

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 12 March 2012 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr V Allmond (VA) (Chairman) Mrs M Chamberlin (MC)
 Mrs S Lucas (SL) Mr J Chamberlin (JC)
 Mr C Collins (CC) Mrs J Wright (JW) Clerk
 Mr R Holden (RH)

Mr A Dunlop – Horsham District Councillor

Public: 5

Press: 0

Andy Williams, a local builder had kindly produced outline plans for the rebuild/refurbishment of the Pavilion. The cost of the work based on these plans would be £178,000. Although planning permission would not be required, HDC Building Regulations department would have to be involved and, therefore, plans would have to be drawn up. Mr John Chamberlin offered to obtain a quotation for producing the plans.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Dittmer (PD), Mrs E Precious (EP), Mr J Chowen (JC) and Mr L Barnard (LB).

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 February 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

Mr Holden had met with Dave Ford from Dave Ford Tree Care regarding the work required to be carried out to the trees either side of the Scout Hut. It was agreed by all to accept the quotation of £460.00 excl. VAT. (JW)

Mr Allmond said that the Thornden street name sign had still not been repaired. Mr Dunlop said that he would find out why. Mrs Wright agreed to send an email to Mr Dunlop on the subject. (JW/AD)

The vegetation clearance on the Kicking Field had not yet been completed. (PD)

A meeting had been arranged with representatives of the Football Club for Wednesday 14 March 2012.

Mr Chamberlin had met with the young people regarding the installation of a skateboard park on the Playing Field.

It was confirmed that John Blythe was still the current Chairman of the Cowfold Social Committee. Mrs Wright had asked about the possibility of receiving some of the proceeds of this year's fete to help fund the skateboard park and a flagpole for the Sussex Flag. Mr Blythe asked for an estimate of the cost of these items and Mrs Wright had agreed to find out and let him know.

Mrs Wright had circulated the Horsham District Planning Framework document.

Mrs Wright had prepared the information to be sent to the Acorn Avenue resident who had recently installed a gate onto the access road inviting them to join the scheme.

Mrs Wright had written a letter of thanks to Craig and Ros from the Post Office.

The large pothole on the A272 near to Champions Gate had been reported to WSCC and an order had been raised for its repair.

Mr Allmond had reported the faulty streetlights at Mercers Mead and on the island in the middle of the road. However, there were still problems with the lights at Mercers Mead and Mr Allmond agreed to report these also.

(VA)

5. The Public

Mr Rolfe said that dog fouling was really bad at the moment especially in Oakfield Road. He also said that he frequently had delivery drivers asking to be directed to Forge Close and asked if a street sign could be erected. However, as the area in question was not an adopted road and comes under Henfield Road, it was thought unlikely that this would happen.

Mr John Chamberlin said that there were brambles on the footpath outside the restaurant. Mrs Wright agreed to contact the restaurant and ask for the brambles to be cut back.

(JW)

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Dunlop reported on the following issues:

- Approval of HDC Budget
- New Director of Finance Appointment
- New HDC Leader and Deputy Leader
- Housing Needs Survey
- Traffic in Villages Working Group

Mr Dunlop said that he would find out what was happening about the possibility of converting the coach park to a car park. Mrs Wright agreed to forward correspondence on the subject.

(JW)

7. County Councillor Report

Nothing to report.

8. Correspondence

HDC: Community Governance Review. Request for views on a possible reduction in the number of Parish Councillors across all parishes. It was agreed to respond by advising that Cowfold Parish Council did not want to reduce the number of Councillors to 9 as suggested.

(JW)

HDC: Application for a Variation existing Premises Licence. Application to extend the licensable activities of the Co-operative Store, Cowfold from 06.00 to 23.00hrs each and every day of the week. No objections were raised.

Cowfold Social Committee: Notification of arrangements for the summer fete to be held on Saturday 7 July 2012. The Social Committee were intending to put the Pavilion 'Out to Tender' on fete day and were expecting to take 25% of the profits made. If no organisation in the village wished to bid on this basis the intention was to extend the invitation to outside organisations. The Parish Council was not happy with this arrangement especially as the stall holders were not being asked for 25% of their profits and it was agreed that if no-one was interested in bidding within the village, the Social Committee would not be allowed to hire the Pavilion for an outside organisation to use.

9. Skateboard Park

Mr Chamberlin had met with some young people to discuss their requirements for a skateboard park. He had also contacted Evolution Skatepark Ramps and had obtained some ideas from them. It was agreed that Mr Chamberlin would speak further with this company and ask them to produce a layout and an associated quotation.

(JC)

Mr Chamberlin said that there were funding opportunities around and suggested that it may be possible to approach Sport England for a grant towards the new Pavilion and a skateboard park.

Mr Dunlop said that he would find out if planning permission was required to extend the current basketball area base to accommodate a skateboard park.

(AD)

10. Pavilion

Nothing to report.

11. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for March 2012.

Finance

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

Open Spaces

The Cowfold Social Committee wished to donate a bench to the village commemorating the Queen's Jubilee. It was agreed that they could install a bench somewhere on the Playing Field.

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Mrs Chamberlin mentioned the mess at the side of the Co-op again. Mrs Wright said that she would contact Mr Dunlop asking for his help in solving the problem as no response had been received from the officer responsible for conservation area matters on the subject.

(JW)

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Mrs Wright agreed to ask the Highway Rangers to clear the path from Station Road to Thornden and to ask HDC to clear the litter from the A272 between the village and Wineham Lane. Mrs Wright also agreed to report the broken bollard outside the Co-op to WSCC.

(JW)

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

Health Care & Social Services

Nothing to report.

HDALC

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

Village Hall

Mrs Lucas reported on some work that had been carried out to the Village Hall. Mr Chamberlin said that the curtains in the Pavilion needed replacing and asked the Parish Council for a donation. He was asked to get a quotation for consideration at the next meeting.

School Governors

Nothing to report.

Newsletter

Nothing to report.

Website

Nothing to report.

CLC

Nothing to report.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 16 April 2012.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.