

Minutes of the Additional Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Monday 12th August 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Parish Councillors present: Cllrs Geoff Thomas (GT), Sue Laimbeer (SL), Jill Mitcheson (JM) and John Goddard (JG)

In attendance: Maureen Collins, Deputy Parish Clerk and 3 members of the public.

It was formally noted that there was an amendment to the published Agenda for the meeting. The reference RR/2023/1538/P in Item 6.3 is incorrect and should read RR/2022/1538/P. This has been corrected in these minutes.

1. Public Questions

A member of the public asked a question about progress following the parish meeting held earlier in the year to discuss parking on Sandrock Hill. GT advised that a working group of councillors and volunteer residents are working together to come up with possible solutions. The same resident also asked if it was possible for the hedges in Crowhurst Road be cut back, as they were obscuring his vision when driving. JM advised that this cannot be done until September as it is still bird nesting season.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Sonia Plato, Cllr Lynda Roller, Cllr Koorosh Ashrafi, Cllr Chas Pearce, RDC and Cllr Katherine Field, ESCC.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Thomas – Village Hall Committee

Cllr Laimbeer – Member of the Crowhurst Environment Group, Horticultural Group and Annual Fayre Committee.

4. Adoption of the Minutes

The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the parish council held on 15th July 2024 as a true and correct record.

5. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

- 5.1. SLR Meeting – The clerk has arranged a face-to-face meeting taking place in Crowhurst on Thursday, 10th October at 11.00am. Venue to be confirmed.
- 5.2. Fallen Tree Bough – The clerk has contacted Slimmeria but has received no response. Highways have now circulated a road closure notice for October to allow UKPN to cut back the overhanging trees.
- 5.3. Emergency Warden Group – The WhatsApp group has now been set up for all of those who have a mobile phone. Formal approval was given for the clerk to order printed Hi-Viz orange and yellow vests at a cost of £91.14 excl VAT.
- 5.4. EV Charging Points – No further action has been taken since the last meeting.

- 5.5. Dog Waste Bin – Combe Valley Countryside Park have agreed to cover the cost of purchasing the bin which will be positioned near to the entrance to the Park. The clerk is awaiting confirmation of collection costs from Rother DC.

6. Town and Country Planning

6.1. RR/2024/1034/P - Pilgrim Cottage, Old Forewood Lane, Crowhurst

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 imposed on RR/2021/1926/P to allow for minor external amendments to the approved extension including roof lights, windows and SVPs.

After a brief discussion members agreed on the following comments which the deputy clerk will submit online:

Crowhurst Parish Council supports this application but requests that the following conditions are included:

- 1. No or limited external lighting (downlighters only) to protect dark skies as detailed in policy CE32(v) of the Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan, to include black out blinds for Velux windows.*
- 2 The Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan Design Guide is followed regarding building style and materials used.*
- 3. Any new hard standing to be made of a porous material to limit run -off (see policy CE5 of the Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan).*

6.2. RR/2024/1029/P – Oakleigh, 6 Woodland Way, Crowhurst

Proposal: Amended scheme to RR/2023/1778/P for the proposed erection of a detached dwelling.

Members agreed on the following comments which the deputy clerk will submit online:

Crowhurst Parish Council opposes this application as it falls outside the development boundary of the Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan.

6.3. RR/2024/1008/P – Oakleigh, 6 Woodland Way, Crowhurst

Proposal: Proposed dwelling as an alternative to schemes approved under RR/2022/1538/P & RR/2023/2440/P

The applicants attended the meeting and advised that they are now applying to build a modular Eco house. Members discussed the matter and agreed on the following comments which the deputy clerk will submit online:

Comments: Crowhurst Parish Council neither supports nor objects to this application, but states for the record that if Rother are minded granting permission, they expect the district council and building inspectors to enforce all conditions that were imposed when granting the previous permission and any further conditions that are imposed. The Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan also details that there should be no or limited external lighting (downlighters only) to protect dark skies as detailed in policy CE32 (v), to include black out blinds to Velux windows, and any new hard standing to be made of a porous material to limit run-off (see policy CE5). The Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan Design Guide should be followed regarding building style and materials used. Crowhurst Parish Council request that consideration be given to local residents, in particular to those in Woodland Way, regarding noise and access during construction. They would also request that any possible issues regarding drainage into the surrounding area are addressed at any early stage.

7. Financial Matters

- 7.1. The financial report to July had been circulated and was approved by members.
- 7.2. The payments report for August was considered and approved.
- 7.3. The bank reconciliation to 31st July 2024 had been circulated. It was approved by members and signed by the Chairman.
- 7.4. Members noted the submission by the clerk of the VAT reclaim for 2023/24 and for the first quarter of 2024/2025.

8. MUGA Project

The deputy clerk gave an update on recent progress on the MUGA. The MUGA surface has now been painted, sockets installed, and weeds sprayed. Work will commence shortly to repair the cracks in the tarmac around the perimeter of the court prior to the fencing being done. Retrospective approval was given for £56 for the second weed spraying and for £5250 excl VAT for Ross Project Solutions to undertake the repair work, which will be done on Friday, 16th August. Members agreed to request that the clerk organises a contractor/handyman to paint over repairs with the paint supplied by FunPlay.

9. Clerk's Correspondence

9.1 The Summer Football Academy has not had a great uptake, so only three additional dates have been requested following the August Bank Holiday. These have been booked in to the calendar and will be invoiced accordingly. The organiser would like to start a Soccer School for local children aged 7-14 and has been advised to advertise in the Crowhurst News.

9.2 The clerk is still waiting for the meter reading from the Annual Fayre. SL advised that the Annual Fayre Committee are meeting on Thursday, and she will raise it then.

9.3 The clerk has received an email from the Football Club requesting the marking of an additional Junior Football Pitch on the Recreation Ground. She has advised that whilst this is not a viable option, when considering the needs of all Rec Users, it is possible to mark out a slightly smaller pitch inside the regulation size Junior Pitch as was previously done. The clerk is awaiting a response.

9.4 JG and SL recently met with the new handyman, who advised that it would be advantageous for the Parish Council to engage him on a day rate to complete a list of tasks rather than for him to quote for individual jobs. The clerk will contact the Handyman and make the necessary arrangements.

9.5 The sewage treatment plant has been emptied and serviced. The service report states that the tank is in good condition. The filters were replaced, and some minor adjustments made.

9.6 The clerk had circulated a list of training sessions being offered by Mulberry & Co. Councillors were encouraged to look at what is available and to advise the clerk if there are any courses that they wish to attend. Councillors Sonia Plato and Lynda Roller have previously asked to do the ESALC planning training on 26th September.

9.7 The clerk had received an email from GT in his capacity as Chair of the Crowhurst Village Hall Management Committee requesting formal approval by the PC for work on the Village Hall roof in line with Rother's energy project. SL, JM, JG were happy to give formal agreement for the work to proceed.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Monday 16th September at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed by Date.....