



Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21st March 2022.

	<p>PUBLIC QUESTIONS:</p> <p>A resident asked about the availability of past minutes on the website. The Clerk responded that they are put on the website but do not always seem to be visible. The Council will be looking at changing their website provider (min17831 refers).</p>
	<p>AGENDA</p>
17823	<p>MEETING ATTENDANCE:</p> <p>a) Present – Rosalyn Day (Chair), Sonia Plato, Geoff Thomas, John Goddard b) Acceptance of Apologies for Absence – Jill Mitcheson</p>
17824	<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:</p> <p>Cllr. Ms. Plato declared a personal interest in the Youth Club and Crowhurst Environment Group. Cllr. Thomas declared a personal interest in the village hall.</p>
17825	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of Crowhurst Parish Council held on 21 February 2022 were approved as a correct record, however it was noted that Cllr. Thomas was not present, and the minutes were duly amended by the Chair.</p>
17826	<p>MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA:</p> <p>The Horticultural Society had asked where their donated cherry tree could be sited, and it was agreed that this could be in the front corner of the Recreation Ground, 1 metre away from the fence. The Society would need to agree to water it for the first year, and maintain it for five years, so that the burden of this did not fall on residents of the village.</p>
17827	<p>CASUAL VACANCIES:</p> <p>The Council has received an application for one of the casual vacancies from Lynda Roller, who lived in the village. The Council considered the application, and heard from Lynda Roller, and were pleased to AGREE to co-opt her to the Parish Council with effect from the April meeting.</p>
17828	<p>REPRESENTATIONS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. District Councillor Gary Curtis was unable to attend the meeting. ii. County Councillor Kathryn Field explained the council tax levy for 2022/3 and advised the Council that the new childrens home in Bexhill was now open.

17829	<p>FINANCIAL REPORTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Council reviewed the financial report 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. b) The payments report for March 2022 was agreed by Councillors, who noted that the invoice for the planings had been received and it was AGREED that in addition to the payments report, the locksmith's invoice be paid and that the planings for the Recreation Ground (as previously agreed by the Council) should also be paid. c) The Council has agreed to appoint Pat Buckle to carry out its audit for 2021/22 financial year, and it was AGREED that the Chair would sign the audit letter and return to Pat Buckle.
17830	<p>RECREATION GROUND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Councillors discussed the monthly inspection and agreed that the rota would be drawn in alphabetical order, but that Cllr. Plato would do the April inspection and Cllr. Thomas would do May. The grass was getting rather long, and the Clerk was asked to find out when the cutting season would commence. b) The Council discussed the revised quote for lighting on the Recreation Ground, noting that it was now more than the previously agreed quote and that it could rise again, due to commodity prices. The Clerk was asked to get the contractor to put a timer indoors at the Youth Club, plus a PIR either end and subject to this, it was AGREED that the quotation be accepted and that the Clerk could have £200 flexibility to agree any revised quotation. Any increase more than this would need to be reported back to the Council for further consideration, as it would exceed the budget. c) The Council noted that the community orchard had now been put in, with support from Groundworks, including 10 fruit trees which would provide shade for the play area. Volunteers were needed for watering, and this would be requested through the Crowhurst News. Whilst on site, the molehills were also flattened, and the hedge was mulched. It was AGREED that the Chair would write to Groundworks to thank them for their support. Options for a plaque to be placed would be considered later in the year, as well as any work to the Youth Club area. d) Members were advised that the road planings were being delivered on 25 March and the Clerk was asked to contact the contractor again to get a date for moving them, in order that arrangements for closing the car park could be made. e) The Council considered the school's request for use of the recreation ground and pavilion for the Year 6 leavers party on 21st July. The Council agreed a policy of 50% discount for non-commercial use of the Recreation Ground and the Clerk was asked to write to the school accordingly.
17831	<p>TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The following planning applications were considered: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>RR/2022/214/P - Woodhayes, Old Forewood Lane, Crowhurst TN33 9AE</i> <i>Proposed Oak framed garden room to replace existing upvc conservatory on the same footprint.</i>

