

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 10 February 2014 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr V Allmond (VA) (Chairman) Mrs E Precious (EP)
Mrs S Lucas (SL) Mr P Dittmer (PD)
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: 7
Press: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr C Collins (CC) and Mr J Palling (JP).

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 January 2014 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 Precious had found out the names of 4 of the 5 winners of the safety poster competition. Mrs Wright said that she would now purchase 5 book tokens to the value of £10 each.

(JW)

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

(PD)

Mrs Wright had sent photographs of the damaged grass verges near to Mercers Mead to Tim Boxall and he said that he would arrange for verge markers to be installed.

Mrs Wright also spoke to Tim Boxall regarding the lack of response from Mr Chamberlin's application for funding for solving the flooding problem outside the Village Hall. Tim Boxall raised the subject with Mr Barnard who said that the application was to be considered this month.

5. The Public

A Thornden resident once again raised concerns about the verges in Thornden and the unsatisfactory way that the problem is being dealt with by WSCC. Mr Barnard said that Cali Sparks was in the process of raising funds to resolve the problem. However, Mrs Wright said that receiving no feedback from Cali Sparks was unreasonable and that Tim

Boxall had arranged for work to be done at the A281 end of Thornden on safety grounds.

Residents of Fairfield Cottages asked questions regarding any updates available regarding the proposed housing development at the Coach House.

They also raised concerns regarding accidents that could occur at the site caused by the way that HGV's were accessing the area from the A281. Mrs Wright agreed to contact Evolve and ask them to deal with the problem.

(JW)

One of the residents asked for a copy of the latest Housing Needs Survey and Mrs Wright agreed to email it to her.

(JW)

Mr Rolfe wanted to know how many parking spaces have been proposed for the site. This was not clear at the present time but would become clear once the planning application had been submitted.

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Clarke and Mr Chowen reported on the following issues:

- Attendance at a seminar to discuss the Ambulance Service response times and the work of the Sussex Air Ambulance and First Responders.
- Possible new Housing Strategy.

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- Budget Savings
- Fire & Rescue Oversight Group
- Flooding in Arundel
- Henfield Surgery Visit

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9. Skateboard Park

The ground was still too waterlogged to carry out any work on the basketball area.

10. Facebook

Mr Dittmer made a presentation on the pros and cons of developing a Facebook page. After some discussion on the subject it was agreed not to go ahead with this project but instead to ask Dr Neil Williams who had expressed an interest in looking to improve the Parish Council website to now look at ways of improving it.

11. Neighbourhood Plan/HDPF Alternative Strategy

Mr Chowen said that he would ask a member of staff from HDC to come to the

March Council meeting to speak about the necessity for a Neighbourhood Plan.

With regard to the HDPF Alternative Strategy, all voted in favour of opposing the contents on the grounds that it suggests building 500 houses in Cowfold over the next 20 years with no mention of essential infrastructure improvements.

12. Pavilion

The planning application is currently under consideration by Horsham District Council.

An email had been received from Mr & Mrs Precious as part of the fundraising group, suggesting that a wider formal Village Pavilion Renovation Committee be set up to include the current fundraising group and the rest of the Committee to include volunteers from the main interest Groups i.e Cowfold Parish Council, Cowfold Football Club, The Welcome Club, The Fete Committee, the Village Hall and a village resident.

This was generally considered to be a good idea and Mrs Precious said that Mr Precious would be willing to write to the various organisations asking for a volunteer from each.

13. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for February 2014.

Finance

Mrs Wright said that she had received notification from Saxon Weald that the grant to assist with the refurbishment of the Acorn Avenue Play Area would be transferred to the Parish Council bank account within the next two weeks.

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

Open Spaces

Mrs Wright was concerned that no action was being taken with regard to the play area inspection reports from HDC. It was agreed to obtain quotations for the repairs to be carried out.

(JW)

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

It was reported that both sides of the road were breaking up in Picts Lane. Mrs Wright said that she would speak to Tim Boxall and ask him to investigate the problem.

(JW)

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

Health Care & Social Services

Nothing to report.

HDALC

Mr Allmond and Mrs Lucas had attended the meeting held on Wednesday 22 January 2014 at Mannings Heath Village Hall.

Village Hall

The AGM is to be held on Thursday 27 February 2014.

School Governors

Mrs Precious said that the school wished to raise the profile of the swimming pool throughout the village. They are suggesting that a Committee is formed to meet once a year to discuss any swimming pool issues and were looking for volunteers to join the Committee.

Website

Nothing to report.

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 March 2014 and the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 17 March 2014 in the Pavilion commencing at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.