

of the Parish Council held on
Monday 16th September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Parish Councillors present: Sonia Plato (Vice Chair) (SP), Lynda Roller (LR), John Goddard (JG), Sue Laimbeer (SL), Koorosh Ashrafi (KA)
District Councillor Chas Pearce (CP), RDC
The Vice Chair, SP chaired the meeting in the absence of Geoff Thomas

In attendance: Maureen Collins, Deputy Parish Clerk and 1 member of the public

Proceedings are recorded to support the clerk in writing the minutes. The recording will be deleted when the minutes are ratified.

1. Public Questions

Will Kemp reported that the pavilion veranda and steps can be very slippery, particularly when it is dark and wet. After a brief discussion the parish council gave their agreement to these areas being painted with anti-slip paint. This is to be added to the handyman's list of jobs and completed as a priority.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr Geoff Thomas, Cllr Jill Mitcheson and County Cllr Kathryn Field, ESCC

3. Declaration of Interests

Received from:

Cllr Plato – Youth Club & Crowhurst Environment Group

Cllr Lynda Roller – Crowhurst Environment Group & Sunday Social

Cllr Sue Laimbeer–Crowhurst Environment Group, Annual Fayre Committee and Strolling Group

4. Adoption of Minutes

The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the additional meeting of the parish council held on 12th August 2024.

5. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

- 5.1. Sign prohibiting motorized vehicles on the Rec–The deputy clerk had circulated details of a possible sign to attach to the car park barrier. This matter was deferred to the next Rec Working Group meeting due to councillor absences.
- 5.2. Cinderbrook Footpath diversion - The clerk had nothing further to report on this. Once an application is made it could take up to two years to be approved.
- 5.3. Annual Fayre electricity use– the clerk has now issued an invoice to the Annual Fayre Committee for electricity use during the Fayre and for the additional cost of rubbish removal.
- 5.4. Emergency Warden Hi-Viz vests -Hi-vis jackets for the emergency wardens are now available for collection from the Deputy Clerk.
- 5.5. EV Charging points - The clerk is attending a webinar on 18th September for further information.
- 5.6. Orchard Community Grant–Funds have been successfully granted. The new trees will be planted between December and March, with other items such as the new picnic bench being installed sooner.

6. Representations from District & County Councillors

Cllr Pearce reported that it continues to remain very quiet. He gave details of The Rother Community Lottery which aims to help raise money for the many charities, not-for-profit community and voluntary groups that work within the Rother District. From every £1 lottery ticket purchased, 60p will go towards good causes. He also highlighted that Rother Community Grants of up to £1000 are available.

7. Town & Country Planning

There were no new applications for consideration.

8. Financial Matters

- 8.1. The financial report to 31st August had been circulated and was approved by members.
- 8.2. The payments report for September 2024 was considered and approved.
- 8.3. The bank reconciliation to 31st August 2024 had been circulated. It was approved by members and signed by the Vice Chair.
- 8.4. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit together with the comments of the external auditor were noted. Section 3 of the AGAR form will be published on the Parish website and displayed on the Notice Board.

9. Recreation Ground

- 9.1. KA carried out the monthly inspection of the playground and defibrillator and forwarded some photographs to councillors for their consideration. Maintenance already identified will be undertaken by the Handyman when he next visits. KA undertook to report back on the damage that has been done to the car park barrier and agreement was reached to add this to the list if necessary.
- 9.2. The deputy clerk reported that the new handyman will begin work on the updated list of repairs on Friday, 27th September. He estimates that he will be at the Recreation Ground on three consecutive Fridays. Councillors asked for the latest handyman repair list to be circulated by the clerk for their information
- 9.3. A further meeting of the Pavillion/Rec working group was held on 28th August– see Item 14.
- 9.4. Councillors were happy to formally approve the hire of the Rec by the HY runners Club for their Social Event on Sunday, 22nd September from 12-6pm.

10. MUGA Project

The MUGA will be left open for community use except when closed for a short period whilst cleaning and painting of the perimeter takes place. The gate will remain locked during this time and a notice will be posted to this effect. The deputy clerk undertook to produce the sign. The security of the MUGA was discussed and members agreed to investigate the installation of a night vision CCTV camera, installed on a scaffolding pole to be painted in anti-climb paint. KA is to check what is available and report back. A request has also been made to move one of the bins on the Recreation Ground nearer to the MUGA to make it easier for those using the facility to dispose of their rubbish.

Retrospective approval was given for the storage shed (£874.01 incl VAT), replacement basketball chain nets (£44.00 incl VAT) and the additional purple paint for surface repair work (£255 incl VAT). Approval was also given for an additional replacement basketball chain net (£39.60 incl VAT).

