

Cowfold Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13 January 2014 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) Mr J Palling (JP)
 Mrs M Chamberlin (MC) Mrs J Wright (JW) (Clerk)

Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor
Mr R Clarke – Horsham District Councillor
Mr J Chowen – Horsham District Councillor
Public: 2
Press: 0

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 December 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

Mr Dittmer said that he had emailed Clive Newman to ask if the Football Club would arrange to have the area on the playing field where the ruts had been a problem rolled next time the football pitch was rolled.

Mrs Precious was still to attempt to find out the names of the children whose road safety posters were considered to be the best. (EP)

Mr Dittmer was still to find out from Mr Rolfe what the problem is with the manhole cover on the playing field. (PD)

Mr Barnard said that he had been informed that the post that had appeared in Station Road was an Automatic Number Plate Recognition device.

Mr Allmond had reported the faulty streetlight problems reported at the last meeting.

Mrs Wright had written to No.1a Elm Grove asking them to cut back the vegetation from Church Path.

Mr Allmond had asked for an exhibition to be held in the Village Hall on the subject of the Air Quality Action Plan.

Mrs Wright had contacted Cali Sparks on the subject of the A272 road improvements and had a response indicating that no work was likely to take place before 2016/17 and could be later that 2017/18.

5. The Public

A Fairfield Cottages resident raised concerns regarding the proposed development of the Coach House site with regard to how the proposal would affect resident's privacy. Mr Allmond explained the planning process and the Parish Council's involvement in that process and also reported on the conversation that had taken place with the developers. However, as no planning application had been submitted to Horsham District Council to date, no further comment could be made.

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Clarke and Mr Chowen reported on the following issues:

- Refusal of Planning Permission for a Crematorium at West Grinstead.
- HDC Planning Department Restructure
- HDC Budget

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- Budget Savings
- Arrangements for an alternative to Chief Executive

8. Correspondence

West Sussex Rural Mobile Youth Trust – Donation thank you letter.

Ed Dickinson, WSCC – Rural Team information. Noted.

GACC – Request for GACC subscription. It was agreed not to renew the subscription.

9. Skateboard Park

Mr Chamberlin had spoken to a contractor regarding extending the basketball area but it was currently too wet to carry out any work. However, the area would be surveyed and a quotation submitted shortly.

10 . Budget 2014/15

Mr Collins presented the suggested 2014/15 budget. It was proposed to increase the Precept by 2% to take account of inflation. The budget was agreed by all and a Precept of £36,124.00 will be applied for.

11. Pavilion

Mrs Wright said that the planning information had now been completed and submission to Horsham District Council was imminent.

12. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for January 2013.

Finance

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

Open Spaces

Mr Dittmer commented on the state of the playing field and suggested laying some paths of hardcore and wood chips in the high traffic areas. It was agreed to wait until the field had dried out before making a decision.

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Mrs Wright agreed to speak to Tim Boxall regarding the state of the grass verge near Mercers Mead on the A272 that had been driven over.

(JW)

Mr Chamberlin had received no response from WSCC regarding the flooding outside the Village Hall. Mrs Wright said that she would speak to Tim Boxall about it.

(JW)

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

Health Care & Social Services

Nothing to report.

HDALC

The next meeting is to be held in Wednesday 22 January 2014 at Mannings Heath Village Hall.

Village Hall

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16 January 2014 and the AGM has been provisionally booked for Thursday 27 February 2014.

School Governors

Nothing to report.

Website

Nothing to report.

Mr Dittmer said that he had developed a Facebook page for the Council. There was some discussion regarding the worth of a Facebook page and the administration of it. Mr Dittmer was asked to prepare a presentation for the next meeting under an Agenda item.

(PD)

CLC

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 5 March 2014 at The Steyning Centre.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 10 January 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.