

Cowfold Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 14 October 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 L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor
Mr J Chowen – Horsham District Councillor
Mr R Clarke – Horsham District Councillor

Public: 7
Press: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Palling (JP).

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 September 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

Mrs Wright had sourced the cost of grit bins and it was agreed to purchase two at a cost of £170 each. (JW)

There now were no footpath issues to report.

Mr Dittmer had filled in the holes round the manhole cover on the playing field but the ruts still needed to be dealt with. (PD)

The Pavilion area had been disinfected.

Mr Allmond had contacted the two District Councillors regarding the Bridge Garage and a planning application had now been received for consideration.

Mrs Wright had written to Geoff Lowry with regard to the recent drainage work that had been carried out and an apology had been received. However, in the correspondence received it mentioned that WSCC were now working with the church architect. Mrs Chamberlin said that the architect had not yet been contacted. Mrs Wright said that she would inform Geoff Lowry of this. (JW)

Mr Barnard thought that Mr Chamberlin had been contacted with regard to his expression of interest to apply for funding from the Operation Watershed Scheme to fix the flooding problem outside the Village Hall. However, the correct email address had not been used and, therefore, Mr Barnard said that he would make sure that the response was resent sent to Mr Chamberlin. He also said that he would try to confirm ownership of the cover near the hairdressers that was in need of attention.

(LB)

The overgrown vegetation on the pavement between The Red House and The Vicarage in Horsham Road had been reported to WSCC.

Mr Allmond had met with Anthony Parsons to discuss the problem with swearing and the ball going over the hedge and landing in resident's gardens. With regard to the swearing, although the referee does tell the players before a match to curb their language, unfortunately, no other action can be taken. With reference to the ball going over the hedge, Anthony said that ball stop netting could be purchased which would solve the problem. This idea was on the Agenda to be discussed separately.

Mrs Wright had been asked by Tim Boxall, WSCC to send a photograph of the blocked drain in Fairfield Cottages.

(JW)

Mrs Wright had contacted James Josling (PCSO) regarding illegal parking in Alley Groves and the entrance to Holm Oaks from the A272. James said that he had visited both locations on three consecutive nights and had not seen any of the offending vehicles. He said that he would continue to monitor the situation but also suggested that if residents see the vehicles that they contact Horsham District Community Wardens who are able to issue parking tickets and work until 22.00hrs and/or Operation Crackdown.

The St Peter's School posters had still not been located. Mrs Chamberlin said that she would ask Justin Chamberlin exactly where he delivered them.

(MC)

5. The Public

Mr Rolfe said that the streetlights from St Peter's Close to the Bridge Garage on the A281 and the one at the entrance to Barleycroft were not working properly. Mr Allmond said that he would report the faults.

(VA)

Four young people from the village enquired about the progress of a skateboard park. It was agreed to find out the cost of extending the current basketball area and discuss further at the next meeting. Mrs Chamberlin said that she would ask Justin Chamberlin to email the information to Mrs Wright.

(MC)

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Chowen reported on the status of the air quality problem.

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- A27 Traffic Problems
- Lack of Mortuary Space
- Interauthority Waste Group
- WSCC Required Cost Savings

8. Correspondence

Bryony Clarke – Heritage at Risk Register. A request for comment on the importance of St Peter's Church and the Blue Idol Quaker Meeting House. Mrs Chamberlin agreed to consider responding with regard to the church and Mrs Wright agreed to inform Bryony Clarke that the Blue Idol Quaker Meeting House was in Coneyhurst and not Cowfold.

(MC/JW)

Sussex Police – Local Area Update. Noted.

Susannah Engelmann – Copy of an email to Southern Water complaining over a 'beeping' noise coming from the sewage works for the past 18 months. It was agreed to write to Southern Water in support of the complaint and also to suggest that Susannah contacts the West Sussex County Times on the subject.

(JW)

Central and South Sussex CAB – Request for Donation. It was agreed not to make a donation at this time.

SALC – Notification of AGM and Conference to be held on Thursday 7 November 2013 at the Amex Community Stadium. Noted.

9. Football Stop Net

To prevent the football going over the hedge into resident's gardens, possibly causing damage to property, Anthony Parson had requested a quotation for ball stop netting to be installed which would be removed at the end of each season and asked if the Parish Council would fund it. As this would be for the benefit of affected residents, it was agreed to accept the quotation provided confirmation was received from the Football Club that they would retrospectively apply for a grant from the CLC to recover part of the cost. The cost of the complete works including clearing all rubbish is £816.67 excl. VAT

(JW)

Anthony Parsons had also said that the Football Club was thinking of installing underground lighting cables. Mr Allmond had said that they should write to the Parish Council detailing the project so that the request could be considered.

10. Skateboard Park

Nothing further to report.

11. Pavilion

It was reported that the current plans were to be submitted to Horsham District Council for approval.

12. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for October 2013.

Finance

Mr Collins asked for any requirements to be considered for inclusion in the 2014/15 budget be submitted before the next meeting.

(ALL)

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

Open Spaces

Mr Dittmer tabled an estimate to refurbish the Acorn Avenue play area from North Park Farm Ltd. A further quotation was expected. It was agreed to ask Shaun Stevens to submit a quotation for fencing the pond area.

(JW)

As it had been agreed that the grant from Saxon Weald towards a skateboard park was to be used to help refurbish the play area, it was agreed to ask if it would be possible to award another grant to assist with both projects.

(JW)

Ellen Barker had asked if it would be possible to display temporary road safety posters made by the Scouts for one of their badges throughout the village. No objections were raised to this request provided that they were removed as soon as they were looking scruffy.

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Nothing further to report.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Mr Collins said that there was a tree between 48 and 50 Acorn Avenue that was in need of some attention but it was not clear who owns the land that it is sited on. Mrs Wright said that she would ask WSCC if it was their responsibility.

(JW)

It was reported that there was a problem with drivers thinking that the drop in the kerb outside Splodge Clocks where the area had been tarmacked was an entrance into the car park. Mrs Wright said that she would speak to WSCC about it.

(JW)

It was also reported that the pears that had fallen from the tree onto the pavement outside 3 Yew Tree Cottages could cause an accident. Mrs Wright agreed to speak to WSCC regarding this problem as well.

Streetlights

(JW)

Mr Allmond said that he would report all faults that had been mentioned.

Health Care & Social Services

(VA)

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

The next CLC meeting is to be held on Wednesday 4 December 2013.

Mr Allmond said that he had attended an initial Rampion Offshore Liaison Group meeting. The next meeting was to be held on Monday 4 November 2013. A letter asking all residents of Wineham Lane who may be affected if they would like to be kept informed had been sent, however, no responses had been received.

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

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.