

Crowhurst

PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary of the Parish Council held on
Monday 16th June 2025 at 7.05pm
 in Crowhurst Village Hall, Forewood Lane, Crowhurst.

Parish Councillors present: Cllrs Geoff Thomas (Chair), Sonia Plato (Vice Chair), Lynda Roller, John Goddard and Sue Laimbeer

In attendance: Maureen Collins, Parish Clerk and 4 members of the public

1.	<p>PUBLIC QUESTIONS:</p> <p>Gareth Bright, a Youth Club Committee member had been helping with the garden and had noticed that the ditch running alongside the Recreation Ground needs clearing. He and other volunteers would be happy to help to do this. Cllr Thomas thanked him for his offer and advised that this is usually done later in the year. The Clerk made a note to go back to Mr Bright nearer the time.</p> <p>The Chair (GT) then brought forward Item 10.1 to allow Mr Bright to report to the meeting on the progress he has made regarding plans to install CCTV on the MUGA and in the Recreation Ground. A meeting will be held with DNA Security on 7th July, who will do a site survey and prepare a quote.</p> <p>Will Kemp reported that the grass triangle on Ballards Hill had been cut just before the Crowhurst Environment Group were going to do a survey. The Clerk advised that this had not been done by our grounds maintenance contractor and that she had written to ESCC to ask if it had been done by them in error but had not yet received a reply. The Clerk will contact Anthony Bevcar again to ask for clarification. Mr Kemp also asked when the new picnic bench was going to be installed in the Community Orchard. Cllr Goddard agreed to do this, and the CEG will help to secure it.</p> <p>Questions were also asked about the caravan at Court Lodge Cottages and the work that has been taking place at Oakleigh, 6 Woodlands Way, Crowhurst. The Clerk advised that residents were able to report their concerns via Rother District Council online planning portal. The Parish Council will follow this up at the September meeting.</p>
2	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</p> <p>An apology was received and accepted from County Councillor Kathryn Field.</p>
3.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:</p> <p>Received from:</p> <p>Cllr Plato – Crowhurst Environment Group and Youth Club</p> <p>Cllr Thomas – Village Hall Committee</p> <p>Cllr Laimbeer – Annual Fayre Committee, Crowhurst Environment Group and The Plough Inn</p> <p>Cllr Roller – Crowhurst Environment Group</p>
4.	<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:</p> <p>The Chairman was authorised to approve and sign the minutes of the AGM of Crowhurst Parish Council held on 19th May 2025 as a true and correct record.</p>
5.	<p>MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA:</p> <p>5.1 Councillor Vacancy – This continues to be advertised on the Notice Board.</p>

	<p>5.2 Attenuation Pond – Cllr Thomas has recently spoken to Ben Coles from Combe Valley CIC regarding the erection of ‘No Fishing’ notices at the Attenuation Pond. This is likely to be discussed at the next Board Meeting in July. Cllr Thomas will follow this up.</p>
6.	<p>REPRESENTATIONS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS:</p> <p>There is currently a vacancy for a District Councillor, and the County Councillor was unable to attend the meeting due to a previous commitment.</p>
7.	<p>TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING:</p> <p>1) To consider the following new Planning Applications and to provide comments to Rother District Council.</p> <p>There were no new Planning Applications to consider this month.</p> <p>2) To note any enforcement notices received this month.</p> <p>Enforcement notices have been received regarding the caravan at Court Lodge Cottages and regarding further work taking place at Oakleigh, 6 Woodland Way.</p>
8.	<p>FINANCIAL MATTERS:</p> <p>8.1 The financial report to 31st May 2025 had been circulated and was approved by members.</p> <p>8.2 The payments report for June 2025 was considered and approved.</p> <p>8.3 The bank reconciliation to 31st May 2025 had been circulated. It was approved by members and signed by the Chair (GT).</p> <p>8.4 Councillors noted that the clerk had sent the AGAR statements to the external auditor, PK Littlejohn, and that the Notice of Public Rights had been publicized as required.</p> <p>8.5 Councillors approved the payment of £150.00 plus VAT to John O’Conner for the spraying of horsetail on the MUGA.</p>
9.	<p>RECREATION GROUND:</p> <p>9.1 Cllr Thomas undertook the inspection this month and he has passed the folder to Cllr Roller. He noted that there was a loose fitting on the climbing wall and that the woodchip in the playground needed raking. Cllr Thomas felt that the hedge needed a trim to make it easier for people walking past. Cllr Plato agreed that the Environment Group would give it a sensitive trim. There is a bench with slats missing by the Pavillion. Cllr Goddard advised that the slats have been put to one side and that the handyman will be asked to repair it. Cllr Thomas felt that there was too much clutter in the Pavillion, and it was agreed that this would be added to the agenda of the next Rec Users meeting agenda. The five-a- side nets have been placed against the MUGA fencing and are unlocked. The clerk will write to the Friends of the School, who have been using these after school, asking for the nets to be moved away from the fence and locked up once the padlocks have been purchased.</p> <p>9.2 The quote received for the replacement of the first six of the vandalised bollards was discussed. After a brief discussion it was agreed that Cllr Goddard would remove these as a temporary measure and review the question of lighting at the next meeting.</p> <p>9.3 Councillors agreed to the request from the U14’s football team to train on the Recreation Ground on Tuesday evenings between 5:30 and 7:00pm, when there are no Stoolball matches on the calendar. There will be a charge of £12.50 per hour. The clerk will request that the training sessions are advertised locally.</p> <p>9.4 Cllr Goddard has obtained a quote of £800 for a replacement wooden barrier gate from Tates. This was approved by the Councillors. He will pass the details to the clerk, who will place the order.</p> <p>9.5 The date of the next Rec Users meeting was agreed. This will be held on Thursday, 17th June 2025. The clerk will notify all Rec User groups and prepare the agenda.</p> <p>9.6 Cllr Goddard agreed to cut back the willow in the U5’s playground.</p> <p>9.7 Several of the Rec Users had flagged up the poor state of floor in one of the men’s toilets. A date was agreed to meet the new handyman, Matt Bumpass. He will be asked to repair the toilet floor in the Pavillion as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>9.8 The unchained goal posts had been removed prior to the meeting. Cllr Plato advised that the Youth Club will be securing the gate to the outdoor area with a coded lock.</p>
10.	<p>CROWHURST COMMUNITY MUGA:</p> <p>10.1 The installation of CCTV at the MUGA was discussed during public questions.</p>

