

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13 February 2012 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr V Allmond (VA) (Chairman) Mr R Holden (RH)
Mrs S Lucas (SL) Mrs M Chamberlin (MC)
Mrs E Precious (EP) Mr J Chamberlin (JC)
Mr P Dittmer (PD) (P/T) Mrs J Wright (JW) Clerk
Mr C Collins (CC)

Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor
Mr J Chowen – Horsham District Councillor
Public: 3
Press: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Dunlop (AD).

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 January 2012 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 been told by HDC that regular disinfecting around the Pavilion area would cost £33.00 per month. It was agreed to pay for cleaning when necessary.

Mrs Wright had received details of three reputable tree surgeons from Andy Poynter with regard to the work required to be carried out on the trees either side of the Scout Hut. Two quotations had been received, one at a cost of £540 excl. VAT and another at £660 exc. VAT. Mr Holden was given the information to get a quotation from Bob Reynolds. (RH)

Mr Dunlop had contacted the relevant officer at HDC to ask if the Thornden street name sign was being repaired. Mrs Precious said that she would find out if the sign had been repaired and inform Mrs Wright. (EP)

Mrs Wright had received additional copies of the Planning Explained booklet.

Mrs Precious said that she would revisit the problem of damage being caused in Thornden by vehicles being parked on the grass verges. (EP)

Mr Allmond had put the information on the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm Consultation Meeting Dates on the website.

Mrs Wright had circulated the "20's Plenty" Campaign information.

Mr Dittmer had cleared some of the vegetation on the Kicking Field which was obscuring the dog bin and said that he would finish the work.

(PD)

Mr Allmond had reported the fault on No.6 Streetlight.

5. The Public

A resident of Fairfield Cottages complained about the Football Club with regard to bad language, parking, damage being done to the field and matches being played on a Sunday. It was agreed to ask Steve Whiting to attend a meeting where these complaints could be discussed. Mrs Wright agreed to contact Steve with a view to arranging a meeting.

(JW)

Mr John Chamberlin asked what was happening with regard to the possibility of installing a small skateboard park on the playing field. Mrs Wright said that she had now heard from the Purple Bus staff and was told that the bus would be visiting Cowfold from April to September 2012 on Wednesday evenings and they would work with the young people towards getting a skateboard park.

Mr Barnard said that grants may be available from the Big Society Fund and we should get in touch with Duncan Barratt. He said that it would also be worth visiting the WSCC Talk with Us website.

Mr Justin Chamberlin said that he would be happy to speak to the young people who had shown an interest on the subject and Mrs Wright agreed to forward their emails to him.

(JC/JW)

Mr John Chamberlin reported that a pipe had burst in the roof of the Pavilion and caused it to flood. The extent of the damage would not be apparent until the Pavilion had dried out.

Mrs Baldwin said that she was thinking of organising an event on the playing field for the Queen's Jubilee on Sunday 3 June 2012 and suggested a picnic with entertainment. All Members agreed that this would be a good idea.

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Chowen reported on the following issues:

- Policy on Travellers
- Housing Numbers.

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- Donate a Book Scheme
- Meeting with Save our Storrington
- Broadband
- WSCC Budget
- Pagham Nature Estate visit
- MRMC Contract
- Police & Crime Commissioners Meetings.

8. Correspondence

Matt Roberts: Invitation to attend the ST@RT First General Meeting being held on Thursday 23 February 2012 at Billingshurst Village Hall at 15.30 hours. Noted.

Elaine Slater HDC: Results of the Have Your Say Residents Survey carried out in Autumn 2011. Noted.

St Catherine's Hospice: Request for grant. It was agreed that it is up to individuals to decide whether or not to make a donation to this cause.

WSCC: Document on future school placements. Mrs Precious was given this document.

Rampion of Sussex: Letter enclosing a complimentary Official Sussex County Flag to display. Mr Collins suggested that we apply to the Fete Committee for funds to buy a flagpole and at the same time ask for money to fund the tree planting and skateboard park. Mrs Wright agreed to contact Andy Poynter to see who had taken over as Chairman as it was thought that John Blythe no longer held that position.

(JW)

HDC: Horsham District Planning Framework: How much housing does Horsham District need? To be circulated.

(JW)

Southern Water: Planning for a Drought in the South East. Further information available at droughtplan@southernwater.co.uk.

9. Queen's Jubilee

The Horticultural Society wanted to plant a tree on the playing field to replace the one that had died. The Parish Council agreed that they would also plant a tree.

The Guides had requested to use the playing field on either Saturday the 2nd or Monday the 4th June to celebrate the Jubilee and no objections were raised.

10. Pavilion

Mrs Precious said that she was hoping to get an estimate for the rebuilding of the Pavilion for the next meeting.

12. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for February 2012.

It had been decided to change the starting time of the planning meetings from 7.00pm to 7.30pm.

Finance

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

Open Spaces

It had come to the Parish Council's notice that another Acorn Avenue resident had installed a gate onto the access road. It was agreed to write to the residents inviting them to join the scheme.

(JW)

A resident from Fairfield Court had phoned to ask if Ros and Craig from the Post Office could be thanked in the Newsletter for their kindness especially in the bad weather when Craig cleared the snow so that the residents were able to get out. As the Parish Council no longer has their own newsletter it was agreed to write a letter of thanks.

(JW)

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Mrs Wright agreed to report the large pothole on the A272 near to Champions Gate to WSCC.

(JW)

Streetlights

Mr Allmond agreed to report the faulty streetlight at Mercers Mead and the light on the island in the middle of the road which was not working to WSCC.

(VA)

Health Care & Social Services

Nothing to report.

HDALC

Mr Allmond and Mrs Lucas had attended the meeting on 24 January 2012 where it was announced that a new Code of Conduct would have to be produced and that at some time in the future Members Register of Interests would have to be put onto the website.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 26 March 2012.

Village Hall

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 21 February 2012.

School Governors

Mrs Precious reported that the head teacher of St Peter's School had resigned and a replacement was currently being sought.

Newsletter

Nothing to report.

Website

Nothing to report.

CLC

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7 March 2012.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 12 March 2012.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.