

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 9 September 2013 in the Village Hall

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

Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor

Public: 5

Press: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Chowen (JC) and Mr R Clarke (RC).

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 August 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 and Mr Barnard had arranged to meet on Wednesday 11 September to discuss the options available to resolve the issues.

Mr Dittmer had asked two suppliers for quotations to refurbish the Acorn Avenue play area and they were due to visit the area in the week beginning Monday 16 September.

Mrs Wright had accurately measured the play area which is actually 17m x 14m and, therefore, the amount of wood chip required was considerably more than the original estimate based on an area of 15m x 8m. It was agreed by all to order the required amount at a cost of around £1100.00.

Following Mr Chowen's comments regarding the availability of grit bins and spreaders from HDC, Mrs Wright had enquired about them. However, to get the equipment the Parish Council would have to use its Section 106 money which has been earmarked for the new Pavilion. It was agreed to find out the cost of purchasing bins and spreaders. (JW)

Mrs Wright had forwarded the information from WSCC regarding a Winter Maintenance Plan to Mrs Chamberlin, Mr Collins and Mrs Precious.

Mrs Precious had not yet made a list of footpath work still to be carried out. (EP)

Mrs Wright had been told that an order had been raised for the posts to be reinstated between Yew Tree Close and the Co-op store.

Mr Dittmer said that he would finish filling in the holes round the manhole cover on the playing field at the weekend.

(PD)

Mrs Wright had contacted Anthony Parsons regarding the rubbish left on the playing field by the ladies football team.

A meeting had been arranged between Mr Allmond, Mr Dittmer and Mr Tickner for Tuesday 10 September to discuss the website.

Mr Dittmer had not yet filled in the ruts on the playing field.

(PD)

Mrs Wright contacted Saxon Weald asking for the hedge and the Post Office Twitten to be cut back and it was reported that this work had now been carried out.

Mrs Wright had written to No's 10 and 12 Thornden asking for them to cut back their vegetation. It was reported that No.10 had carried out the work. However, the owner of No.12 had phoned to say that the vegetation was not his responsibility and that WSCC had always done it. Mrs Wright contacted WSCC and asked them to confirm whose responsibility it was. No confirmation had been received to date.

Mrs Wright had contacted WSCC regarding the broken bollard outside the Co-op and an order had been raised to carry out this work.

Mrs Wright had asked BT to fix the loose inspection cover next to the island opposite Mercers Mead Twitten on the A272.

5. The Public

Mr Rolfe asked if it could be arranged for HDC to disinfect the kicking wall and surrounding areas which had been missed when they last visited.

(JW)

Three Henfield Road residents were in attendance to express their concerns regarding the unauthorised development at Bridge Garage. Mr Allmond said that he would write to our two District Councillors, Jonathan Chowen and Roger Clarke, and ask them to find out whether the enforcement notice raised in February 2012 had actually been issued to cease unauthorised action and why this process was taking so long.

(VA)

Mr and Mrs Chamberlin expressed concern regarding the drainage work being carried out in The Street and the fact that no-one had been consulted. It was agreed to write to WSCC to ask why the Church and the Parish Council had not been consulted and exactly what was being done and what was to be reinstated. Mr Barnard suggested that the correspondence be addressed to Geoff Lowry.

(JW)

Mr Chamberlin said that nothing had been done regarding the raised cover near the

hairdressers and no response had been received following an application under the Operation Watershed Scheme to rectify the flooding problem outside the Village Hall. Mr Barnard said that he would look into both issues.

(LB)

6. District Councillor Report

Nothing to report.

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- Fracking
- WSCC Budget Cuts
- Haywards Heath Fire and Rescue
- Meeting with Cowfold Safer Roads Committee

8. Correspondence

Rachel Detnon – Complaint regarding Clark’s Cranes. Being dealt with.

April Andrews. Information on wooden bollards for consideration when discussing the problems in Thornden. For discussion at planned meeting with Mr Barnard.

Kate Wydra (via Mrs Chamberlin) – Concerns regarding overgrown vegetation on the pavement between The Red House and The Vicarage in Horsham Road. Mrs Wright agreed to report the problem to WSCC Highways.

Rosemary Pugh, WSCC – Information on the launch of the new West Sussex Highways website. Noted.

HDC – Horsham District Planning Framework: Preferred Strategy Consultation. Noted.

(JW)

9. Website

Nothing further to report.

10. Skateboard Park

Nothing to report.

11. Pavilion

The latest estimate for the Pavilion building work was now in the region of £230k.

Funding was now being sourced for the additional cost. It was confirmed that the new plan would require planning permission.

12. Representatives’ Reports

Planning

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for September 2013.

Finance

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

Open Spaces

Complaints had been received from residents of Fairfield Cottages following the football match on Saturday 7 September with regard to the ball being kicked over the hedge

hitting vehicles and landing in gardens. The complaints also included the use of bad language and that a hole had now been made in the hedge for the retrieval of the ball. It was agreed to write to the Football Club. Mr Allmond said that he would meet with Anthony Parsons to discuss the problems if necessary.

(JW)

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Nothing further to report.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Mrs Lucas said that the drain on the east side of the road to the north of the gate to the playing field had still not been cleared. Mrs Wright said that she would asked WSCC Highways to look at it.

(JW)

Unlawful parking in Alley Groves and at the entrance to Holm Oaks from the A272 was reported. It was agreed to inform James Josling (PCSO) and ask him to investigate the problem.

(JW)

Streetlights

Mr Allmond said that he had been told that the light outside the Co-op that was reported to be leaning was currently work in progress.

Health Care & Social Services

Nothing to report.

HDALC

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 16 September 2013 at Southwater. Due to this meeting taking place, the Planning Committee meeting will not take place and will be held instead on Monday 23 September 2013.

Village Hall

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

School Governors

Mrs Precious said that 14 children had started in Reception Class and 3 children in other classes throughout the school.

The St Peter's school road safety posters had still not been returned and Mr Palling and Mr Dittmer had not yet seen them. Mrs Chamberlin said that she would ask Justin if he still had them and if so to pass them on.

(MC)

Website

Nothing to report.

CLC

The next CLC meeting is to be held on Wednesday 11 September 2013 at Partridge Green.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 14 October 2013.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.