



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21st February 2022

	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>Will Kemp provided members with a proposal for alternative parking spaces at Sandrock Hill, to be half grass and tarmac/hard surface. This would take approximately 10 cars and would leave a green corridor between the hedge and the cars.</p> <p>Cllr. Ms. Plato said there was parking and 4 garages behind the bungalows, and was that used? To put parking there would change the nature of the area and went against the Neighbourhood Plan as it should be an open green space for the village.</p> <p>Mike & Linda Roller were also present and supported Will Kemp's plan, and also made the point that electric cars would not be possible for households if they could not park on their verges, and that part of the problem was that delivery vehicles were using the verge to park.</p> <p>The Chair said that to put a parking area in would be very expensive compared to the Council's precept. Cllr. Ms. Plato suggested a working party of residents with a Councillor present would be helpful, and perhaps some site visits to look at other areas and solutions. The Chair offered to discuss options with ESCC when the Highways Steward attended the village, and then report back to residents.</p>
<p>17807</p>	<p>MEETING ATTENDANCE:</p> <p>a) Present - Cllrs. Mrs. Day (Chair), Goddard and Ms. Plato b) Acceptance of Apologies for Absence – Jill Mitcheson and G Thomas c) Absent</p>
<p>17808</p>	<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:</p> <p>The following declarations were received: -</p> <p>Cllr. Plato – Youth Club & Environment Group Cllr. Thomas – Village Hall Committee</p>
<p>17809</p>	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:</p> <p>the minutes of the meeting of Crowhurst Parish Council held on 17 January 2022 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.</p>
<p>17810</p>	<p>MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA:</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
<p>17811</p>	<p>CASUAL VACANCIES:</p>

	The Council noted that it still had two vacancies and was to continue with action through Crowhurst Village News.
17812	<p>REPRESENTATIONS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. District Councillor Gary Curtis reported that the Planning Department still required lots of improvement, in his view. At the budget meeting last week there was concern about depleting the reserves and he felt this was a worrying picture particularly as they Town Hall development and Leisure Centre had been cancelled. Speedwatch was encouraging and more police were getting involved, but it is data driven. Refuse collections had a major problem due to Covid but this seemed to be resolved now. A query had been raised with him about Adams Farm and the right of way, and Cllr. Curtis had taken this up with ESCC. Cllr. Plato asked whether the small grants pot was now open and Cllr. Curtis agreed to investigate this and provide a response to the Clerk. ii. County Councillor Kathryn Field – Cllr. Field could not attend but had given an update to the Clerk. ESCC Council Tax to go up by 4.49%: 1.99% general rise, 1.5% Adult Social Care levy from last year, 1% ASC levy from this year. The levies are to pay for extra cost due to Care Act + they have been promised in the region of £1.7m from Government to help with this. The County Council has opened a new residential home in St. Leonards to take 5 children, hopefully from age 6.
17813	<p>FINANCIAL REPORTS:</p> <p>Members Noted the financial report to 31 January 2022 and noted that the Council is likely to spend most of its budget by the end of the financial year and there is only a small surplus forecast. The Clerk advised that the reserve fund had not been used.</p> <p>Members AGREED the payments for January 2022 including a payment of £282 for the electric shower fitted at the pavilion.</p>
17814	<p>GRANTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The Parish Council gave a grant to Crowhurst Youth Club to enable it to run workshop sessions over the summer period and they provided a written report on their outcomes. There were 90 attendances over the workshops, and they were very popular: creative writing, crafts and boom. Unfortunately, they were closed for the Autumn due to Omicron and there are three workshops left which they hope to put on over the Easter period. Income is just beginning to pick up again, after short mat bowls and other bookings were cancelled during Covid. 26 young people had attended, and this was higher than the 14 that the Club usually had. (b) Crowhurst Pre-School have made an application for a grant of £2953 to support them with their increased running costs, staff training and a new laptop. The Council heard from Catherine Bright, chair of the pre-school. Members felt that the provision served Crowhurst well, and all the staff lived within the village. Members AGREED to make a grant for training costs and to cover the rent increase, and that the playgroup could make a further application if they were not able to attract funding from other sources.
17815	RECREATION GROUND:

