referral Form (selecting the heating oil option and referring to the Citizens Advice 1066 privacy notice) or by telephone on 0800 464 7307.

County Council election, 7 May 2026 - The deadline to register to vote is midnight on Monday, April 20 and voters can quickly and easily apply online at [gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://gov.uk/register-to-vote).

Significant progress is being made on the major repair work at Bexhill’s historic Colonnade, with the project now entering its final stages. Pride in Place Program Bexhill Neighbourhood Board has received approval for their first 4-year Regeneration Plan by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The Neighbourhood Board funding comes under the Government Pride in Place Programme (PIPP) which has the three themes of Thriving Places, Stronger Communities and Taking Back Control.

## **8. Town and Country Planning**

Marcus Berrisford (RDC) was due to revisit the site east of Lower Wilting Farm on 13 March to inspect ongoing reports of soil dumping, vehicle movements and resident concerns; he agreed to provide an update to the Parish Council. Councillors had previously agreed to consider contacting the local MP to seek further action. As no further update has been received from Marcus Berrisford at the time of the meeting, GT will use the, "New toolkit to help you engage with MPs and parliamentarians," previously circulated by the Clerk to contact the local MP.

## **9. Financial Matters**

9.1 The financial report to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 had been circulated and was approved by members.

9.2 The payments report for April 2026 was considered and approved.

9.3 The bank reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 had been circulated. It was approved by members and signed by the Chair (GT)

9.4 The year end accounting statement and account reconciliations were approved.

9.5 The VAT Reconciliation statement was noted and approved.

9.6 The decision to purchase the Community Award for 2025 was noted, along with the decision regarding purchase of refreshments for the Parish assembly.

## **10. Recreation Ground**

10.1. Councillor Thomas gave an update on the monthly playground and defibrillator inspection.

10.2 Councillors gave approval for the clerk to purchase one bag of woodchip.

The following items that were not on the agenda were discussed.

JG will inspect the Rocker Bike handle as the fittings appear to be loose. J. O’Connor will be contacted regarding the timeframe for repairing the damage to the grass. It was agreed that the isolation taps in

the Pavilion will be labelled, and that Short Mat Bowls will be issued with a key to the Youth Club. The outside water tap requires a new washer, which JG agreed to replace.

#### **11. Playground Renovation Project**

The report on the initial meeting held on March 26<sup>th</sup> has been circulated.

Main outcome:

Simon Page will seek the views, opinions and comments of parent's and pupils of Crowhurst School.

Hannah Round will discuss with Crowhurst Pre-School on best way to seek the views and opinions of parents and children.

GT and LR will arrange to discuss with Tracy Hoad and Gareth Bright the best way to identify the views of the Youth Club users.

A further meeting will be held in July

#### **12. Pavilion Refurbishment Project**

Tillmann Lenz was asked to contact both companies who had submitted quotes for a structural survey.

Once responses have been received, councillors will review the quotations and determine which contractor to appoint. In addition, Mr Lenz, agreed to display the design options currently under consideration, at the Annual Parish Assembly. GT agreed to source the display boards. Details of the Community Infrastructure Funding were also presented.

#### **13. Recreation Ground Tree Survey**

Councillors agreed to accept the quote from Steve Curly at cost of £455, as this was substantially cheaper than that provided by Arbor Weald.

#### **14. Network Rail tree works on Station Road**

Date of meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May was noted. No further action agreed at this stage

#### **15. IT Policy**

The draft IT Policy which had been previously circulated was adopted, to take effect immediately. It was noted that all councillors will need to sign a Bring Your Own Device Agreement for Mobile Phones and if they wish to continue using their own devices such as Laptops.

#### **16. International Dark Skies Community Certification**

Cllr. Plato informed the meeting of progress on application. No further action is required at this stage.

#### **17. Councillor Update on External Bodies (if any)**

SP informed the meeting of progress on planting in the new planters on Platform 2 of the railway station.

#### **18. Clerk's report/Information for Councillors.**

Sampsons Farm - concerns have been raised regarding the clearing of land by the new owner, a widened footpath and increased traffic and parking due to filming. It was noted that the owner is permitted to undertake works and he has informed the parish council that he will be replanting the area previously cleared.

JM Waste have informed the Council that an additional surcharge of £0.35 per lift will be applied due to increased fuel costs, reflecting wider price rises linked to the conflict in Iraq.

A resident has raised concerns regarding the lighting on a sign in Station Road. The Clerk to be asked to contact owner explaining Dark Skies Policy.

Changes to Online Banking were noted.

#### **19. Date of next meeting:**

The AGM of Crowhurst Parish Council will take place on **Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026** at 7.05pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....