

Crowhurst Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 21 December 2005 at 7.30pm in Crowhurst Village Hall

Present: Councillors Mrs J Black (Chair), Mrs R Gower, Mr K Howells, Mr M Hudson, Mr A Stainsby
District Councillor Mr J Kemp
3 Members of the Public

Item No:		Action By
	Public Questions – None	
1	Apologies – Councillors Mr C Pearce. Mr S Barnes	
2	Disclosure of Interest Item 12. Councillor Mrs Gower declared a prejudicial interest as a member of staff and School Governor of Crowhurst School.	
3	Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 23 November 2005 and Planning Meetings held on 6 and 12 December 2005 Councillor Mrs Gower pointed out that she was a Governor of Crowhurst School as well as a member of staff and this was included under Declaration of Interest. The Minutes and the Financial Appendix of the Parish Council, and the Planning meetings were then signed by the Chairman as a true record. Proposed: Councillor Mr Hudson. Seconded: Councillor Mrs Black.	
4	Election of Vice-Chair Councillor Mr Pearce was unanimously elected. Proposed: Councillor Mr Stainsby. Seconded: Councillor Mrs Gower.	
	End of Minutes of Previous Meeting	

5	Planning	
5.1	Notifications from Rother District Council - None	
5.2	Outstanding Matters	
5.2.1	RR/2003/2553 11 & 13 Forewood Rise (<i>Rother Homes</i>) Erection of three new dwellings. District Councillor Mr Kemp stated that there was nothing further to report.	
5.3	Planning Correspondence - None	
End of Planning Matters		

6	Finance				
6.1	Receipts				
	Received since last Meeting - £280.00 Football Club Fees - £225.00 ESCC Use of Recreation Ground by School				
6.2	Payment of Cheques				
	<i>V'cher</i>	<i>chq no.</i>	<i>Payee Details</i>	<i>Net £</i>	
				<i>VAT (reclaimable)</i>	
	58	081	Mr C Pearce – Spare Pavilion Keys	14.50	
	59	082	Hastings Building Co. – Securing Youth Club following break-in	287.88	42.88
	60	083	Youth Club - Balance of Grant	212.12	
	61	084	Village Hall Management Cttee - Cupboards for Cttee Room	1,103.75	
	62	085	J S Fire Protection – Extinguisher Inspections	183.32	27.32
	63	086	S E Water – Pavilion	117.44	
	64	087	Village Hall Management Cttee – Hall Hire	30.35	
	65	088	Society of Local Council Clerks - Subscription	84.00	
	66	089	Sussex Association of Local Councils – Training	35.25	5.25
	67	090	Kent County Council – 2 nd half grass cutting contract	417.01	62.11
6.3	Future Budget 2006/07				
	In view of the length of the budget item at the last meeting, it was unanimously agreed that in future a separate public meeting would be called in early November to approve the budget for the following year. Proposed: Councillor Mrs Black. Seconded: Councillor Mr Howells.				
End of Financial Matters					

7	Recreation Ground	
7.1	<p>Recreation Ground Committee Meeting Maintenance item 5.3 on the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2005. It was agreed that estimates would be requested for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trimming of willow tree in far corner. ▪ Hedge by football pitch to be cut back in a manner sensitive to wildlife. ▪ Reinstatement of seat around the oak tree. ▪ Fix seat to the ground. ▪ Litter bin by the oak tree to be removed or replaced. ▪ The seat commemorating Mr Godfrey Munn to be erected. <p>Councillor Mr Stainsby raised a question on the missing loft hatch in the Pavilion and this will be discussed at the next meeting when it is hoped Councillor Mr Pearce will be in attendance.</p>	<p>MH</p> <p>PB</p>
7.2	<p>NPFA Inspection Report In the absence of Councillor Mr Pearce it was decided to defer this item. However, the issue of the struts for the swings would be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Recreation Ground Committee.</p>	<p>PB</p>
7.3.	<p>Pest Control at Pavilion The Clerk reported that she had contacted Rentokil with a view to an inspection of the woodwork but the price quoted was very high. The meeting agreed the Clerk should contact two other pest control companies who offer free inspections.</p>	<p>PB</p>
7.4.	<p>Tennis Club Licence This item was deferred.</p>	<p>PB</p>
8	Playground	
8.1	<p>Councillors Weekly Inspections Councillor Mrs Gower had carried out inspections for November/December, and found the swings to be stable but suggested a new strut for the bench. Councillor Mrs Gower also commented on her discussion with Mr Reg Stocking concerning the amount of litter in the car park after the last match of the Football Club. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chair of the Football Club.</p>	<p>PB</p>
8.2	<p>Minutes of Playground Sub-Committee Meeting The members of the Sub-Committee at its meeting on 28 November 2005 agreed that it should be disbanded and an item concerning the Playground be added to the Recreation Ground Committee agenda. Parish Council approved this action.</p>	<p>PB</p>
End of Recreation Ground Matters		

