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# Crouch Stakeholder Group Meeting

The View, Seaford Head Golf Course, Southdown Rd, Seaford BN25 4JS

Wednesday 25th October 2023 at 5pm

## Seaford Town Council (STC) Officers:

## Louise Lawrence, Head of Assets, Projects & Services, Seaford Town Council (STC)

Sharan Brydon, Assets & Projects Manager, STC

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**STC Councillors:**

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Cllr Rod Buchanan, [cllr.rod.buchanan@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.rod.buchanan@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk)

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**Group representatives:**

Crouch Concerns – Andy Shields, [andyshields12@gmail.com](mailto:andyshields12@gmail.com)

Crouch Concerns – Andy Jones, [superjones65@yahoo.com](mailto:superjones65@yahoo.com)

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Seaford Natural History Society – Mike Vingoe, mike.vingoe@gmail.com

Seaford Town Football Club – Craig Pooley, [craig.pooley@seafordtownfc.com](mailto:craig.pooley@seafordtownfc.com)

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Trees for Seaford – Jackie Emery, [jackieemery52@gmail.com](mailto:jackieemery52@gmail.com)

## Minute Taker: Isabelle Mouland, Assistant Town Clerk, STC

# MINUTES

1. **Introduction**

## Introductions around the room.

Apologies recorded from Cllrs Stirton and Wallraven.

1. **TOR Agreement**

## Discussed circulated TOR agreement.

**STC Actions:***Section 1 – to include transparency.   
Section 2 – main stakeholder group to meet twice per year, task and finish groups to be set up looking at particular items, and outcomes to come back to main group. Task and finish groups to have measurable outcomes.*

*Section 3 – membership to include Peace Gardens.*

1. **Lone Working**

Groups advised to have in place a Lone Working Policy.

## Christmas Magic

STC hosting Christmas Magic on 2nd December – groups invited to be open that day to involve members of the public/raise profile in the town.

Lantern making workshops taking place – groups can be involved.

Groups to contact STC if able to be involved so they can be included in event programme.

1. **Updates –** 
   1. Bowls Club – Play bowls outside and inside, plus various social nights. Issues tend to be with STC, used to have liaison meeting with LDC, STC and ID Verde. Members currently not happy with the green, will have meeting to sort. The STC Assets and Projects Manager confirmed will be liaison lead for meetings. Trying to put lights along footpath, taking some time.
   2. Football Club – New committee came in six months ago and have inherited previous issues. The Club has 33 teams such as adult men’s, reserves, women’s, vets, kids, and disability teams. Training and match facilities spread across the town to accommodate.

Club involved in the community, football for all, charity drives, kids meals etc.

Working Group with STC to put forward projects and proposals which will go to public consultation before any decisions.

The Committee is looking to follow correct process and has a desire for the Crouch to look the best it can. Not a good ground compared to other clubs and want to improve it.

* 1. Peace Garden – £30k from Quakers to facilitate. Group asked STC for funding for soil/mulch, eight volunteers carry out work. Have an agreed MoU with attached maintenance list. Work with other groups to maintain together, and greener, three native trees were donated, micro ponds, ivy and other natives grow to provide habitat and food for as many species as possible.   
     Public stop to feedback gratitude for garden.

Would like to collaborate with all stakeholders to make the Crouch a welcoming place.

**STC Actions:**

*Put up more ‘pick up’ dog poo signs.*

*To look at maintenance through ID Verde via STC.*

* 1. Community Garden – Open on a Wednesday morning 9.30-12.30 except Christmas week. Open to everyone, a peaceful place for people to garden, some have disabilities and learning difficulties, all about process and not results. Sell produce and finance themselves. Have a good relationship with STC.  
     Requested more signage to The Crouch. Currently have to use Con Club toilet facilities – when developed then there will be no facilities.

**STC ACTIONS:**

*To review the Crouch toilets.*

*To work with relevant authorities to review signage, and review signage and a possible map within the grounds.*

* 1. Crouch Concerns – A loose grouping of local people who came together with concerns last year. Continue to raise issues with STC. Ongoing issues and would like to work with all stakeholders to sort. Residents support groups in the Crouch but would like kept as open space. Permanent display of Football Club’s adverts are not welcome and should not be there at all times.  
     Residents deal with noise and parking issues from Football and Bowls Clubs. Used to be told via flyers when events were happening.

Public toilets wanted.   
Pleased to hear of new Football Club Committee and working together.

* 1. Trees for Seaford, On the Verge, and Seaford Natural History Society – Trees: planted trees in Crouch gardens over years and always work with local residents. Would welcome any groups using the Crouch to volunteer. Have had vandalism – damaged apple trees in top corner of the Crouch, Group feels that seeing vandalism encourages further vandalism.

**STC Action:**

*Task and finish item to look at how to support new trees, including water buts for tree watering.*

Verges: Leave edges of open spaces, then to be mown one or twice a year for wildflowers to grow through. ID Verde to cut and remove cuttings.

* 1. Mercread Youth Centre – Facilitates community activities, reliant on funding and donations. Have building issues and lack of funding streams. Youth clubs use Mondays and Tuesday, run a repair café and clubs use sports hall, trying to increase bookings.

Fundraising for kitchen refurb 18th November curry and quiz night.

Running project on youth gardening/growing – want to build some raised beds and put in water buts, working with STC. Centre also has limited storage and looking to have a storage container to store items such as gardening equipment, kitchen equipment, holiday group storage, and pre-loved school uniform exchange. Will be subject to consultation and STC decision.

Want to set up community compost boxes – locked boxes and managed, people managing get trained.

* 1. Councillors – Good positive vibe that groups want to work together, sense of community involvement, the Crouch is a lovely space and STC here to make it work as best can.

Public toilets are important for community space. Clear need for signage and need to work with partner authorities to install.

Great to hear updates and see so much opportunity – urged to keep communication open by emailing councillors.

Have spoken with some public about toilets and mixed reviews – concerns about anti-social behaviour and safety. Anti-social behaviour such as drinking and drug dealing.

**STC Action:**

*Task and finish item, group to hold meeting to discuss and work with policing team on vandalism and then bring back to main group.*

* 1. Any other updates –

Summary of actions:

* *Projects and Facilities email shared with attendance*
* *TOR Section 1 – to include transparency.*
* *TOR Section 2 – main stakeholder group to meet twice per year, task and finish groups to be set up looking at particular items, and outcomes to come back to main group. Task and finish groups to have measurable outcomes.*
* *TOR Section 3 – membership to include Peace Gardens.*
* *Put up more ‘pick up’ dog poo signs.*
* *To look at Peace Garden maintenance through ID Verde via STC*
* *To review the Crouch toilets.*
* *To review available cycle racks in the Crouch.*
* *To work with relevant authorities to review signage to the Crouch.*
* To review signage and a possible map within the grounds.
* *Task and finish item to look at how to support new trees, including water buts for tree watering.*
* *Task and finish item, group to hold meeting to discuss and work with policing team on vandalism and then bring back to main group.*
* *Crouch concerns, Football and Bowls Clubs to meet – discuss/design plan together and then work with STC working group to take forward.*
* *Look into noticeboard at the Crouch – there is one in the STC garage. To research and bring back to group about where to put etc.*
* *Circulate visual plan of the Crouch.*
* *Officers to review and circulate next steps of Stakeholders Group.*