



## Seaford Town Council

# Minutes of the Crouch Stakeholder Group Meeting

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 5:00 PM

Held at Council Chambers, 37 Church Street, Seaford, BN25 1HG

### **Attendees**

Peter Cousin, Head of Place and Chair, Seaford Town Council,

Sharan Brydon, Assets & Projects Manager, Seaford Town Council

Cllr Christina Bristow, Seaford Town Council

Cllr Rod Buchanan, Seaford Town Council

Cllr Maggie Wearmouth, Seaford Town Council

### **Group representatives:**

Crouch Concerns – Bob Downing

Peace Garden – Lindsay Thomas

Peace Garden – Angela Colburn

Seaford Community Garden – Gillian Davey

Seaford Natural History Society – Mike Vingoe

Southern Landscapes – Sarah Hesse

Minute Taker: Louise Dickson, Projects & Facilities Assistant, Seaford Town Council

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Introductions**

Introductions around the room.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Olivia Honeyman and Seaford Town Football Club.

### **3. Absent with no updates**

Trees for Seaford, The Crouch Bowling Club and The Mecreed Centre.

## **4. Matters arising from the previous meeting**

### **4.1 Fencing Works at Seaford Community Garden**

Due to wait for new budget and the start of a new maintenance officer, the fencing works can continue. Noted that there is a backlog of works and patience appreciated.

### **4.2 Bambridge Close Gate**

Discussions have taken place with STFC, Crouch Concerns, and one resident to date. Proposal to install two gates: one for residents and one for pitch access.

## **5. Updates**

### **5.1 Peace Garden**

- The garden is progressing well.
- Ongoing donation from Quakers helping to address bare areas in planting.
- Thanks, extended to STC for providing mulch.
- The new Grounds Maintenance Contract is at an early stage and will be monitored.
- Suggestion to explore a sustainable, local composting solution.

### **5.2 Seaford Community Garden**

- Composting carried out where possible. Woody and non-compostable waste currently bagged and disposed of, which is not ideal.
- Wider discussion needed regarding green waste management.
- Public Toilets-No current provision on site. Peter Cousins-Strategic plan in place to reinstate original toilets
- Enquiry regarding *Fields in Trust*, Full Council has approved progression to register several sites, including The Crouch.

### **5.3 Seaford Natural History Society**

- As requested with previous contractors for proposal for the new contractors to cut around trees, leaving margins to encourage biodiversity.
- Grass cuttings could be repurposed for composting.
- Appreciation expressed for the support in encouraging biodiversity.

#### **5.4 Crouch Bowls**

Although no formal update was provided, Peter Cousins noted that all is progressing well, and a recent open day was held to encourage new members.

#### **5.5 Seaford Town Football Club (STFC) (update provided)**

Please accept our apologies for the fact that representatives from Seaford Town Football Club are unable to attend this meeting. Our Second Team are competing in a County Final this evening, and as a club, we are supporting them on an important occasion.

We appreciate the importance of these discussions and are grateful for the opportunity to provide a brief update.

Over the past few weeks, we have held constructive, respectful meetings with representatives of Crouch Concerns. These conversations have been positive and productive, and we are encouraged by the shared willingness to move forward collaboratively.

We want to be clear that the club has a genuine desire to build bridges, and as a demonstration of this, we have invited a member of Crouch Concerns to join our committee.

We are committed to continuing this approach and look forward to working closely with Crouch Concerns and all other stakeholders to ensure that The Crouch remains a welcoming and valued space for everyone in the community.

You may be aware that the club has undergone something of a cultural reset. This reflects changes within our board and a collective recognition that aspects of the club's direction in previous years did not always align with the standards and community focus we are striving for today.

We are now firmly focused on a more positive, open and community-minded approach. Our aim is to build stronger relationships, improve communication, and play a constructive role among the many groups that care deeply about The Crouch.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to ongoing dialogue and working together in the months ahead.

## 5.6 Crouch Concerns

- An enquiry was raised regarding the status of S106 Newlands funding, with the suggestion that it could be used to improve toilet provision at The Crouch. It was also noted that similar funding streams potentially be explored, subject to eligibility timelines. Cllr Bristow advised that Lewes District Council are awaiting confirmation from the Sussex FA regarding site suitability and will follow this up. It was noted that the decision sits with Lewis District Council, and there is hope that the funding can be utilised in the future. Cllr Wearmouth clarified that Seaford Town Council is not holding or retaining these funds.
- An enquiry was raised regarding plans for a new stand at the football club. It was noted that if the container is removed and stands are installed in its place, they would be positioned behind the goal. STFC would then need to seek permission to relocate their equipment (containers) elsewhere. Consideration was given as to whether this has been fully taken into account. Peter Cousins-To remain in their current league, additional covered seating capacity is required. Failure to meet requirements may result in demotion by two leagues. No updates yet pending Full Council decision.

## Advertising

- Initial discussions have been held between Seaford Town Council, Crouch Concerns, and Seaford Town Football Club concerning the advertising. No final proposals yet; specific requests will go to Full Council.

**STC Action:** STC to improve communication regarding developments of the pitch and advertising at The Crouch.

## 5.7 Southern Land Services

- New contractor commenced 1st April 2026.
- Responsibilities split:
  - Southern Landscapes: green spaces and football pitches
  - Idverde: planting areas, war memorial beds, and selected sites
- Broken post near compound acknowledged.
- Pleased to be working with the council and the aim is to improve standards across the park.
- Feedback to be taken on composting, mulch use, and recycling.

**STC Action**-Entrances at The Crouch becoming muddy and boggy – action required.

**Cllr Wearmouth**- queried tree inspections at The Crouch and whether they are carried out regularly. Sharan Brydon confirmed that inspections are undertaken by the Council's qualified Health & Safety Inspector. Regular monitoring in place to mitigate risks from damaged or fallen trees.

## **6 AOB (Any Other Business)**

Views were sought on the usefulness of these meetings to stakeholders. A survey will be circulated to gather feedback on whether members find the meetings useful and if they should continue in the future.