

Minutes of a MEETING of the 106<sup>th</sup> **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY** of the Local Electors of the Parish of Crowborough held at the All Saints Church Hall, Chapel Green on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Town Councillors Present: Paul Adams, Leigh Colbran, Peter Cowie, Philip Fermor, Tatjana Keenan, Damian McAlonan, George Moss, Kay Moss, Julian Salmon, Liz Scott, Colin Stocks, Mark Symons, Sandra Timms, Neil Waller, Clive Wilson

Apologies: Sylvia Tidy (ESCC)

In attendance WDC – Jim Hollins, David Larkin, Di Phillips, Martyn Prestage, Antony Quinn, Chantal Wilson  
Linda Butcher – Town Clerk  
Caroline Miles – Events Co-ordinator

41 members of the public  
1 member of the press

The Town Mayor, Cllr Kay Moss, welcomed everyone to the meeting and said proceedings would start by inviting those groups that had received grants from the Town Council to explain how the money had made a difference to them.

Beata Drury gave a short presentation about **CLUED-UP** and explained the increased number of young people who use the facility.

Charles Neve, **CROWBOROUGH CHORAL SOCIETY** said the grant had enabled them to perform their concerts last year.

Paul Kemp from the **CROWBOROUGH RETAILERS ASSOCIATION** referred to the successful Fun Day and advised everyone that the next one will be on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010 which will combine with the French Market.

Pat Arnold from the **FRIENDS OF CROWBOROUGH COUNTRY PARK** said that they had been able to support the Ranger in various events in the park and in order to include other natural areas, had been re-named **CROWBOROUGH CONSERVATION**.

Karen Kilby, District Commissioner **CROWBOROUGH DISTRICT GIRL GUIDING** said that a laptop had been purchased with the grant awarded by the Town Council. This equipment had made it much easier and quicker to keep essential records of changes to personnel and had been used by the very youngest members to send a birthday card to H.M. Queen Elizabeth II and had received a reply.

Chris Martin, Chairman of **CROWBOROUGH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB** gave a brief history of the Club and then identified several awards that

the Club and individuals had won over the years. He thanked the Town Council for its continued support.

Brian Barnes from the **HIGH WEALD WALKERS** explained that this is the local group of the Ramblers Association which protects the footpath network and carries out some footpath maintenance.

Tracey Hunter from **MEDIATION PLUS** explained that the Town Council's grant had enabled people in Crowborough to benefit from mediation to resolve neighbour disputes and also with inter-generation support. They also receive funding from WDC, Children in Need and the Police.

Hilary Lyon, Chairman of the **SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS OF MONTARGIS** said the twinning between Crowborough and Montargis has been in existence for over 40 years and there were extremely strong links between families and she thanked the Council for its support with a grant and also hosting receptions.

Caroline Mack, Chief Executive of **WEALDEN CITIZENS ADVICE** thanked the Town Council for its generous grant which paid for the rent of the premises and contributed towards the running of the premises. She then explained that the process had now changed and that instead of people having to wait for long periods of time before seeing an adviser, a "Gateway Assessment" scheme is in place whereby people have a diagnostic interview to decide the next step. Caroline said that the majority of people came to the CAB because of debt problems.

Mrs Rhee from the **DARBY AND JOAN CLUB** gave an inspired insight into the activities that are enjoyed by the 40 plus members of the local club. She enthused about the trips that have taken place to Worthing and Brighton and the future trip to the Lavender Line.

Nigel Cassford, Chairman of the **CROWBOROUGH BONFIRE AND CARNIVAL SOCIETY** referred to the activities that take place during the day and evening of the annual carnival in September. Unfortunately costs are rising each year and the same people are involved in putting on the event but it is hoped this spectacular will continue. The Society also visits Horwich, Crowborough's twin town in Lancashire and also takes part in parades in some twelve other villages and towns in Sussex, as well as the Duke of Westminster's Annual Parade.

Jo Stonebrook from the **ALDERBROOK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** said she approached the Town Council in 2008 following the result of a local survey which had identified the needs of the community. The Town Council had generously contributed to the new facilities and external grants had also been achieved. In particular, Jo wished to record her grateful thanks to David Foot, the Town Council's Operations Manager, for undertaking the tendering and project management of the scheme.

The meeting then moved onto the formal part of the agenda.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009, having been circulated prior to the meeting were confirmed, with one spelling amendment, and signed.

## **RECORD OF ATTENDANCES**

The Record of Attendances to Meetings of the Council and its Committees for the year 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009 to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010 were accepted by the meeting with one amendment (Jonathan Bryant advised he had attended two out of three meetings).

## **TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

A Report and Financial Statement of the Smith and Fermor Charities was submitted by the Town Clerk and received.

A report upon the activities of Haven Homes was submitted by Councillor Philip Fermor and received.

## **TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF APPOINTED GOVERNORS**

A report from Anne Symons, Governor of Beacon Community College was submitted and received.

## **TO RECEIVE THE ACCOUNTS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2009**

The Balance Sheet and Notes to the Accounts papers had previously been circulated with the agenda for the meeting and were received.

## **TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Town Mayor's report had previously been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. Cllr Kay Moss said she had really enjoyed her year as Town Mayor as it had been a fantastic opportunity to meet so many people and organisations in the town. She then invited questions and her report was received.

