

Cowfold Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 10 March 2014 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr V Allmond (VA) (Chairman) Mrs E Precious (EP)
 Mrs S Lucas (SL) Mr C Collins (CC)
 Mr J Palling (JP) Mrs J Wright (JW) (Clerk)

Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor
Mr J Chowen – Horsham District Councillor
Ms. L Bourke – Neighbourhood Planning Officer
Public: 4
Press: 0

Laura Bourke presented an Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning in Horsham District Council.

It was agreed to discuss this issue again at the April Council meeting under an Agenda item.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs M Chamberlin (MC) and Mr R Clarke (RC).

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 February 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 Wright had purchased 5 x £10 Book Tokens to be given to the winners of the Road Safety Poster competition.

It was agreed to ask Shaun Stevens to carry out the required work to the manhole cover of the Playing Field. (JW)

A response had been received from D&S Safety Services addressing the concern that an accident could occur from the manner in which HGV's were accessing the Coach House site from the A281.

The latest Housing Needs Survey had been sent to Lynne Sorrell as requested.

Three quotations had been requested with regard to the work required to be carried out to the play equipment. Only one had been received and it was agreed to accept the quotation which was from RJ Playground Services Limited at a cost of £685.00 excl.VAT. (JW)

Tim Boxall was aware that the road had broken up on both sides of Picts Lane. Mrs Wright had also emailed Highways to report it.

5. The Public

Mr Rolfe reported on the potholes on Brownings Hill and the trees in the centre of the A272 opposite the school that were in need of attention. Mrs Wright said that she would contact WSCC Highways.

(JW)

Mr Chamberlin reported on the potholes in Wineham Lane at the junction of the A272, south of the old police house in Henfield road and in St Peter's Close. Mrs Wright said that she would report these problems to Highways.

(JW)

Mr Chamberlin asked when the money would be available from the Operation Watershed scheme to repair the flooding problem outside the Village Hall. Mr Barnard said that there had been a hold up but hopefully the funds would be available shortly.

Residents of Fairfield Cottages were in attendance for an update on the expected Coach House development and to raise concerns regarding the fence along the Twitten at Viscount House which was considered to be in danger of falling. It was agreed to contact the owner of Viscount House to ask for the fence to be secured.

(JW)

Mr Chowen asked if the notice regarding no entry to the A23 at Handcross was still relevant as it was still in place. Mrs Wright said she would contact the Highways Agency and ask them to remove it.

(JW)

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Chowen reported on the following issues:

- Saxon Weald Open Day in the Village Hall on Friday 28 March 2014 between 3.00pm and 7.00pm (proposed new development at the top of Alley Groves)
- Council Tax freeze
- Preferred New Housing Strategy
- Broadbridge Heath Development.
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Mr Allmond asked what was happening regarding the Air Quality problem in Cowfold. Mr Chowen said that he would find out.

(JC)

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- Economic Review
- Visit to Police & Crime Commissioner regarding new Chief Constable
- Broadband.

8. Correspondence

Neil Williams – Request to spend £9.98 on opening a second web hosting account with 1 & 1 to populate the new WordPress website. This was agreed by all.

Cowfold Horticultural Society - Request for donation for summer planting in the village. It was agreed to donate £300.

Laura Bourke, HDC – Introduction as the new Neighbourhood Planning Officer for HDC.

9. Skateboard Park

Nothing to report.

10. Pavilion

An email had been received from David Precious advising of the progress that had been made in forming the Cowfold Pavilion Renovation Committee which would comprise of representatives from organisations in the village. The inaugural meeting was planned to take place on Monday 24 March in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

David also requested a budget of £500 for any initial expenditure. It was agreed to transfer the budget already set aside for this year to the Bank of Ireland account.

11. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for March 2014.

Finance

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

Open Spaces

Mrs Wright said that she had arranged for a large branch to be removed from one of the trees by the Scout Hut as it was in danger of falling on the building.

Pond Warden

Mrs Wright read a report from 'Pete the Pond' on the state of the pond. Nothing needed to be done at present.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Nothing to report.

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

Health Care & Social Services

Nothing to report.

HDALC

Nothing to report.

Village Hall

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 24 April 2014.

School Governors

Mrs Precious asked what was happening regarding the filling of the grit bins. Mrs Wright said that she had been informed that because the bins were not on land owned by WSCC they were not prepared to fill them for free. It was agreed to ask WSCC to fill them at a cost of £80 each for this year only.

(JW)

Website

Mr Allmond said that he had seen a mock-up of the new website built by Neil Williams and suggested that it should be adopted. It was expected that the website would be up and running within the next two months.

CLC

It was reported that the Football Club were successful with their application for a ball stop net and were awarded £600 towards the cost.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 14 April 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.