

Cowfold Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 9 July 2012 in the Village Hall

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

Mr Lionel Barnard - West Sussex County Councillor
Public: 4
Press: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Holden (RH), Mr P Dittmer (PD) and Mrs E Precious (EP).

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 June 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

No communication had been received from Mr Dittmer to say whether or not the WC sign outside the restaurant had been covered. (PD)

Mrs Wright had produced a notice advertising the Honorary Awards Procedure.

Mrs Wright had asked WSCC to deal with the damaged oak tree in Fairfield Cottages but no response had been received. Mrs Wright agreed to contact Mark Bishop again and send a copy of the email to Mr Barnard. (JW)

A message of thanks for arranging the Jubilee events had been sent to Jenny Baldwin.

Mr Chamberlin had asked Saxon Weald to cut back the overgrown vegetation at the Post Office Twitten and between 15 Fairfield Cottages and 2 Alley Groves; however, the work had not yet been undertaken. Mr Chamberlin said that he would contact Saxon Weald again. (JC)

Mrs Wright had contacted Duncan Lawrence asking if it would be possible for the Scouts to rake over the bark in the play area and was told that weather permitting they would be doing it on Friday 13 July.

Mr Allmond had reported the two lampposts (No's 2 & 4) which were leaning. The lamps were replaced but it wasn't considered necessary to carry out any further work at the current time.

A response had been received from the Monitoring Officer on the subject of Members' Registers of Interest being displayed on the website which had been forwarded to all Members.

It was agreed that the members of the Advisory Committee with regard to the Honorary Awards system would be Mr Allmond and Mr Collins.

5. The Public

Mr Rolfe said that there was an overgrown rose bush overhanging the footpath outside Whitelined House in The Street. Mrs Wright agreed to ask for it to be cut back.

(JW)

Mr Rolfe also reported a blocked drain outside the Village Hall and that the dividing stones between the road and the car park had lifted. Mrs Wright said that she would report these problems to WSCC and HDC.

(JW)

Mr Hall expressed concern regarding the football pitch being fenced off on fete day. He was told that it was only to prevent vehicles being parked on the area and was not intended to prevent people using it. However, it was agreed to hold another meeting with the Football Club and Mrs Wright said that she would arrange a date and time.

(JW)

6. District Councillor Report

Nothing to report.

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following:

- Police and Crime Panel
- TSB volunteers working on Rights of Way
- Rose Green Junior School summer reading challenge
- WSCC Economic Strategy
- New IT Systems for Libraries
- Away Days
- Fracking
- Drought Summit.

8. Correspondence

HDC: Horsham District Council Strategic Planning: Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites Preferred Options Consultation Document. Noted .

Brian Barney: Resident of Thornden raising concerns about increased traffic in Thornden and generally in the village. Mr Allmond said that he would visit Mr Barney

and speak to him about his concerns.

(VA)

Duncan Lawrence: Request for the Scouts to arrange for a new meter and water supply pipe to be installed and for a storage unit to be placed in the bushes behind the Scout Hut. Mr Lawrence tabled a plan of where the pipes would be laid and a photograph of the proposed storage unit. No objections were raised to either proposal.

Isabelle Swan – AiRS: Information on Council Tax Support – Effect of Parishes. Noted.

WSCC: Flooding Report. Noted.

Lifecentre – Chichester: Request for a donation. It was agreed not to make a donation.

9. Skateboard Park

Mr Chamberlin said that the young people had run a stall at the fete and had raised £65 towards the skateboard park.

It was agreed to fund the required planning application to extend the current basketball area and Mr Chamberlin said that he would speak to Evolution Skateparks to ask if they could help with producing a plan.

(JC)

10. Revised Code of Conduct & Registers of Interest

Following some considerable discussion it was proposed that the revised Code of Conduct which had been received from HDC be adopted. A vote was taken and it was agreed by 3 votes to 2 to adopt the revised Code of Conduct.

With regard to completing the revised Register of Interest Forms, some Members were not happy for their personal details to be displayed on the website, and particularly details of their partners which was considered to be totally unacceptable.

It was agreed to write to the Monitoring Officer at HDC with copies to Nick Herbert and David Cameron asking how giving partner's information was acceptable with regard to the Data Protection Act and asking what the consequences would be if Members refused to give the information requested.

(JW)

Mr Allmond thought that it would be a good idea to revisit the Standing Orders document with a view to revising it if necessary. Mrs Wright said that she would circulate copies to all Members for discussion at the next Council meeting.

(JW)

11. Pavilion

The Terms and Conditions had been received from the architect and it was agreed to sign these and ask her to proceed with the work.

12. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for July 2012.

Finance

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

Open Spaces

Some discussion took place regarding the damaged tree in Fairfield Cottages and Mr Chamberlin was of the opinion that a survey should be carried out to check the state of all trees that the Council were responsible for and said that he would look into the cost of the work. Mr Chamberlin said that he would be happy to collect the information for trees and also grounds maintenance via a digital mapping system. Mrs Wright said that she would look for any relevant information held on file to pass to Mr Chamberlin.

(JC/JW)

Mr Holden had sent a message saying that the play area gate needed to be repaired and it was agreed to ask him to arrange for this work to be undertaken.

(JW)

There had been some damage to the playing field on fete day largely from the funfair vehicles. Andy Poynter, a member of the fete Committee had said that he was arranging for any damage to be rectified and for the field to be rolled.

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Mrs Wright said that she would report the overgrown vegetation at Church Farm House to WSCC.

(JW)

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Nothing to report.

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

Health Care & Social Services

Mrs Lucas said that she had managed to get free parking at the hospital again.

HDALC

The next HALC meeting is to be held on Monday 23 July 2012 at The Steyning Centre.

Village Hall

Nothing to report.

School Governors

The name of the new Headmaster is Giles Kolter.

Website

Nothing to report.

CLC

Nothing to report.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 13 August 2012.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.