

Cowfold Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13 August 2012 in the Village Hall

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

Mr Jonathan Chowen – Horsham District Councillor
Public: 2
Press: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Dittmer (PD), Mr C Collins (CC), Mr A Dunlop (AD) and Mr L Barnard (LB).

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 July 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 Dittmer had covered the WC sign outside the restaurant.

Mrs Wright had contacted WSCC again with regard to the damaged oak tree. Both WSCC and HDC have said that the tree is not their responsibility; the Parish Council do not think that it is its responsibility either. However, to prevent a possible accident occurring, it was agreed to get the work done and argue about ownership afterwards. Mrs Wright had asked Dave Ford who had carried out the work on the oak trees at the Scout Hut for a quotation. He had said that he would remove the broken part of the tree this week and quote for the remainder of the work required.

The overgrown vegetation at the Post Office Twitten and between 15 Fairfield Cottages and 2 Alley Groves has been cut back.

The overgrown rose bush overhanging the footpath outside Whitelined House in the Street had been cut back.

Mrs Wright had reported the blocked drain outside the Village Hall and that the dividing

stones between the road and the car park had lifted to WSCC and HDC.

A meeting had been held with the Football Club following Mr Hall's concerns regarding the football pitch being fenced off on fete day and the following actions were agreed:

- The ropes behind both goals will be removed after each match leaving two sides roped off only.
- The Footballers will avoid practicing on the field in front of the Pavilion as much as possible.
- Clive will seed certain areas of the field in September with Mr Holden
- The Football Club Manager will speak to the referees before the matches begin and ask them to instruct the players not to swear.

With regard to the revised Register of Interest Forms a letter had been sent to the Monitoring Officer at HDC with copies sent to Nick Herbert and David Cameron to say that some Parish Council Members were not happy about displaying personal information on the website, asking how giving partner's information was acceptable with regard to the Data Protection Act and what the consequences would be if Members refused to give the information requested. No response had been received to date.

Mrs Wright had circulated a copy of the Standing Orders to all Members.

Mrs Wright had passed a map detailing the areas of land that are the responsibility of the Parish Council to Mr Chamberlin for digital mapping.

Work had been carried out to the play area gate but it still needed some adjustment.

Mrs Wright reported the overgrown vegetation at Church Farm House to WSCC and the work had been done.

5. The Public

Mr Rolfe reported the following problems:

- Overgrown brambles at a property in Henfield Road
- Overhanging branches on the Oak tree at 2 Oakfield Road
- Kicking Wall area required disinfecting again
- The footpath from 2 Alley Groves to the end of the Playing Field is overgrown
- Two of the white posts which had been installed to prevent parking on the grass verge on the corner of Oakfield Road had been broken
- A vehicle was regularly being parked on the pavement in Bolney Road completely blocking the pathway.
- A resident thought to be from Fairfield Court was using the playing field rubbish bins to dispose of their household waste instead of using their wheelie bins.

(1275)

Mrs Wright agreed to report all these issues to the relevant authority.

(JW)

Mr Chamberlin expressed concern regarding the deep ruts on the far side of the Playing Field which had been caused by the Funfair. Mrs Wright said that she would contact the Fete Committee and ask them to rectify the situation as it was thought that it could cause accidents.

(JW)

The subject of the proceeds of the fete was raised and Mrs Wright agreed to find out how much profit was made and who in the village would be the recipients.

(JW)

Mr Chamberlin asked for permission to use the Playing Field for fireworks in November. No objections were raised to the request.

Mr Chamberlin asked if anything had been decided with regard to the installation of a flagpole and was told that Mr Collins was in the process of getting a quotation.

Mr Chamberlin also commented on the state of the kerb stones throughout the village. Mrs Wright said that she would ask WSCC to carry out an inspection and report on their findings.

(JW)

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Chowen reported on the following issues:

- Broadbridge Heath Sports Centre
- Green Waste
- Gypsy & Traveller Policy
- Take over from central government of responsibility for business rates.

7. County Councillor Report

Nothing to report

8. Correspondence

Jonathan Palling: Application to join the Parish Council. Co-option of New Councillor to be put on the Agenda for the September meeting.

Lionel Barnard: Flooding and Drainage – powers and responsibilities Guide for Members of West Sussex County Council. Noted.

Anthony Parsons: Email outlining the agreement made at the recent meeting held with Mr Allmond and Mr Holden. Noted.

