

Cowfold Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 12 August 2013 in the Village Hall

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

Mr J Chowen – Horsham District Councillor
Mr R Clarke – Horsham District Councillor
Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor

Jim Stobart – Road Safety/ ASD Co-ordinator - Operation Crackdown

Public: 3
Press: 0

Jim Stobart made a presentation on the new and improved Operation Crackdown website where anyone can report incidents of anti-social driving. The website address is www.operationcrackdown.org and the telephone number is 01243 64 22 22.

1. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 July 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 problems in Thornden, Mr Allmond had circulated the consultation paper to all residents of Thornden. Out of the 38 papers delivered, 20 responses had been received. Mr Barnard said that he would look at the responses and decide on the most likely solutions.

(LB)

Mrs Wright had met with Sue Tew of Saxon Weald to discuss possible grants. Sue had said that as she thought that the grant already received for the Skateboard Park should be used by the end of the year it would probably be possible to use the grant to assist with the refurbishment of the Acorn Avenue play area and that the Parish Council could apply for a further grant for the Skateboard Park when enough funds had been raised to build it.

(1323)

It was agreed that the Parish Council would make a contribution to the refurbishment and Mr Dittmer said that he would produce a plan and cost estimates within £4,000 if possible.

(PD)

Mrs Wright had contacted Horsham District Council for information on the amount of wood chip recommended for play areas. They said that the wood chip needed to be at least 100mm deep for insurance purposes. An estimate had been received from AHS Ltd based on an approximate measurement of 8m x 15m of £675. Mrs Wright agreed to measure the area exactly and ask for an accurate quotation and to ask if the Scouts would be interested in spreading the wood chip once it had been received.

(JW)

With regard to the amount of grit required to be delivered, Mrs Wright had requested two bags, one for the coach park area and one for the school. It was agreed to contact Horsham District Council to enquire about supply of grit bins and spreaders.

(JW)

A response had been received from Colin Broucke to the request for information on contractors or farmers that would be will to help with snow clearing. Colin said that he should be able to organise help in the local area but the Parish Council would have to designate the areas of concern. He said that he was currently trying to compile a list of people licenced and insured to carry out the type of work required.

Mrs Chamberlin said that she would head up a working group to produce a winter maintenance plan for 2014/15. Mr Collins and Mrs Precious offered to be members of the working group. Mrs Wright said that she would send the information received from WSCC to the group members.

(JW)

Shaun Stevens had repaired the fence near to the play area.

The broken bridal path signpost just past the Union Jack Farm shop had been reported to WSCC who said that as Cowfold's inspection had already been carried out it would have to wait until the next one unless an emergency occurred in that area. Mrs Precious said that previous problems reported had not been dealt with and said that she would send a list to Mrs Wright to discuss with WSCC.

(EP/JW)

Mrs Wright had reported the missing Cowfold road sign to WSCC again.

5. The Public

Mr Rolfe said that the Lollipop Lady had asked if the posts between Yew Tree Close and the Co-op store could be reinstated due to the problems occurring with vehicles being parked on the pavement. It was agreed to contact WSCC regarding the problem.

(JW)

Mr Rolfe said that there were still holes round the manhole cover on the playing field opposite Mercers Mead. Mr Dittmer agreed to look at the problem.

(PD)

Mr Rolfe also said that he had had to clear up a lot of rubbish left by the ladies football team using the field for a match at the weekend. Mrs Wright said that she would speak to Anthony Parsons about it.

(JW)

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Clarke reported on the following issues:

- Planning Framework Strategy Consultation.
- Council Tax Benefit System

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- Mortuary Briefing
- Requirement for additional savings of £20M
- Meeting with Fire & Rescue Chief Officer
- Attendance at Brighton & Hove Pride 2013
- Proposed Second Runway for Gawick Airport

Mr Barnard thanked Mr Chamberlin for the photographs indicating the flooding problem outside the Village Hall and suggested that he apply for funding from the WSCC Operation Watershed scheme.

Mr Barnard also said that road widening in Bolney Road was being considered and a VAS combined with a change in speed limit was also under consideration.

8. Correspondence

Sue Pumphrey – Mid Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Information on a vacancy for a Lay Member to join CCG's Governing Body leading on Patient and Public Engagement and to Chair the Commissioning Patient Reference Group. Noted.

Julie Stretch – Children & Family Centre. Request to advertise on the Parish Council Website and to put banners on the Village Hall railings. It was agreed to put the information on the website and to ask Julie to contact the Village Hall Management Committee with regard to the banners.

HDC – Post Office Community Enterprise Fund. Mrs Precious said that Ros at the Post Office was looking at this information with a view to entering the competition.

St Catherine's Hospice – Information on the New Horizons Appeal Autumn Gift Fair. It was agreed to advertise this event on the Parish Council website.

9. Website

Mr Dittmer having looked at the website was of the opinion that its functionality was acceptable. Mr Allmond and Mr Dittmer agreed to meet to make necessary amendments to the site following which Mr Dittmer agreed to improve the overall appearance.

(VA/PD)

10. Skateboard Park

Nothing to report.

11. Pavilion

It was confirmed that planning permission would be required for the amended plans which were currently being looked at with regard to a possible plumbing problem.

12. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for August 2013.

Finance

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

Open Spaces

Mr Dittmer was concerned about holes and ruts on the playing field and said that he would fill them with soil.

(PD)

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Nothing further to report.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Mrs Lucas said that the hedge at the Post office Twitten was in need of cutting back. Mrs Wright said that she would contact Saxon Weald.

(JW)

Mrs Wright said that she would write to the residents of 10 and 12 Thornden asking them to cut back the vegetation which was obstructing the pathway.

(JW)

Mrs Wright said that she would report the broken bollard outside the Co-op to WSCC.

(JW)

Mrs Wright said that she would ask BT to fix the loose inspection cover next to the island opposite the Mercers Mead Twitten on the A272.

(JW)

Streetlights

Mr Allmond said that he would report the light outside the Co-op that was reported to be leaning.

Health Care & Social Services

Nothing to report.

HDALC

Nothing to report.

Village Hall

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17 October 2013.

School Governors

Nothing to report.

Website

Nothing to report.

CLC

Nothing to report.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 9 September 2013.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.