

## Cowfold Parish Council

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

**Present:** Mr V Allmond (VA) (Chairman)                      Mr P Carugati (PC)  
Mrs S Lucas (SL)    Ms A Walker (AW)  
Mrs M Chamberlin (MC)    Mrs E Precious (EP)  
Mr C Collins (CC)    Mrs J Wright (JW) (Clerk)

Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor

Public: 11

Press: 0

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Clarke (RC) and Mr J Chowen (JC).

#### 2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 October 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

No information from Mr Chowen regarding the SHLAA discrepancies had yet been received.

(JC)

An order had been issued to carry out the necessary work on the tree at the end of Fairfield Cottages which was obscuring the view of the main road.

Mrs Wright had contacted the owners of the Chalet Café regarding the removal of their sign which was damaged and it had now been removed and replaced with a new one.

Mrs Wright had tried to arrange a public meeting on the subject of Neighbourhood Planning, however, Laura Bourke, the Officer at HDC responsible was not able to speak on the subject until the end of November or some time in December. Available dates are now awaited.

Mr Carugati said that he had told Robin Lackford to contact WSCC regarding acquiring a licence to sponsor the verge outside Cobwebs.

A litter bin had been put back outside the old Co-op site.

(1389)

Mrs Wright had spoken to Tim Boxall regarding the timing of the traffic lights and he agreed that there was a problem and had asked for them to be changed.

## **5. The Public**

A member of the public asked if an additional dog bin could be sited in Henfield Road near to the doctor's surgery. It was agreed to investigate the cost of this.

(JW)

It was reported that the diversion signs had still not been removed. Mrs Wright said that she had received a copy of an email from The Highways Agency to WSCC Highways stating that the signs would be removed when the work on the A23 had been completed which was scheduled for the end of November 2014.

It was reported that some of the gutters in the village had not been cleared. Mrs Wright said that she would contact HDC.

(JW)

Although the situation of the buses leaving their engines running outside Godmans Court had improved, there had been a couple of instances of late which had been reported to the HDC Air Quality Officer

It was reported that the gate at the Scout Hut had still not been repaired. Mrs Wright said that it should have been done and asked Mr Twitchen to email her if it still had not been.

It was reported that there were loose drain covers in Bolney Road. Mrs Wright said that she would report the problem to WSCC Highways.

(JW)

## **District Councillor Report**

Nothing to report.

## **7. County Councillor Report**

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- Available Operation Watershed and CLC Funds
- SALC/WSCC Event
- Gatwick noise problems
- Henfield Day Centre

## **8. Correspondence**

*David Precious* – Christmas Day act of remembrance football match information. To be put on the website.

*Michael Tuckwell, Nuthurst PC* – Request to attend a joint meeting to be set up regarding articulated lorry traffic activity through the villages. It was agreed that the Parish Council would be interested in sending a representative.

*Jan Case* - Request to use the Parish Council's public liability insurance for the planting of poppy seeds by St Peter's school pupils. It was agreed that the school's insurance should be used ideally, but if for any reason this was not possible, the Parish Council

would require to seek confirmation that its insurance would cover the activity.  
*Neal Twitchen* – Information relating to traffic cones left in Fairfield Cottages following resurfacing work. Mrs Wright agreed to ask Tim Boxall, WSCC if they were required to be collected or if they could be given to the Social Committee for use at the village fete.

(JW)

## **9. Public Toilets**

Following the concerns of a couple of residents who attended the last Council meeting regarding the lack of public toilets in the village, Mr Allmond had requested three quotations for the installation of an automatic toilet. Two quotations had been received, one at £72,500 and one at £47,000. This sort of cost could double the annual precept which would in turn increase Council Tax. It was explained that the reasons for the closure of the toilets attached to the Pavilion was due to the loss of funding from WSCC, vandalism and cottaging.

Horsham District Council had decided some time ago to close the majority of their public toilets in the district. An automatic unit had been installed in Cowfold but due to the lack of use it had been removed as it was too expensive for them to maintain.

Considerable discussion took place on the subject resulting in Mr Marsden, who was of the opinion that the lack of public toilets was a health hazard, offering to investigate the issue from a public health perspective and to find out how the installation of an automatic toilet could be funded.

It was agreed to leave the item on the Agenda to be discussed at the next Council meeting.

## **10. Skateboard Park**

Mr Chamberlin said that it was unlikely that the basketball area could be extended for less than £7,500 mainly due to the cost of materials.

## **11. Pavilion**

Mr Allmond had received a quotation from a quantity surveyor which would be discussed at the next meeting of the Pavilion Renovation Committee.

An expression of interest request had been produced and a cost of £192.50 excl. VAT had been quoted for it to be inserted in the West Sussex County Times. As the invitation to tender process was thought to be onerous, Mrs Wright said that she would look at the regulations to make sure that they were followed. The cost of £192.50 for the advertisement was agreed to if it was found to be necessary.

(JW)

## **12. Representatives' Reports**

### **Planning**

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for November 2014.

### **Finance**

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

Mr Collins said that the finance meeting to agree the budget for 2015/16 would be held in the middle of December and asked for any requests to be considered for inclusion to be available by the date of the next Council meeting.

### **Open Spaces**

Mrs Chamberlin asked if the licence was still valid for the Parish Council to maintain the area of verge outside the Lychgate as it was now overgrown and in need of attention. Mrs Wright said that she would ask Tim Boxall if the licence was valid and to check to see if the area forms part of the contract with Enterprise and if not to find out the cost of adding it to the contract.

(JW)

### **Pond Warden**

Mrs Wright read the report that had been sent by 'Pete the Pond' on the status of the Acorn Avenue pond. It was agreed to accept the quote attached to the report for maintenance at a cost of £900.

(JW)

### **Footpaths**

Nothing to report.

### **Allotments**

Nothing to report.

### **Roads & Transport**

Nothing further to report.

### **Streetlights**

Mr Allmond said that he would report the faulty streetlight outside 8 Acorn Avenue.

(VA)

### **Health Care & Social Services**

Mr Carugati said that the Message in a Bottle Scheme was now up and running. It was agreed to include information on the scheme on the website.

### **HDALC**

The next meeting which is the annual meeting of HDC and HALC is to be held on Tuesday 11 November 2014.

### **Village Hall**

Mrs Lucas said that at the last meeting, plans for the refurbishment of the Village Hall were discussed.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 15 January 2015.

### **School Governors**

Mrs Precious said that St Peter's School was celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **Website**

Nothing to report.

### **CLC**

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 26 November 2014.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8 December 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.