HDC: Information on The Local Government Finance Bill. Noted.

Adam Bazley WSCC: Copy of an email sent to Mrs Davey following a meeting regarding footway/kerb improvements and Vehicular Activated Signs. The Parish Council had already requested repairs to the kerb where heavy vehicles had mounted the pavement and this was in hand. Also, one VAS had been installed on the A272 for a week to collect results of speeding vehicles and this was scheduled to be installed at the other three entrances to the village. The results of all four locations will determine whether or not WSCC will install permanent signs.

John Chamberlin: Email informing the Parish Council that he had received a call from Eileen Lock of Partridge Green Response Team to say that a defibrillator had been installed in the Co-op and saying that some financial support would be appreciated. It was agreed to ask Eileen to write to the Parish Council direct.

(JW)

West Sussex Mediation Service: Invitation to the AGM on 20 September 2012. Noted.

Adam Bazley WSCC: Copy of a letter sent to Katherine Stanfield regarding cycling provisions in Cowfold. Noted.

Cowfold History Society: Invitation to take part in the Village History Day to be held on Saturday 27 October 2012 from 11.00am to 6.00pm in the Village Hall. It was agreed to respond saying that the Parish Council would have been happy to participate; however, all old Minutes etc. were archived at Chichester.

(JW)

9. Skateboard Park

Mr Chamberlin said that he had not yet been able to contact Evolution Skateparks to ask for their help in producing a skateboard park plan.

(JC)

10. Standing Orders Review

The Current Standing Orders document had been forwarded to all Members: The agreed amendments are as follows:

Front Page: Change '2010' to 2012

Page 7 - 27(a) Change date to 9 July 2012

Page 8 – 27(c), last paragraph to read 'If a member reasonably believes another member is in breach of the code of conduct, that member is under a duty to report the breach to the Horsham District Council's Monitoring Officer'.

Page 11 – 47 to read 'If a member has a pecuniary interest as defined by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 9 July 2012 then he shall declare such interest as soon as it becomes apparent, disclosing the existence and nature of that interest as required'.

Page 11 – 48 to read 'If a member has declared a pecuniary interest, he must withdraw from the room or chamber during consideration of the item to which the interest relates'

Page 14 – 67 to read 'The Council shall deal with complaints of maladministration allegedly committed by the Council or by any officer or member in such manner as adopted by the Council except for those complaints which should be properly direct to the Horsham District Council's Monitoring Officer'.

11. Pavilion

The revised plans were currently being drawn.

£307 profit was made at the recent jumble/toy sale.

12. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for August 2012.

Finance

Following the submission of the Annual Accounts to Mazars for audit a telephone call had been received querying the Parish Council reserves at the end of March 2012. Mrs Wright had explained that the funds were to be used to help rebuild the Pavilion. It was agreed to transfer £40,000 to the Bank of Ireland Pavilion Fund after the second half of the precept is received.

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

Open Spaces

Mr Holden said that someone had installed a sign on the small green in Holm Oaks saying that the area should not be used for playing on. As it was agreed that the intention when the houses were built was to create play areas, Mr Holden said that he would remove the sign.

(RH)

Mr Holden said that a new gate was required at the top end of the Playing Field and had asked for a quotation from Shaun Stevens to replace it with a metal one.

Mr Holden had met with the couple who wanted to install a bench in memory of their grandmother and had agreed a location.

Mr Holden said that he would inspect the broken drain covers outside the Pavilion and over the water meter and obtain quotes to repair them if necessary.

Mrs Chamberlin was concerned about the mess outside the Pavilion mainly caused by blocked gutters. Mr Chamberlin said that he would ask the caretaker to clear the gutters.

It was reported that a large board was erected outside the Coach House every weekend advertising lunches. Mrs Wright agreed to find out if planning permission had been granted for this.

(JW)

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

It was reported that the signpost on the footpath at the top of the Playing Field had still not been replaced. Mrs Precious said that she would check that this was still the case and if so Mrs Wright agreed to report it to the Access Ranger.

(EP/JW)

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Nothing to report.

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

Health Care & Social Services

Mrs Lucas said that there was now allocated parking for community cars at Haywards Heath hospital.

HDALC

The date of the annual meeting of HDC and HALC is to be advised.

Village Hall

Nothing to report.

School Governors

Nothing to report.

Website

Nothing to report.

CLC

Nothing to report.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 10 September 2012.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.