

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 11 November 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

Public: 3
Press: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Clarke (RC).

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 October 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 purchased two grit bins. It was agreed to install one where the portable WC used to be and the other at St Peter's school in a place to be agreed with the Headmaster.

Mr Dittmer has still to fill the ruts in on the playing field.

(PD)

Mrs Wright had written to Geoff Lowry regarding the lack of communication between the church architect and WSCC. A response had been received to say that a meeting had taken place between the church architect and the HDC Conservation Officer on 21 October 2013.

Mr Chamberlin had now applied for a grant on behalf of the Parish Council from Operation Watershed to fix the flooding problem outside the Village Hall.

Although the overgrown vegetation on the pavement between The Red House and The Vicarage in Horsham Road had been reported to WSCC nothing had yet been done about it. Mr Barnard said that he would investigate.

(LB)

With regard to sending a photo of the blocked drain in Fairfield Cottages to Tim Boxall, it appears that we no longer have Tim as the Officer dealing with Highways issues. Mrs

Wright complained to Mr Barnard regarding the present situation and lack of service from WSCC Highways and he said that he would look into the problem. (LB)

The St Peter's School posters had still not been located. Mrs Chamberlin said that Justin said that he had delivered them to a house in Bulls Lane. However, this was not Jonathan Palling's house and as there are only two properties in the Lane, Mrs Wright was asked to find out who lived in the other one. (JW)

Mr Allmond had reported the faulty streetlights from St Peter's Close to the Bridge Garage on the A281 and the one at the entrance to Barleycroft.

Mr John Chamberlin had the plan for the proposed skateboard park and said that he would speak to a contractor to find out how much it would cost to extend the basketball area.

A comment had been sent to Bryony Clarke with regard to the Heritage at Risk Register on behalf of the church. Mrs Wright had also informed her that the Blue Idol Quaker Meeting House was located in Coneyhurst and not Cowfold.

The Football Club had confirmed that they would apply for a grant from the CLC to recover part of the cost of installing ball stop netting.

Mrs Wright had contacted Southern Water in support of Susannah Engelmann's complaint regarding the 'beeping' noise coming from the sewage works and was told that a formal response would be received by 15 November 2013.

Mr Dittmer had sent a request to be considered for inclusion in the 2014/15 budget to Mr Collins.

A quotation for new fencing at the Acorn Avenue pond area was awaited from Shaun Stevens.

Mrs Wright had contacted Saxon Weald regarding the possibility of a further grant for the refurbishment of the Acorn Avenue play area and was told that the request would be looked upon favourably.

WSCC had sent a map indicating that the tree in need of attention between No's 48 and 50 Acorn Avenue was not their responsibility. It was agreed to ask Shaun Stevens to carry out the work on the tree and another one near No.70 Acorn Avenue (JW)

The 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 had been

reported to WSCC but not response had yet been received.

The problem of the pears that had fallen from the tree onto the pavement outside 3 Yew Tree Cottages had been reported to WSCC but had since been cleared.

5. The Public

Mr Rolfe said that the tree at the Scout Hut was split and in need of attention and a bough needed to be removed from the tree near to the youth shelter. It was agreed to ask Dave Ford to see what work needed to be carried out.

(JW)

Mr Rolfe also reported the broken bollard opposite the Still Rooms. Mrs Wright agreed to report the problem to WSCC.

(JW)

Mr Rolfe said that the holes round the manhole cover on the playing field had reappeared. Mr Dittmer said that he would look at the problem.

(PD)

An Alley Groves resident asked about the status of the proposed Saxon Weald housing development. It was agreed to contact Saxon Weald for an update.

(JW)

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Chowen reported on the following issues:

- Broadbridge Heath Project
- HDC Budgetting

Mr Chowen strongly advised the Parish Council to produce a neighbourhood plan and it was agreed to discuss the subject as an Agenda item at the next Council meeting. Mrs Wright also agreed to contact SALC to ask their opinion on how much a plan would cost to produce.

(JW)

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- A272 Road Improvement for Cowfold
- Fire Service Strikes
- A27 Improvements
- Fracking
- SALC Conference

8. Correspondence

Justin Chamberlin – Resignation from the Parish Council. Noted.

Lisa Hawtin, HDC – Draft Air Quality Action Plan. To be circulated.

David Shackleton – Asking about replacement for PCSO James Josling and attaching the latest Sussex Police monthly update. Mr Allmond asked for any future updates to be circulated to all Members.

David Precious – Application for approval for underground lighting cables to be laid on the playing field. It was agreed to ask to see the plan. Mrs Wright also agreed to contact Roy Holden to ask about the cable that used to be connected to the Scout Hut. (JW)

HDC – Information on Oil Clubs. To be put on the website.

War Memorial Trust – Information on grants for the refurbishment of war memorials and registration of war memorials. Given to Mrs Chamberlin.

WSSCC – Proposed Modifications to the Submission West Sussex Waste Local Plan. Noted.

AON – Insurance Policy Guidelines for Snow Clearance, Salting and Gritting. Noted.

Mig Cutbush – Reporting a pole that had been installed in Station Road. It was agreed to contact HDC Planning Department to ask if planning permission had been applied for. (JW)

West Sussex Rural Mobile Youth Trust – Copy of Report and Accounts for 1 April 2012 to 2013 and request for donation towards the cost of running the Purple Bus. It was agreed to donate £200.

9. Skateboard Park

Nothing further to report.

10. Pavilion

It was reported that the planning application was currently being prepared for submission to HDC.

11. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for November 2013.

Finance

Mr Collins said that he would arrange a Finance meeting for some time in the middle of December 2013 to discuss the 2014 budget.

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

Open Spaces

Mr Dittmer had received a request for consideration to be given to enforce 30 minute waiting in the lay-by near to the Post Office to stop vehicles parking there all day. This area is owned by WSSCC and therefore, not something that the Parish Council would be able to consider.

Pond Warden

'Pete the Pond' had sent a message asking for an update on the Acorn Avenue pond. It was agreed to ask him to look at the Pond to see if any work was required. (JW)

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Mrs Chamberlin reported two dead trees on the A272 in the field past the playing field on the A272. It was agreed to contact WSCC to determine ownership of the trees.

(JW)

Streetlights

Mr Allmond said that he would report the faulty streetlights at the end of Mercers Mead and outside Fair Oaks.

(VA)

Health Care & Social Services

Nothing to report.

HDALC

Nothing to report.

Village Hall

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16 January 2014.

School Governors

Nothing to report.

Website

Nothing to report.

CLC

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

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

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.