

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 8 August 2011 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr V Allmond (VA) (Chairman) Mr G Sibley (GS)
Mrs S Lucas (SL) Mr M Detnon (MD)
Mrs M Cutbush (MC) Mrs J Wright (JW) Clerk

Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor

Mr J Chowen – Horsham District Councillor

Public: 2

Press: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr E Precious (EP), Mr C Collins (CC), Mr P Dittmer (PD) and Mr A Dunlop (AD).

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 June 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

Mrs Wright had reminded Mr Chowen of the action he agreed to take regarding litter bins and he had spoken to the Environmental department at HDC who said that the bins were now being emptied twice a week.

Duncan Barratt had attended the July Council meeting which had to be cancelled due to lack of Councillor attendance and had spoken on the subject of Community Action Plans.

Mr Sibley had received a quotation from Shaun Stevens for the supply of wood chippings for the play area. It was agreed to purchase six bags at a cost of £600 plus £25 delivery.

Mr Sibley had received three quotations for the work to be carried out on the oak trees at the Scout Hut. It was agreed to accept a quote from Impressions at a cost of £420.

With regard to children speeding through the Twitten by the Post Office on their bicycles causing a nuisance, Mrs Wright confirmed that there was a 'no cycling' sign installed and agreed to report the problem to the PCSO.

(JW)

The PCSO had visited the resident in Hanover Gardens who had reported youths and their vehicles causing a nuisance near the properties and had given him a telephone number to call should the problem reoccur.

Mr Allmond had taken over the responsibility of administering the website.

Mrs Wright had written to WSCC with copies sent to The Secretary of State for Transport, Nick Herbert MP, Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Times asking them to reconsider the proposal to discontinue the No.86 bus service.

A lower cost option for building a replacement pavilion had been received from Mark Passfield who was currently working on the cost of refurbishing the existing building.

5. The Public

Mrs Jelley had produced Minutes from the meeting that had been held to progress the campaign for saving the 86 Bus and to look at possible alternatives.

It was agreed that Paul Dittmer could attend the HDC 'Traffic in Villages' Working Group meeting to be held on 17 August 2011 as a representative of the Parish Council.

Mr Rolfe said that the litter from the containers outside the Co-op was blowing all over the path leading to the church. Mrs Cutbush agreed to take photographs which can then be sent to the Street Wardens at HDC asking them to speak to the Manager at the Co-op who had agreed that the containers would not be left at the side of the shop but was not adhering to the agreement.

(MC/JW)

Mr Rolfe said that the overgrown vegetation needed to be cut back in Horsham Road. Mrs Wright agreed to contact Highways and ask them to arrange for the work to be carried out.

(JW)

Mr Rolfe said that there was a stopcock cover missing near to the Coach House. Mrs Wright said that she would report the problem to Southern Water.

(JW)

Mr Rolfe said that in his opinion, it would assist traffic flow if when the A272 is next resurfaced the camber of the road was pitched to the right. Mr Barnard suggested contacting Ed Dickinson at WSCC on this subject and Mrs Wright agreed to do this.

(JW)

Mr Rolfe asked if two more litter bins could be installed in the car park and Mrs Wright said that she would ask HDC if they were prepared to do this

(JW)

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Chowen reported on the following issues:

- Purchase of Aran House, Hurst Road
- Pollution

It was considered that the pollution in the village was mainly due to heavy vehicles and that the problem could be alleviated by installing more signs on the M23 directing these vehicles to the A264. Mr Barnard offered to contact the Highways Agency to ask whether this action would be possible.

(LB)

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- Possible merger of East and West Sussex Fire and Rescue Services
- Policing
- Shoreham Harbour Wind Farm
- Broadband improvements
- Proposed Hickstead recycling site
- Reshaping libraries.

8. Correspondence

WSSC: Reply from Lionel Barnard regarding the letter sent requesting that the No.86 bus service is not suspended. Noted.

West Sussex Mediation Service: Thank you letter for the Council's donation. Noted.

HDC: Notification of a meeting on Essential Training – An Introduction to Planning on Wednesday 21 September 2011 in the Council Chamber, Park North commencing at 2.00pm or 6.00pm. As Mr Allmond, Mrs Lucas, Mr Sibley and Mr Detnon were interested in attending, Mrs Wright agreed to ask if two representatives could attend each session.

(JW)

Duncan Lawrence (1st Cowfold Scouts). An email requesting the following:

- Are there any restrictions to what can be used to mark the boundary of the Scout Hut as the posts currently installed are broken, rotten, missing or loose? It was agreed that the Scouts could install new posts but they would need to leave access for emergency vehicles onto the field.
- Are there any restrictions on how the car park is surfaced? It was agreed that the Scouts could resurface the car park.
- Are the Scouts responsible for the upkeep of the entrance way between the gate and the kerb? It was thought that WSSC Highways were responsible for this area. However, Mrs Wright agreed to contact Highways for confirmation.

(JW)

Mr Lawrence also asked if there were any Community projects that the Scout group children could help with. Mr Detnon said that help may be required at Country Mice Play Group.

Caroline Collins: Request for the Parish Council to pay the room hire for the public meeting held in the Village Hall regarding the No.86 bus. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay this invoice; however, it was made clear that this was a one-off payment that should not set a precedent and that in future any requests for funding should be made prior to an event taking place and not afterwards. With regard to the request to pay for leaflets advertising the campaign, Mrs Jelley was asked to produce an estimate of the cost which will be discussed as an Agenda item at the September Council meeting.

Various emails regarding speeding in the village: There was some confusion regarding why these messages had been forwarded to the Parish Council especially as one was a request for their name to be added to a petition to reduce the speed limit south of

Cowfold.

(1224)

Mr Sibley was asked to update the information on the costs of installing flashing road signs for the next meeting.

(GS)

9. Pavilion

Nothing to report.

10. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for July and August 2011.

Finance

Approval of the tabled cheques (July & August) for signature was requested and agreed by all.

Open Spaces

Mr Sibley said that the tarmac in the play area was in need of repair and that the vegetation needed to be removed. It was agreed that Mr Sibley should arrange for this work to be carried out.

(GS)

Mrs Wright said that nothing had been done about the overgrown oak tree near to the pond. Mr Sibley said that he had filled out a form to obtain permission to have work carried out on the tree, but to date had not had a response. Mr Sibley said that he would contact HDC and if necessary complete another request.

(GS)

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Mrs Lucas said that the footpath at the back of the field near to the rear of 2 Alley Groves was overgrown. Mrs Wright agreed to contact the Access Ranger and request that the area is cleared.

(JW)

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Nothing to report.

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

Health Care & Social Services

Nothing to report.

HDALC

Mr Allmond and Mrs Lucas were not able to attend the last meeting. However, Mr Allmond said that he would circulate the information that had been received from the meeting to all Members. The Annual meeting of HDC and HALC will be held on Thursday 3 November 18 July 2011 at Mannings Heath Village Hall.

(VA)

Village Hall

Mrs Lucas reported on the maintenance currently being undertaken..

School Governors

Mrs Precious had sent a message to remind everyone that St Peter's school swimming pool is open from 2-4pm weekdays until Friday 19 August.

Newsletter

Nothing to report.

Website

Mrs Cutbush said that she was having a problem uploading the magazine chronologically. Mr Allmond said that he would look at it.

(VA)

Scout Hut

Nothing to report.

CLC

Nothing to report.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 12 September 2011.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.