

## **Cowfold Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 9 December 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 L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor  
Mr R Clarke – Horsham District Councillor

Public: 3  
Press: 0

#### **1. Apologies**

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

#### **2. Approval of the Minutes**

Apart from the following amendment, the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 November 2013 were agreed by all as a true and correct record.

Item 4. Matters Arising, Para.2: 'Mr Dittmer has still to fill the ruts in on the playing field', should read 'Mr Dittmer said that he would revisit the problem with the ruts on the playing field after rain to determine how much they had been evened out'.

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest with regard to any item on the Agenda.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

Mr Dittmer had inspected the ruts on the playing field and the situation had improved. It was, therefore, agreed to ask the Football Club if they would roll the area next time they rolled the football pitch. (PD)

With regard to outstanding highways problems and the recent lack of service from WSCC Highways, Mrs Wright felt that now that Tim Boxall has returned as the Officer responsible for Cowfold, the situation would improve.

As the St Peter's School posters had still not been located, it was agreed to award vouchers to each of the children who had produced the posters that had been identified by the school as being the best. Mrs Precious said that she would ask for the names of the winning artists from the five classes and the Parish Council agreed to purchase book tokens to the value of £10.00 each. (EP/JW)

Mrs Wright had asked Shaun Stevens to prune the tree between No.48 and 50 Acorn Avenue and also the tree near No.70.

A quotation had been received to carry out necessary work on the two Oak trees each end of the Scout Hut and to remove the large branch that had broken off from the Field Maple between the play area and the road. It was agreed to have all the work undertaken at a cost of £1,245.00 excl.VAT.

The broken bollard opposite the Still Rooms had been reported to WSCC.

Mr Dittmer had looked at the manhole cover on the playing field and could not see a problem with it. Mr Rolfe said that he would show Mr Dittmer what he considered to be the problem.

(PD)

Mrs Wright had spoken to Tom Warder at AiRS who said that Saxon Weald would be submitting a planning application to develop the land at the top of Alley Groves in the New Year.

Mrs Wright had contacted SALC to ask their opinion on how much it would cost to produce a Neighbourhood Plan but unfortunately no information was available.

Mrs Wright had contacted Roy Holden to ask for information on the underground electricity cable on the Playing Field. Roy said that the cable ran from the basketball area to the Scout Hut but did not know whether or not it was still connected.

Mrs Wright had contacted HDC Planning department to ask if the pole that had appeared in Station Road had been granted planning permission. The Officer said that he would look into it but no information had been received to date. As it was thought to be a WSCC issue, it was agreed to let Mr Barnard know the exact location of the pole and he would investigate.

(LB)

Mrs Wright had asked 'Pete the Pond' to carry out an assessment of the pond and let us know if any work needed to be done.

It had been determined that the two dead trees on the A272 in the field past the playing field were owned by Mr Tregear. Tim Boxall had also been notified of the problem and it was being dealt with by WSCC.

Mr Allmond had reported the faulty streetlights reported at the last meeting, however, apparently the one opposite Mercers Mead and the one in the middle of the road had still not been fixed. Mr Allmond said that he would report the problems again.

(VA)

## **5. The Public**

Mr Rolfe reported overgrown vegetation at the back of two Elm Grove Cottages. It was agreed to write to the occupants of the properties asking them to cut back the vegetation which was obstructing Church Path.

(JW)

A Thornden resident was concerned that still nothing was being done by WSCC about the problems with grass verges etc. in Thornden. As Mr Barnard had no further information on the subject she said that she would write directly to Cali Sparks at WSCC who was supposed to dealing with the problem.

Mr Rolfe asked if the post between Yew Tree Close and the Co-op was being replaced. Mrs Wright said that it had been reported to WSCC.

Mr Rolfe also asked if anyone would be liaising with the young people regarding the Skateboard Park now that Mr Chamberlin had resigned. Mr Allmond said that the young people had been asked to attend Council meetings to keep things moving.

Mr Chamberlin said that his application for funding from Operation Watershed was progressing.

Mr Chamberlin said that dog fouling was still a major problem and had got particularly bad on the grass verge outside the Village Hall. He said that he would speak to the dog trainer to ask her to remind her clients to clean up after their dogs in case it was a problem from owners attending training classes.

## **6. District Councillor Report**

Mr Clarke reported on the following issues:

- HDC Preferred Planning Strategy
- HDC Restructure
- Car Park Review

## **7. County Councillor Report**

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- E-books to be held by all libraries
- SE7 Activities
- Tell Us Once Scheme
- Fire Service Strikes
- A272 Road Widening Scheme

## **8. Correspondence**

*Lisa Hawtin, HDC* – Air Quality Action Plan Public Consultation. It was agreed to ask for an exhibition to be held in the Village Hall.

*HDC* – Notification of the Horsham District Bus Partnership Meeting to be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at HDC's Offices commencing at 11a.m. Noted.

*WSCC* – Notice of road closure at Worthing Road, West Grinstead. Noted.

*HDC* – Offer of sandbags. Noted.

(VA)

## **9. Skateboard Park**

Mr Chamberlin was currently requesting quotations to extend the basketball area.

## **10 Neighbourhood Plan**

Following considerable discussion, it was agreed to discuss the subject again at the February Council meeting.

## **11. A272 Road Improvements**

It was agreed to confirm to WSCC that the Parish Council would be willing to give up a strip of up to 3 metres of land from the footpath onto the playing field stretching from the Scout Hut to the public car park for the purpose of moving the road over to accommodate a wider footpath. However, this offer is subject to the Parish Council being consulted on the plans before any work was undertaken.

(JW)

## **12. Pavilion**

Nothing to report.

## **13. Representatives' Reports**

### **Planning**

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for December 2013.

### **Finance**

Mr Chamberlin asked if the Parish Council would pay for the Christmas tree lights. It was agreed to fund the lights at a cost of £99.98.

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

### **Open Spaces**

Nothing to report.

### **Pond Warden**

Nothing to report.

### **Footpaths**

Nothing to report.

### **Allotments**

Nothing to report.

### **Roads & Transport**

Nothing to report.

### **Streetlights**

Nothing further to report.

### **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**

Nothing to report.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 13 January 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.