	10.2 Councillors approved the request from Susie Edward's to purchase a first aid kit, wires and padlocks and two brooms for the MUGA. The clerk estimated that the cost would be approximately £100 and Councillors agreed on a limit of £125.
11.	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: Following a brief discussion, Councillors agreed to the printing of 7 copies of the neighbourhood plan at a cost of £150.00, and 10 copies of the design guide at a cost of £85.00. The printing will be carried out by Tony Rigg.
12.	ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY: Councillors noted the report from the Annual Assembly that had previously been circulated by the Clerk. This will be posted as a 'news item' on the Crowhurst Parish Council website.
13.	PAVILION REFURBISHMENT PROJECT: The Clerk will write to Tillmann Lenz to confirm that the Parish Council would be pleased to receive his quote for plans for a refurbished Pavilion. The clerk will also contact James Parker of Parker and Son regarding a survey, which will need to be done before a revised plan can be made.
14.	SUNDAY SOCIAL: Cllr Roller reported that the times and dates of this winter's Sunday Social have now been agreed and the Village Hall has been booked. Grant applications have been made to the Bexhill Lions, the Bexhill Trust, and others, to cover running costs, and to Sainsburys and Tesco for grocery donations. Many thanks to Douglas Rowe for their very generous donation of £350. If anyone would like to volunteer to speak, or who knows of someone who would be willing to come along on a Sunday afternoon to give a short presentation, please let Cllr Roller know. There are already some speakers lined up, but more are needed, and volunteers are always welcome.
15.	COUNCILLOR UPDATES ON EXTERNAL BODIES (IF ANY): Cllr Plato advised that the Youth Club has received funding to run five activity sessions for 11-18 year olds during the summer holidays. The Youth Club are also hoping to reinstate the Senior Youth Club.
16.	CLERK'S REPORT AND INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS: 16.1 The clerk had received an email from Lorna Ford regarding local reorganization in East Sussex. Cllr Thomas agreed to submit a response on behalf of the Parish Council before the submission date of 23 rd June 2025 16.2 The Clerk asked for advice concerning the invoice received from Community Heartbeat. After discussing the need to continue to pay for the Webnos system, the Clerk undertook to see if this was an alternative way of allowing the ambulance service to see that our defibs were response ready. 16.3 A resident had contacted the Parish Council with concerns about dead and dying trees on Station Road. The Chair and the Clerk met with Chris Page and a colleague from Network Rail who will ask their contractors to make a report. Chris Page also undertook to clear the verge along Station Road, as was done last year. 16.4 Cllr Goddard agreed to open the Pavillion at midday for Lucy Burgess who has a booking for a children's party. The party will finish at 3:00pm and Cllr Goddard will return to lock up. Ms Burgess has also booked the Youth Club. 16.5 A report was made to ESCC Highways department regarding the road subsidence at the top of Forewood Lane. The inspector has been asked to attend and will arrange for the work to be carried out.
17.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next ordinary meeting will be held on Monday 21st July 2025 at 7.05pm in the Village Hall.

Signed

Dated