9	<p>Strategic Rail Authority: Proposed Rail Cuts</p> <p>Councillor Mrs Black informed members that the local Action Committee were due to meet before Christmas but no meeting had been notified to her to date. District Councillor Mr Ian Jenkins had informed Councillor Mrs Black that he wished to meet with the GoVia (the new franchisee) with a view to building relationships prior to April 2006 when the new franchise commences. Councillor Mrs Black would also separately make contact with GoVia on behalf of Crowhurst. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to GoVia reiterating Crowhurst's position, particularly in view of the timetable issued to GoVia by the Strategic Rail Authority as part of the contract showing a greatly reduced service.</p> <p>Councillor Mr Stainsby raised the issue of the overgrown vegetation in Station Road and the Clerk informed the meeting of the current position on discussions with Network Rail.</p>	JB
10	<p>Hastings/Bexhill Link Road & Pebsham Countryside Park</p> <p>Councillor Mrs Black stated that there had been no further action on this and asked District Councillor Mr Kemp for his comments. District Councillor Mr Kemp stated that he had attended the last meeting of the Steering Group where it appeared there were problems with funding and progress was very slow. District Councillor Mr Kemp had raised again the issue of Crowhurst Parish Council having a seat on the Steering Group and he felt it had been more favourably received by the new Chair. In his opinion a seat may be possible but without voting rights. The Steering Group was due to meet again in February 2006 and District Councillor Mr Kemp had reported that Crowhurst was not happy with the closeness of the Countryside Park to the village.</p>	
11	<p>Village Action Plan</p> <p>Councillor Mrs Gower reported that the meeting held on 7 December 2005 had been well attended with several people offering to sit on a Steering Group to take the work forward. Representatives from Action in Rural Sussex were also in attendance and their advice and support was very helpful and much appreciated. The Steering Group arranged to meet in February 2006 to begin to draw up a draft plan which would be distributed to the village for consultation. The nine headings used in Rother District Council's Local Development Plan would be used as the basis for the Village Plan.</p>	
12	<p>Crowhurst School</p> <p>Councillor Mrs Gower having declared a prejudicial interest in this item left the room. The meeting considered the letter dated 18 November 2005 from the Chair of School Governors. Councillor Mrs Black stated that the Parish Council's position was unchanged and that there was no change in direction and no question that it would work in partnership on the School/Village Hall developments. Councillor Mrs Black stated that even with some Parish Councillors having to declare personal and/or prejudicial interests, the Parish Council was still quorate. Councillor Mrs Black agreed to respond to the letter and to also contact Mrs Wendy Bray to arrange a visit to the school.</p>	JB
13	<p>Parish Maintenance Teams</p> <p>The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from East Sussex County Council enclosing a questionnaire on the Parish Maintenance Team's work in the Village. Members completed the questionnaire and agreed that</p>	PB

14	<p>prior to next year's visit by the Parish Maintenance Team an item should be placed on the relevant agenda to itemise the work to be requested.</p>	
15	<p>Standing Orders The Clerk had previously distributed to members revised and updated Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for Crowhurst Parish Council. It was agreed to formally adopt these at the next meeting when all members were present.</p>	
16	<p>Quality Parish Status The Clerk outlined some items that could be included in quarterly newsletters and Members put forward some ideas. The Clerk agreed to work on this and submit a draft to a future meeting.</p>	PB
17	<p>Fencing at Recreation Ground Councillors Mrs Gower and Mr Hudson agreed to let the Clerk have names of people to whom a formal offer to quote would be submitted.</p>	RG/MH
17.1	<p>Items Received for Comment Annual Parish Conference The Clerk informed the meeting that she had been notified that this would take place on 25 April 2006 at 1.45pm at Northiam Village Hall.</p>	
18.1	<p>Information for Councillors Refresher Training Weekend for Clerks The Clerk reported that she had received an invitation from the Sussex Association of Local Councils to attend this residential event on 7-9 April 2006 at a cost of £140. Members agreed that the Clerk should attend to keep the Parish Council updated.</p>	
19	<p>Date of Next Meeting Parish Council – 18 January 2006 at 7.30pm in Crowhurst Village Hall</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.50pm.</p> <p>Signed Dated</p>	