	<p>The Council heard that this would be an improvement, as it would be an oak replacement to the conservatory which was no longer fit for purpose, and it was agreed to SUPPORT this application.</p> <p><i>RR/2022/194/P - Pilgrim Cottage, Old Forewood Lane, Crowhurst TN33 9AE Variation of condition 3 imposed on RR/2021/1926/P to allow alternative external surface materials.</i></p> <p>The Council agreed to rely on the opinion of District Council in respect of this application as the applicant had permission to go back to them for alternatives, and it would make NO COMMENT.</p> <p><i>RR/2022/33/L – Bynes Farm, Royal Oak Lane, Crowhurst – Replacement conservation roof light.</i></p> <p>The Council heard the existing roof light was leaking and this was a replacement conservation light. It therefore agreed to SUPPORT the application.</p> <p>b) The Neighbourhood Plan website hosting is ending in May 2022 and the Council AGREED it would be more cost efficient to host both the Council and NP website jointly. This would also help resolve the problem of the RDC website not allowing the changes that the Council would like to make, such as Councillor profiles. The Chair was to look at suitable alternatives and report back.</p>
17832	<p>HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY: -</p> <p>a) The Council noted that the further response of ESCC that a 20MPH speed limit through the village was not suitable as there have not been any accidents or serious incidents. This was disappointing but not unexpected.</p> <p>b) The Council considered the proposals from several residents of Sandrock Hill requesting a layby instead of bollards on the verge to prevent the parking, which was causing safety issues as well as damage to the verge. ESCC would not provide a layby and they wanted a feasibility study before they would agree to it. This would all need to be funded by the Parish Council or residents, and fund raising would be needed. It was AGREED that the Clerk would look at whether the Council had any legal power to provide support to residents and ask ESCC for the costs of a feasibility study for a layby.</p> <p>c) The Council has noted the position on the pathway via Adams Farm track and the old railway cutting and proposed changes, and that the adjoining landowner was not keen. She has suggested the gate at the southern end of the cutting be moved to allow access to the cutting leaving a dog leg opening, but this would be for pedestrians only. Cllr. Plato has provided details of the adjoining landowner to Quarry Wood and suggested they discuss this direct. The Clerk was asked to write to Matt Harper at ESCC to ask that they continue to pursue the public right of way and copy in Cllr. Field (and Philip Baker) to the correspondence.</p>
17833	<p>COUNCILLOR UPDATES ON EXTERNAL BODIES:</p> <p>a) Rother Association of Local Councils (RALC) update. There was no update, but Cllr. Ms. Plato agreed to attend the next meeting on 6 April.</p>

	<p>b) Village Hall Management Committee (Cllr. Thomas). The rent increase had been agreed and new doors would be installed on 4 April. The Chair asked if the outside security light could be looked at, as this was not working. The Village Hall was being offered to the village for free, for Jubilee events.</p> <p>c) Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group (Cllr. Ms. Plato) including Crowhurst Warmer Homes. There would be a report given on 9 April to residents at the village hall, including the next steps to be taken. Energise Sussex Coast were successful for Stage 2 funding and the Council looked forward to hearing what this would cover. Cllr. Ms. Plato indicated that financial support might be needed from the Council for the next financial year.</p> <p>d) Neighbourhood Plan Design Task Group (Cllr. Mrs. Day). There was no update.</p> <p>e) 1066 Steering Group (Cllr. Ms. Plato/Cllr. Thomas). There was no update, but Cllr. Thomas raised the condition of the grit bins, and the Clerk was asked to contact Network Rail.</p>
17834	<p>CLERK'S REPORT:</p> <p>The Clerk advised members that she had contacted ESCC to confirm that Crowhurst would be willing to take part in the verge cutting trial.</p>
17835	<p>INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS:</p> <p>Members suggested that the plaque, parish meeting and Dark Skies policy be considered at their next meeting.</p>
17836	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>The next meeting of the Council will be <u>Tuesday 26 April 2022</u> to allow for the Easter break.</p>
	<p>CLOSE OF MEETING – 9.05pm</p>

Signed.....(Chair)

Dated.....