The creation of a French drain around the perimeter of the court and an additional soft net to prevent damage caused by leather balls kicked onto the fencing were discussed. JG undertook to

investigate the costings and report back to the parish council. Johnny French and Cllr Pearce have some paving slabs they are willing to donate, and JG is willing to donate some stock netting.

11. Neighbourhood Plan Review

Chris Davidson, Chairman of the NP Monitoring and Review group, reported that they have almost completed their work on the NP Review and timetable for completion of the section 14 stage of the review, for submission to RDC for the section 16 consultation. Based on advice from RDC of their staff availability, they have set a target for submitting our revised draft plan of the 10th of October. There will be no significant changes to the draft documentation, which has already been available to the Council.

Councillors agreed to delegate authority to the NP Review Group to submit the final revised Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of the PC, on the understanding that it will be circulated to all members. The Parish Council would like to thank all of those involved for all their hard work.

The Parish Council discussed its response to the reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework which closes on 24th September. SP will contact Chris Davidson to see if he would be willing to make a response on the PC's behalf. However, as the Neighbourhood Monitoring and Review Group will not be meeting before 24th September, agreement was made to use the response produced by Steve Tilbury, the planning associate commissioned by ESALC, if necessary.

12. Crowhurst Environmental Group Grant Application

SP, SL, LR had previously declared an interest in the Crowhurst Environmental Group and were unable to take any part in the discussion. The remaining two members discussed the grant application to cover equipment and insurance costs. They agreed to support the grant application of £893.10. However, the motion could not be approved due to councillor absences and interests, so this item will be deferred to the October meeting for formal retrospective approval. A consensus from absent councillors approved the grant request, and the clerk was asked to use her delegated authority to issue the funds as it was a time sensitive requirement.

13. Wildlife Verge Application

Having considered the information previously provided, members unanimously agreed to support the application for a new ESCC designated wildlife verge at the top of Sandrock Hill, between the driveways to the property 'Meadows'. The clerk will submit the application to East Sussex Highways online.

14. Pavillion/Rec Refurbishment Project

The most recent meeting of the Recreation Ground Working Group was held on 28th August. The discussion centred around identifying local people who would bring further expertise to the group. It was proposed to hold the next meeting when a suitable date had been identified.

15. Dog Waste Bin

This has been deferred until the October meeting to allow the clerk more time to obtain costings from Pet Waste Solutions, a local company based in Hastings. Councillors discussed the positioning of the dog waste bin and agreed that it should be placed at the beginning of the path. Combe Valley CIC have will fund the purchase and installation of the dog waste bin plus the collection costs to the value of £750.

16. Sunday Social Update

LR has now produced terms of reference for the group and is in the process of applying for donations from local supermarkets. Tesco have confirmed that they are able to offer their support. There will be another article in the October edition of the Crowhurst News, giving further details of what will be on offer, together with a request for donations and volunteers. Posters and flyers will be produced in-house to save costs. The posters will be displayed locally,

and flyers distributed by the local postal workers to all households in Crowhurst. Many thanks to them both for volunteering to do this. The program of talks continues to increase, with further talks taking place during the Sunday Social sessions, one as part of the Dark Skies festival and another as part of the Warmer Homes project. The first session will be held on Sunday, 3rd November.

17. Station Car Park Flowerbed

The flowerbed adjacent to the Community Map is to be cleared and replanted in readiness for the installation of the newly renovated Best Kept Village signs. A group of villagers, including parish councillors, will meet at the Community Map on Monday, 23rd September at 5.30pm to get the project going. Selwyn Whitehead has offered to help.

18. Councillor Updates on External Bodies (if any)

Cllr Roller recently attended a coffee morning run by Katie Cesar, Space for Yew CIC. She was extremely impressed by what is being offered to support neurodivergent families in our local area. The aim is to improve the wellbeing of these families through the provision of parent/carer coffee mornings and family stay and play sessions, together with training and wellbeing opportunities. Sessions are held in Ninfield and Crowhurst.

19. Clerk's Report & Information for Councillors:

- 19.1 There will be a Rec Users Meeting in the Village Hall on Thursday 19th September at 7.30pm
- 19.2 There will be a meeting with Sovereign Playgrounds at the Rec on 23rd September at 9.00am
- 19.3 All councillors are invited to a presentation by the Friends of Combe Valley Countryside Park on 2nd October at 2pm. It will be held at the Discovery Centre.
- 19.4 Rother will be holding their Annual Parish Conference on 11th November at 2pm, Brede VH
- 19.5 SP and LR will be attending Planning training on 25th September. KA will be attending New Councillor training on 26th September and the deputy clerk recently attended Budget and Precept setting training.

20. Date of the Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Monday 14th October 2024** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed by.....