

Cowfold Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 8 July 2013 in the Village Hall

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

Mr R Clarke – Horsham District Councillor
Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor
Ms C Sparks – West Sussex County Council

Public: 2
Press: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Palling (JP) and Mr J Chamberlin (JC)

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 June 2013 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

With regard to the outstanding highways issues, Cali Sparks gave an update on their status as follows:

- Broken bollard at the junction of Oakfield Road and Bolney Road (A272). Bollards are now only being replaced if there is a safety issue.
- A272 Bolney Road – Narrow pavements and lack of kerb. Being inspected by a WSCC engineer.
- Blocked drain at Fairfield Cottages next to kissing gate to playing field. Passed to WSCC drainage team.
- Road flooding on A281 Henfield Road next to Village Hall. Photos to be taken when the problem occurs after rain.
- Tripping hazard on A281 Henfield Road pavement near bus shelter. Has been reported.
- Bollard outside Indian restaurant. Bollard has not been replaced but area tarmaced. To be assessed.
- Drains blocked on A281 between the Coach House roundabout and Thornden. Passed to WSCC drainage team.

- Grass verge, kerb and road east (A281) entrance to Thornden and grass verge west (A272) entrance to Thornden. Consultation with Thornden residents required outlining possible solutions and requesting comments and suggestions. Mr Allmond said that he would circulate the consultation paper to the residents of Thornden.
- Blocked drain opposite 20 Thornden. Passed to WSCC drainage team.
- Flooding on A272 next to field gate opposite Station Cottages. To be assessed.
- Grass Cutting. A map of the areas of grass cut by WSCC had been requested but to date had not been received. However, it was thought unlikely that the PC could get the work carried out for less than WSCC were paying. Cali Sparks said that she would send the information as soon as it was available.

(VA)

Mr Dittmer said that he would follow up on the letter sent to Saxon Weald requesting the grant to help with the refurbishment of the Acorn Avenue play area.

(PD)

Mr Dittmer had looked at the oak tree in need of attention in the corner of the playing field and it was determined that the tree belonged to Mr Tregear.

5. The Public

Mr Rolfe commented on the need for new chippings in the play area. Mrs Wright agreed to obtain quotes for chippings and Mr Dittmer said that he would rake over the chippings in the meantime.

(JW/PD)

It was agreed to go ahead with any repairs that were required in the play area.

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Clarke reported on the following issues:

- Attendance at the Scrutiny & Overview Committee meeting where the possibility of the closure of local police stations was discussed.
- Meeting with the new Community Youth Workers.
- Finding Out Centre – Drop-in centre for school children.

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- Possible closure of police stations
- Fire & Rescue matters
- 75th anniversary of Durrington library.
- Waste portfolio meeting
- Shoreham Harbour Leaders Board
- Brighton & Hove City Deal
- Trading Standards problems
- Meeting to discuss the possible new housing site at Mayfield to be held at Shermanbury on Monday 29 July 2013.

Cali Sparks was keen to discuss the WSCC Winter Maintenance Plan 2013/14. A request to Parish Councils to produce a plan was supposed to have been sent in June 2013; however, the first indication of this request was the receipt of a request from Horsham District Council on 8 July 2013. The date for plans to be submitted is 1 August 2013 and cannot be extended.

Due to the lack of time, it was agreed not to submit a detailed plan for 2013/14 but to indicate on a map, the areas where deliveries of grit should be made. It was thought that the three areas for deliveries, which would be between September and October, should be the school, the doctors' surgery and the coach park. Mrs Precious said that she would ask at the school if they were happy to store a bag of grit and Mrs Chamberlin said that she would ask at the surgery.

(EP/MC)

WSCC would pay £35 per hour for a contractor to clear snow, however, they would have to carry public liability insurance of £5M and the routes required to be cleared would need to be approved by WSCC.

Mrs Wright agreed to speak to Colin Broucke to ask for any information he could offer on suitable contractors etc.

(JW)

Cali Sparks informed Members of the Operation Watershed scheme which was a fund to address flooding and drainage problems. £8.25M had been made available, £7M of which was specifically for large scale projects, leaving £1.25M which could be applied for by Parish Councils and Community Groups. Expressions of interest would be required initially.

With regard to the speeding problem in the village Cali Sparks had produced some village gateway information and said that the next available date for speed loops to be installed would be September. It was agreed that digital copies of the map, gateway information and speed loop information be sent by email which could then be forwarded to the Safer Roads Committee.

8. Correspondence

Shermanbury Parish Council – Request for the PC's opinion on the Neighbourhood Plan requirement. It was agreed that for a Parish the size of Cowfold it would be a waste of money.

West Sussex Mediation Service – Donation thank you letter. Noted.

St Peter's Church – Donation thank you letter. Noted.

HDC – Winter Maintenance Plan 2013/14. Discussed under County Councillor Report.

HDC – Licencing Policy. Noted.

9. Website

As Mr Dittmer had left the meeting, it was agreed that this item should be put on the next Agenda.

10. Skateboard Park

Nothing to report.

11. Pavilion

Now that the plans had been finalised, further estimates of costing were required. More information should be available by the next Council meeting.

Mrs Precious said that £950 profit had been made from the fete café and wished to thank all who had contributed.

12. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for July 2013.

Finance

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

Open Spaces

The top of the low fence near to the play area had been loosened. It was agreed to ask Shaun Stevens to repair it.

(JW)

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

It was reported that the bridle path signpost just past the Union Jack Farm shop was broken. Mrs Wright agreed to report the problem to WSCC.

(JW)

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

It was reported that the Cowfold road sign had still not been replaced on the A272. Mrs Wright agreed to ask for it to be replaced.

(JW)

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

Health Care & Social Services

Nothing to report.

HDALC

Nothing to report.

Village Hall

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18 July 2013.

School Governors

Nothing to report.

Website

Nothing to report.

CLC

Nothing to report.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 12 August 2013.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.