

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 7 February 2011 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr B Baldwin (BB) (Chairman) Mrs S Lucas (SL)
Mr V Allmond (VA) Mrs E Precious (EP)
Mr C Collins (CC) Mrs C Cutbush (MC)
Mr G Sibley (GS) Mrs J Wright (JW) Clerk

Public: 7

Press: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr L Barnard (LB).

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 January 2011 were agreed by all as a true and correct record:

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest with regard to any item on the Agenda.

4. Matters Arising

Mr Baldwin will speak to the Scouts about the work of the Parish Council on Friday 11 March 2011.

Mr Baldwin was still to locate the Tree Preservation Order map currently in his possession to determine whether or not planning permission would be required to carry out the work on the trees at the Scout Hut. (BB)

Mrs Wright had forwarded the messages regarding disinfecting some areas of the playing field to Mr Chowen but to date had received no response. It was agreed to contact Mr Chowen again to prompt a response on the subject and also to remind him that no response had been received on the problem of the dog bins not being emptied. (JW)

Mrs Wright had reported the broken footpath outside Huntscroft Gardens to Tim Boxall who said that he would look at it again.

Mr Sibley said that the broken drain cover outside no's 8 & 9 Fairfield Court had been repaired.

Mrs Wright had asked Tim Boxall to look at the pavement in Fairfield Cottages that needed repainting.

Mrs Wright had received a copy of an email that the Football Club had received stating that the fence and dugouts were a requirement.

Mr Sibley had asked Mr Reynolds to install a bench at Fairfield Cottages.

5. The Public

Mr Rolfe said that the notice board sited by the recycling bins was broken.

Mr Rolfe also commented on the untidiness of the side of the Co-op made by the racks that were being stored there. It had been noted that the problem had become worse since they had been told to remove all stands from the front of the shop by WSCC. As letters had been written to the Co-op head office in the past asking for the stands to be removed and no action had been taken, it was agreed to firstly look at the Conditions of the relevant planning permission and then write to head office again sending copies to the local store and the County Times.

(JW)

Mr Rolfe was concerned about the news that due to budget cuts, 'Lollipop' staff would not be required. It was agreed to inform Mr Barnard that the Parish Council is concerned that Cowfold may lose their 'Lollipop Lady' as the A281 where she operates is thought to be an extremely dangerous crossing area.

(JW)

6. District Councillor Report

Nothing to report.

7. County Councillor Report

Nothing to report.

8. Correspondence

Julie Stretch: Notification that Stewart Whitehead will be cleaning cars for charity on Saturdays at his house. Noted.

WSCC: Notification of Oakfield Road closure on Monday 28 February 2011 between 8.00 a.m and 5.00 p.m for emergency patching. Noted.

The Royal British Legion: Request to participate in the 'Great Poppy Party Weekend'. It was agreed to contact Bob Farren to find out what the local branch were doing and offer Parish Council support for it.

(JW)

Showtime Amusements: Request to hire the playing field for a family fun fair. It was agreed to contact John Blythe to see if he would be interested in the fair operating at this year's fete. Alternatively, it was agreed to contact Showtime Amusements and agree a date for a visit.

(JW)

HDC: Community Link Alarm System. Offer to talk to Parish Councillors and request to display poster. It was agreed to ask HDC if it would be possible for them to make a short presentation on the subject at the March Annual Parish Meeting.

(JW)

Sylvia Walder, British Red Cross. Request to introduce British Red Cross to Cowfold. It was agreed to ask Sylvia to make a short presentation at the March Annual Parish Meeting.

(JW)

Disability Awareness UK: Request for donation. It was agreed not to make a donation at this time.

John Chamberlin: Request for an annual subsidy from the Parish Council of £1000 to make up the shortfall of running the Pavilion. To be discussed at Agenda Item 11.

HDC: Draft Interim Statement: Managing Development in Horsham District; and the Draft Statement of Community Involvement. To be displayed in the Village Hall.

9. Representatives' Reports

Planning

None.

Finance

Approval of the tabled cheques for signature was requested and agreed by all.

Following Mrs Allmond's and Mrs Lucas's attendance at the extraordinary HALC meeting where the increase in NALC/SALC subscriptions was explained, it was agreed to subscribe for another year.

Open Spaces

Nothing to report

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Mrs Wright agreed to write to the residents of Goose Cottage asking them to cut back their overgrown vegetation.

(JW)

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Nothing to report

Streetlights

Mr Allmond agreed to report the faulty streetlight in Horsham Road and the light not working on the island outside the Village Hall.

(VA)

Health Care & Social Services

Nothing to report.

HDALC

Mr Allmond and Mrs Lucas had attended the extraordinary meeting held on Monday 17 January 2010. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 March 2011.

Village Hall

Mrs Lucas said that it had been decided not to continue with the 200 Club mainly due to a lack of volunteers.

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 22 February 2011.

School Governors

Mrs Precious had attended the school fire drill.

Newsletter

Mrs Cutbush said that all newsletter articles had been sent to the new publisher and a proof of the new style newsletter was expected.

Mrs Cutbush wished to record thanks to everyone who had delivered the newsletter in the past.

Website

Nothing to report.

Scout Hut

Nothing to report.

CLC

Nothing to report.

10. Football Club Fence

A sample of a slimmer style of fencing had been received by the Football Club. Mr Sibley agreed to look at the new fencing to agree suitability.

(GS)

It was agreed by all that if the Football Club were to enter Division 3 the fence could be erected for the football season and removed at the end of the season.

Football Club representatives had investigated the possibility of converting part of the public toilets, which were no longer open to the public due to lack of funding, into the required referee changing area. They had also said that they would be prepared to redecorate the ladies toilets for use on match days and various other events that may be held on the Playing Field. This plan was thought to be a good idea by all Members.

11. Pavilion

Mr Chamberlin had written to the Chairman requesting an annual subsidy of £1000 to cover the shortfall of running the Pavilion now that the public toilet grant was no longer available. He also said that without this donation, the Village Hall Committee would have no option but to hand the management of the building back to the Parish Council.

Mrs Wright had asked for a breakdown of income and expenditure for 2010 in order for the subject to be discussed. A breakdown was received which showed a shortfall of £798.12. Unfortunately the breakdown of income only included the Football Club and the Welcome Club. It did not include income from the Youth Club, Bridge Club and various other users for example Parish Council meetings and use on fete day. It also excluded the income expected from Lower Beeding Football Club who had recently been asked to hire the Pavilion since the public toilets had been closed.

Mrs Wright said that when a breakdown of costs for maintaining the public toilets had been asked for in the past, the Parish Council had always been told that the cost was at least twice that received in grants. Therefore, it would have been expected that the Village Hall Management Committee would now be saving funds.

Mrs Precious made the point that if an annual subsidy was agreed to, residents who did not use the Pavilion would unfairly be subsidising those who do.

Mr Chamberlin said that he would revisit the financial situation.

Mrs Precious said that she had been completing an expression of interest form for submission to the Football Foundation to find out what percentage of the new Pavilion building costs might be available from them. One of the questions was asking how much the Parish Council, as owners of the building, would be prepared to contribute. It was agreed that for the purpose of submitting the form an estimated amount of £42,000 would be reasonable which would be made up of Section 106 funds, savings and

investments.

The date that had been provisionally booked for the next Toy/Jumble/Book Sale was Saturday 9 April 2011 and the Clover Leaf Walk will be held on Monday 2 May 2011.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday 14 March 2011.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Friday 18 March 2011.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.