## **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES**

### **1. Communications and Events**

Cllr Leigh Colbran read out her report which had previously been circulated with the agenda; she then invited questions and asked if people thought the Fireworks should continue in their present form. The general feeling was that the Town Council should continue to provide the Fireworks but that notification of all events should be sent out much earlier.

## **2. Environment**

Cllr Colin Stocks introduced his report and invited questions. District Councillor Chantal Wilson suggested that perhaps the Town Council would seriously consider its position with regard to street lighting as she felt so much energy could be saved by turning them off. Cllr Wilson suggested the Town Council should liaise with the County Council. Cllr Stocks explained that because some of the lights are so old, the method by which they are controlled is not consistent with all the lights so the issue is much larger than originally thought and that the Town Council is already speaking to the County Council on this matter. A member of the public asked if there would be a direct bus service to Pembury Hospital when it opens and the Chairman said the Town Council would ensure people are informed of this need. Cllr Stocks wished to record his thanks to not only the other members of the committee but particularly to John Coleman who represents the Town Council on all matters relating to the railway and also to the group now known as Crowborough Conservation.

## **3. Finance and General Purposes**

Cllr Neil Waller introduced his report and said that this committee works very much behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly. He said the next meeting will involve the External Auditor and there will be a review of new Standing Orders. In answer to a question he advised that the F and G.P. committee will ensure that the funding for the Community Centre is protected and that no money will change hands unless certain caveats are agreed by F and G.P. In answer to another question he advised that the Council's External Auditors are PKF who are appointed by the Audit Commission.

## **4. Planning and Development**

Cllr George Moss thanked his fellow councillors on this committee as it is a very hard-working group who meet every three weeks in order to deliberate planning applications and get responses back to the District Council. He said the committee welcomes public participation at planning meetings. In answer to a question he said there is a list of prospective names for when a new street name is required and that anyone could put forward a name for consideration by the Planning and Development committee and this should first be sent to the Town Clerk for inclusion on an agenda. In closing Cllr Moss wished to record his thanks to District Councillor Antony Quin who usually attends most Planning and Development meetings.

## **6. Sport, Recreation and Cemetery**

Cllr Peter Cowie thanked his fellow councillors on this committee and said the committee is always pleased to work with other organisations in order to provide facilities. He acknowledged the success of the Owlsbury allotments and in answer to a question said additional water troughs would be provided soon, as well as a building containing a toilet and the decision about individual sheds is still under consideration.

## **Annual Rail Report**

A copy of the Annual Rail Report had previously been circulated with all other reports. Cllr Kay Moss wished to publicly thank John Coleman for attending meetings on behalf of Crowborough Town Council.

## **OPEN FORUM**

The Town Mayor firstly said she would like to present two cheques to the organisations she had chosen for her Mayor's Charity this year. Beata Drury came forward to accept a cheque for £4,550 for Clued-Up. Jonathan Bryant came forward to accept a cheque for £4,550 for Hospice in the Weald. Jonathan Bryant thanked the Mayor publicly and then went on to explain a little about the Hospice and the number of people it helps during a year.

## **Crowborough Community Centre**

Peter Cowie as Chairman of the Crowborough Community Association 2010 (CCA 2010) said that £300,000 lottery funding had been achieved and that a 125 year lease has been signed between WDC and CCA 2010. In addition the Lottery has awarded a further £175,000. The Town Council has agreed to fund the work and documents necessary to take the project to tender stage and when we receive the tender price, it would be possible for the CCA 2010 to negotiate if necessary. However, he explained that final building costs need to be self-supporting but in the meantime, people will be asked to help bridge the funding gap. He confirmed that the design is well on the way and there is a full team on board, led by Cllr Clive Wilson but the group will continue to consult. There are currently six sub-committees and he invited people present to join if they wished. Peter Cowie, as Chairman of the CCA 2010 wished to thank all his colleagues on the Town Council.

A member of the public asked how big the hall would be and Peter Cowie responded that they were not just talking about a hall with a stage but other rooms as well. The main hall will hold 120 for a dinner/dance and around 300 for theatre-style; other rooms will take 120 and 60 people each.

Another member of the public asked if local contractors will be used and Peter Cowie said the main contractor would be appointed after receiving tenders and it was hoped this company would then appoint local sub-contractors.

## **Farmers Market**

A member of the public asked why the Farmers Market had still not moved to the centre of town. Cllr George Moss said this issue had been discussed by the Visioning Group. It was noted that the Farmers Market had recently been on part of the 'Woolworths' car park. However, Cllr Kay Moss informed the meeting that the road cannot be closed for 'just' the Farmers Market, it can only be closed for an 'event' which could

include the Farmers Market. A further question asked why the main car park could not be used and the answer is that this car park belongs to Waitrose and is run by W.D.C. and not the Town Council.

### **Newsletter**

In answer to a question the Town Mayor advised that the biggest problem with the Newsletter was getting it delivered to all households in Crowborough and she said the committee had considered distributing it electronically, via the library, schools etc. It was suggested it could also be made available in doctor's surgeries.

### **Polling Cards**

A member of the public complained that notification of postal voting and polling cards had been distributed too late. District Councillor David Larkin said this was a Wealden District Council responsibility but that people did not need their polling card in order to register for postal voting.

### **Thanks**

Pauline Lavington wished to thank Crowborough Town Council, all of you, for making our town a better place to live.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 10pm and thanked everyone for attending.