

Cowfold Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 14 January 2013 in the Village Hall

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

Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor
Mr J Chowen – Horsham District Councillor
Public: 4
Press: 0

Sara Rudkin presented the drawings for the refurbishment of the Pavilion. These would now be sent to the Football Foundation for their comments.

1. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 December 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.

Councillors were reminded to complete their Register of Interests required for adding to the website and sending to HDC.

4. Matters Arising

Susan Whitehead said that she would ask Pete the Pond to assess the work required to tidy up the Acorn Avenue pond.

The HDC sweepers had now cleaned round the islands and removed the piles of rubbish that had been swept from the gutters.

A quotation had been received from Enterprise to repair the damage done to the Playing Field. It was agreed to accept the quotation of £540 excl. VAT. The work would be carried out following a prolonged dry spell.

Mrs Chamberlin said that she thought that St. Peter's Church had written to Cllr. Andrew Baldwin at HDC regarding the status of his action regarding the rubbish outside the Co-op store.

(1296)

Mrs Wright said that she would contact Cllr. Baldwin for an update on the situation.

(JW)

Mr Barnard said that that it was planned to paint a white line on the kerb side of Bolney road in an effort to direct traffic away from the side of the road.

Mr Barnard said that 270 square meters would need to be excavated and it was thought that installing grasscrete on the damaged verge in Thornden would interfere with BT cables and, therefore, it was intended to speak to the school travel advisor to try to find a solution to the problem. Mr Barnard was reminded that it was not just vehicles associated with the school that were causing the problem.

Due to heavy vehicles mounting the grass verge at the A281 end of Thornden, the verge had now disappeared and the road was cracking up. It was considered that the only way of solving this problem would be to widen this part of the road. Mr Barnard said that he would investigate the problem.

(LB)

Mrs Wright had spoken to HDC Planning Department regarding the cost of submitting a planning application for the flagpole. It would cost £192.50 and a location plan, site plan, photographs and confirmation of use would also be required. As a budget of up to £200 had been agreed for the purpose of installing a flagpole and it was likely to cost at least £400, it was decided not to go ahead with the project.

No response had been received regarding the blocked drain outside the Village Hall. No response had been received regarding the broken post, rail and tree. Mrs Wright agreed to contact WSCC and HDC again.

(JW)

Mrs Wright had responded to Tony Lea regarding speeding traffic on the A272 with the information he had requested.

Mrs Wright had sent a letter of thanks to Jenny Baldwin for the donation towards the skateboard park.

The leaves that had been blown into the road in Hanover Gardens had been cleared.

Mrs Wright had reported the blocked drain outside 18 Fairfield Cottages.

Mr Allmond had requested that something be done about the leaning lampposts in Fairfield Cottages and was told that they would be replaced within the next two years.

5. The Public

A Fairfield Cottages resident was concerned about the amount of vehicles ignoring the red traffic light in the centre of the village. This was not thought to be intentional, but it appears that a lot of drivers do not see it. This problem is a great concern especially as a lot of schoolchildren use the crossing on a daily basis. Mrs Wright agreed to contact the Police & Crime Commissioner asking for the problem to be assessed and something

done about it.

(JW)

The resident also informed the Council and invited them to attend a meeting that was being held at the school on 31 January 2013 at 7.30pm organised by some parents to discuss traffic problems in the village.

Mr Chamberlin again reported the blocked drain outside the Village Hall.

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Chowen reported on the following issues:

- Air Quality in Cowfold
- Housing Numbers Required in District
- Proposed Green Waste Charge
- Increased Car Parking Charges
- Ownership of Car Parks
- Green Space Strategy

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- Broadband
- Charter Regarding Using Local Suppliers
- Waste Problems
- Leaders’ Summit
- Shoreham Harbour Project
- Arts Budget.

8. Correspondence

James Josling, PCSO – Email asking what the Parish Council’s expectations were with regard to him attending Council meetings. It was agreed to ask James to attend a Council meeting in the near future to introduce himself, following which monthly reports would be useful unless there was a specific problem in which case he would be invited to attend a particular meeting.

(JW)

Angela Davey – Copy of a letter sent to WSCC regarding speeding traffic. Noted.

HDC Leisure – Copy of an email received from a Cowfold resident regarding the state of the Acorn Avenue play area. Mr Dittmer agreed to assess the area and report his findings at the next meeting.

(PD)

Ken Hall – Request to remove the “No Crematorium” banner. Concerns that the Football Club are not roping off only two sides of the pitch as agreed. Also concerns regarding the damage done to the Playing Field. It was agreed to speak to the Football Club about the roping off of the pitch. The banner has since been removed.

(JW)

West Sussex Rural Mobile Youth Trust – Letter thanking the Parish Council for its donation to the maintenance of the Purple Bus.

HDC – Assets of Community Value. Call for nominations of community assets. It was agreed to download the nomination forms from the HDC website with a view to nominating the village shop.

(JW)

Tom Warder. AiRS – Request to attend a meeting to speak about the proposed Alley Groves housing development and to carry out a Housing Needs Survey. It was agreed to carry out the survey and Tom Warder had been invited to attend the Planning Committee Meeting on Monday 21 January 2013. Mr Allmond requested that all Councillors attend if possible.

9. 2013/2014 Budget

A Finance Committee meeting was held on Thursday 21 December 2012 to discuss the 2013/2014 budget.

Mr Collins explained the proposed increases and it was agreed by all to request a precept of £35,415; an increase of 2.5% on the year 2012/2013.

10. Skateboard Park

Mr Chamberlin said that he was in the process of completing the planning application form. Once planning permission had been received funding avenues would be explored.

Saxon Weald has a community grant scheme specifically for young people's projects which could be investigated. Mrs Precious also said that she may have found another source of possible funding which she would pass to Mr Chamberlin.

11. Pavilion

The application form for Football Foundation funding had been completed as far as possible only requiring further information from the Football Club. It is intended to give this application together with a copy of the pavilion drawings to the Chairman of the Football Club for him to arrange a meeting with Kevin Tharme asking for his opinion on the possibility of funding from the Football Foundation.

12. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for January 2013.

Finance

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

Open Spaces

The earth had been washed away from the drain on the path to 1 Acorn Avenue. Mr Dittmer agreed to investigate and report on what needs to be done. (PD)

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

There were two broken signposts that had been reported to WSCC.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

It was reported that the Picts Lane road sign was broken. Mrs Wright agreed to ask HDC to repair it. (JW)

(1299)

Mrs Wright said that she would report the road that was breaking up on the A272 on the south side west of Brownings Farm.

(JW)

Streetlights

Mr Allmond said that he would report Streetlight No.3 which was not working.

(VA)

Health Care & Social Services

Nothing to report.

HDALC

The next HALC meeting will be held on Wednesday 23 January 2013 at Roffey Millennium Hall.

Village Hall

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 17 January 2013.

School Governors

Nothing to report.

Website

Mr Dittmer said that he would look into cheaper website hosting costs.

(PD)

CLC

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 6 March 2013.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 11 February 2013.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.