	<p>a) The Chair advised that she was having an issue with the google form and the Clerk was to look at editing rights on Google. The Chair said it was very uneven in the picnic area and the Council should look at matting in the gateways when wet. No major trees were down because of the recent storm, but the bottom step on the toddler slide needs to be looked at. There were massive molehills on the recreation ground but Cllr. Ms. Plato said these were not active. She also raised that a huge amount of water bottles was stuffed in the hedge, and tape and rubbish had been chucked over the hedge. A football supporter with a dog should have been policed by the Club and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Stephen Greenwood. Members heard the quote for the benches to be repaired and discussed this, and Cllr. Goddard offered to contact the contractor to discuss. It was noted that the Playgroup had asked for sheep hurdles to be erected as fencing, and the Clerk was asked to confirm the position for these for the Parish Council (as Charity Trustee) to agree.</p> <p>b) The Council's appointed contractor for the Recreation Ground lighting project has advised that he is no longer able to proceed with the work. The Clerk has approached the other tenderer and his quote was currently awaited.</p> <p>c) The Council has been asked whether it would consider planting a community orchard in the picnic area, with support and funding from the Groundwork Green Team. They have £2820 available towards materials and tools, plus would provide free time to develop the initiative. Cllr. Plato introduced this item, and there would be no charge for the labour, which would help clean up the area behind the Youth Club as well as the picnic area. Councillors. Ms. Plato and Goddard are to meet with Groundwork. The Chair suggested this could be part of the Queens Green Canopy project.</p> <p>d) The Horticultural Society celebrates its 50th year this year, and it would like to donate a tree to the village, to be sited on the Recreation Ground (or possibly another site). They would like it to have a plaque attached to confirm the anniversary and to be a memorial to former members. This was AGREED in principle, subject to a suitable site to be agreed with the Society. Cllr. Ms. Plato would look at a suitable area, with Will Kemp.</p>
<p>17816</p>	<p>TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING:</p> <p>a) To consider the following planning applications: -</p> <p>RR/2021/3019/P - Bynes Farm, Royal Oak Lane, Crowhurst TN33 9BY. Change of use: former farm office to single holiday let.</p> <p>Cllr. Thomas had looked at this application. It is already set up as accommodation and nothing more would need to be done, and therefore the Council agreed to SUPPORT the application.</p> <p>RR/2021/3003/P – Oakleigh, 6 Woodland Way, Crowhurst TN33 9AP. Proposed extension and conversion of existing garage building to create annexe/overspill ancillary living accommodation.</p>

	<p>Councillors noted that a decision to refuse this application had already been made by Rother District Council. Enforcement action was ongoing, and the Council agreed to monitor the position.</p> <p>b) Rother District Council has made two temporary Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) in respect of: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Southmead, Swainham Lane (TPO416) (ii) Kilbarry, Crowhurst Road (TPO415) <p>The Council AGREED to support these TPOs being made permanent and write to Rother District Council setting out its position.</p>
17817	<p>HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY:-</p> <p>a) 20's Plenty Campaign. At its meeting in December, the Council agreed to submit a Motion to ESCC, advising them that we support the '20's Plenty' campaign through Crowhurst village. The Council NOTED the disappointing response from ESCC but were unsurprised by the content.</p> <p>b) Parish Councillors met with ESCC Highways team to discuss issues of concern which had been raised in the village. A copy of the Minutes of that meeting had been circulated and councillors were to meet with the Highways Steward in coming weeks.</p> <p>c) Definitive Map Modification Order. The Council received notification from ESCC that they do not intend to modify the definitive map to add a further public footpath at Monkham Wood. Members expressed surprise and concern that it had taken ESCC ten years to deal with this matter but noted that no further action could be taken on it.</p> <p>d) Railway Cutting. Members noted that the gate to the permissive path was put at the end of the railway cutting. Due to various concerns raised at the time that there was an increase in use (due to COVID), part of the path was fenced off to protect paths through Quarry Wood. Quarry Wood now wishes that access to be reinstated. The Parish Council would need to liaise with the other interested parties. Subject to agreement from neighbouring parties, the Council AGREES to support the removal of the wire fence from the cutting.</p>
17818	<p>COUNCILLOR UPDATES ON EXTERNAL BODIES:</p> <p>a) Rother Association of Local Councils (RALC) update (Chair). No meeting had taken place that month.</p> <p>b) Village Hall Management Committee (Cllr. Thomas). No meeting had taken place that month.</p> <p>c) Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group (Cllr. Ms. Plato) including Crowhurst Warmer Homes. Cllr. Ms. Plato advised that there was a date in April for a village report back to show where the surveys and questionnaires have got to.</p>

	<p>d) Neighbourhood Plan Advisory and Monitoring Group (Cllr. Mrs. Day). Plan to be reviewed this year and more people needed to go onto the Group. NP website is due for renewal, and this would be discussed at a future meeting.</p> <p>e) 1066 Community Railways Trust (Cllr. Ms. Plato/Cllr. Thomas). The Trust were very keen to support other ideas, as this was a long-term project, and they want to make linkages to the Marshlink as well. Station Road verge has been cut and they now have an ecologist working for them. She is happy to give advice on how the Council can improve Station Road including possible funding for plants etc.</p>
17819	<p>CLERK'S REPORT:</p> <p>Members noted that the Sand Boxes had been ordered and it was agreed to purchase a bulk bag of sand as this was substantially cheaper and Cllr. Goddard would assist residents to put it in the bins. The Crowhurst News would feature an item on this.</p>
17820	<p>INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS:</p> <p>The NP website was an item for the forthcoming meeting, as well as the lighting.</p>
17821	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>The next meeting of the Council will be Monday 21st March 2022</p>
	CLOSE OF MEETING

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Chair

Dated.....