

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 16 May 2011 in the Pavilion

Present: Mr B Baldwin (BB) (P/T) Mrs M Cutbush (MC)
 Mr V Allmond (VA) Mrs E Precious (EP)
 Mrs S Lucas (SL) Mrs J Wright (JW) Clerk

Mr L Barnard, West Sussex County Council

Public: 3

Press: 0

1. Election of Chairman

Mr Allmond was proposed by (1) Mrs Lucas and (2) Mrs Cutbush and agreed by all.

2. Election of Vice Chairman

Mr Collins was proposed by (1) Mr Allmond and (2) Mrs Lucas and agreed by all.

3. Election of Treasurer

Mr Collins was proposed by (1) Mr Allmond and (2) Mrs Lucas and agreed by all.

4. Co-option of Members

Mrs Precious and Mr Sibley were co-opted onto the Parish Council proposed by (1) Mrs Cutbush and (2) Mrs Lucas and agreed by all.

5. Responsibilities

Planning	Mr Collins, Mrs Lucas, Mrs Precious, Mr Allmond
Finance	Mr Collins, Mr Allmond
Open Spaces	Mr Sibley
Footpaths	Mr Sibley
Pond Warden	Mrs Whitehead
Allotments	Mrs Wright
Roads & Transport	Mrs Wright
Streetlights	Mr Allmond
Health Care & SS	Mrs Lucas
Village Hall	Mrs Lucas
HALC	Mr Allmond, Mrs Lucas
School Governors	Mrs Precious
Website	Mr Tickner, Mrs Cutbush
Newsletter	Mrs Cutbush
CLC	Mr Allmond

6. Register of Interests

A Register of Interests questionnaire had been distributed to all Members for completion.

7. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr C Collins (CC) and Mr G Sibley (GS).

8. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 April 2010 were agreed by all as a true and correct record.

9. Matters Arising

Mr Sibley had covered the WC sign outside of the restaurant.

Nothing had been received from Mr Chowen with regard to the litter bins not being emptied if they were only half full. Mrs Wright agreed to remind Mr Chowen of the action he agreed to take.

(JW)

Mr Baldwin had not been able to make contact with Mark Detnon who had expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor. Mr Allmond said that he would speak to Mark.

(VA)

Tom Warder from AiRS will be attending the Planning Committee meeting to be held on Monday 20 June 2011 to discuss the outcome of his meeting with Mr Tregear.

James Staples had asked if his presentation on the Community First Responder Scheme could be put off until sometime in the Autumn.

Mrs Wright had contacted the Access Ranger to see if she had any idea who might own the strip of land at the side of a house in Holm Oaks, but she had no information on it. Tim Boxall said that it used to be a ditch but was not the responsibility of WSCC. Mr Dickinson, a resident of Holm Oaks said that he would look at his paperwork dating back to when he purchased his property to see if he could throw any light on the subject.

Mrs Wright had written to Mr Wren regarding the notices that had been posted in Eastlands Lane informing him that the Parish Council would monitor the situation.

Mrs Wright had asked for a replacement footpath map but to date had not received one.

Mrs Wright had obtained a quotation for £390 to tidy the garden waste area at the allotments. It was agreed to go ahead with the work and add £10 to the rents due at the end of June to help pay for the work. It was also agreed to send a letter to the allotment holders explaining the reason for the increase and reiterating that the area is only to be used for garden waste.

Mrs Wright had reported the potholes in Fairfield Cottages to WSCC Highways.

Mr Allmond had reported the faulty light on the island opposite Mercers Mead on the A272 but WSCC said that they did not have it on their map. Mrs Wright agreed to speak to Tim Boxall to see if he could find out why.

(JW)

Mrs Precious had asked Mrs Cutbush to place an article in the next Newsletter advertising the fact that the school swimming pool would be open to residents during the summer months.

Mr Allmond had looked at rearranging items on the website following concerns by Mrs Precious regarding the order in which events were advertised. Mrs Cutbush said that she was still not happy with the website in general and it was agreed that she should look for an alternative website provider.

(MC)

Mrs Wright had contacted Howard Collins regarding an updated list of potential funding sources.

10. The Public

Mr Wren asked if the war memorial in the churchyard could be cleaned. Mrs Wright agreed to write to the PCC who were responsible for the memorial.

(JW)

11. District Councillor Report

Nothing to report.

12. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- New WSCC Chairman
- Petition to fund adult services defeated
- Bus subsidies to be cut.

13. Correspondence

Mr Gordon Wren: Complaint regarding speeding traffic and vehicles parked on pavements. It was explained to Mr Wren that the Parish Council had tried to get WSCC to do something about the speeding traffic through the village to no avail. Mrs Wright said that someone in the village had volunteered to revive SID and agreed to contact them. With regard to vehicles being parked on the pavements, Mrs Wright agreed to write to the known companies sending the photos that Mr Wren had taken asking them to request that their drivers do not obstruct the footpaths in future.

(JW)

Cowfold Horticultural Society: Thank you letter for the Parish Council's donation.

HDC: Invitation to the Chairman of the Parish Council to attend the Annual Reception.

West Sussex Mediation Service: Request for funding support. It was agreed to donate a sum of £25.

MSDC: Statement of Community Involvement Review-Phase 1. Noted.

Andy Margetts: Request to keep chickens on his allotment. Mrs Wright agreed to investigate current legislation on the keeping of chickens on allotments.

(JW)

Mark Hayter: Request to use the playing field for the Lower Beeding Lions Junior Football Club awards. No objections were raised to the request.

WSCC: Information on Children and Family Centres. Noted.

14. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Nothing to report.

Finance

Mrs Wright said that she would speak to the Manager of Lloyds Business Banking regarding the problems encountered when attempting to revise the signatories on the bank account. If these problems were not resolved, then there would be no alternative but to change banks.

(JW)

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

Open Spaces

Mr Sibley had arranged for the play area gate to be repaired.

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Mrs Lucas said that the brambles had still not been cut back from the property in Henfield Road. Mrs Wright said that the Parish Council's letter had been ignored, therefore, she would ask WSCC to write to the resident.

(JW)

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Nothing to report.

Streetlights

Mr Allmond had reported the faulty streetlight in Acorn Avenue which had been dealt with.

Health Care & Social Services

Nothing to report.

HDALC

The date of the next meeting to be held at Billingshurst Village Hall is Tuesday 24 May 2011.

Village Hall

The next meeting of the Village Hall Committee was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 26 July 2011.

School Governors

The next Governors' meeting was to be held on Wednesday 18 May 2011.

Newsletter

Nothing to report.

Website

Nothing to report.

Scout Hut

Nothing to report.

CLC

Nothing to report.

15. A281 South of Cowfold – Proposed 50mph Speed Limit

It was agreed to respond to WSCC stating that the Members of the Parish Council were in agreement that there would be no point in reducing the speed limit to 50mph on this stretch of the A281 as it would not be enforceable and, therefore, a waste of money. Also to say that if there were funds available, it would be better spent on installing traffic calming measures in the village itself.

16. Pavilion

No information had been received from Mark Passfield following his meeting with an architect who had been asked to suggest lower cost options for replacing the pavilion. Mrs Wright agreed to contact Mark Passfield.

(JW)

Mrs Precious said that the Cloverleaf walk had made a profit of £250.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday 13 June 2011.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.