

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13 October 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 J Palling (JP) Mrs J Wright (JW) (Clerk)

Mr J Chowen – Horsham District Councillor
Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor
Public: 9
Co-op Representatives: 2
Press: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Clarke (RC) and Mr C Collins (CC).

2. Approval of the Minutes

Apart from the following amendment, the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 September 2014 were agreed by all as a true and correct record:

Page 4, 9 Traffic Problems at the Co-op, Para.3 should read: 'Mr Carugati had spoken to Jackie Evans a Co-op call centre operator with a view to arranging a meeting with the Area Manager.'

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Matters Arising

Mrs Wright had spoken to Mr Rooney's PA regarding the fence at the Post Office Twitten and had been told that someone had been to investigate the problem but as the problem had not been fixed would ask them to visit again.

Mr Chowen said that he would find out about the SHLAA discrepancies.

(JC)

Mr Carugati said that the defibrillator had now been transferred to the new Co-op store site.

Mr Carugati and Ms Walker had attended the meeting of the inter parish group which had been set up to discuss the proposed Mayfield development; however, the meeting mainly concentrated on the various parishes Neighbourhood Plans.

Mrs Wright was awaiting a quotation for the wood chippings for the play area.

Mrs Wright had not been able to see a problem with Rowan trees at the end of Fairfield Cottages obscuring the view of the road. However, it was agreed to ask Horsham District Council to inspect the trees.

(JW)

Stagecoach bus company had agreed to find out what driver was leaving the engine running outside Godmans Court for longer than the regulation one minute and tell them to stop doing it.

The PCSO said that the motorcycle noise and speeding problems were currently being monitored.

A list of permitted recycling items had been put on the website as requested.

Mr Barnard had investigated the problem with overgrown brambles on Brook Hill and they had now been cleared.

Mr Carugati had met with the Co-op Area Manager.

Mr Carugati said that the Fete Committee had agreed to donate a sum of £200 towards the Skateboard Park.

Mrs Wright had found the agreement between the Village Hall Trustees and the Parish Council dated 8 February 1993 which shows that the Village Hall Trustees are responsible for maintaining the Pavilion.

As someone had driven through the fence holding the Cowfold Safer Roads Committee banner, there was no need to ask them to reattach it to make it look more tidy.

'Pete the Pond' had been in contact to say that he would be inspecting the Acorn Avenue Pond shortly and would produce a report of any required maintenance.

Mrs Wright had asked for the traffic islands to be cleared of rubbish and the request had been passed to the HDC Street Cleaning Team.

Mr Allmond had reported the faulty streetlight in the Acorn Avenue play area and the light in Alley Groves that was being obscured by vegetation.

5. The Public

The Co-op Area Manager and the local store Manager were in attendance and, therefore, most of the public in attendance were concerned with the problems at the new Co-op site which included the following:

- removal of hedge to increase visibility and expose the ATM area
- possibility of opening the side door to reduce the possibility of accidents from using the unpaved area at the front of the store
- possibility of installing bollards at the front of the store
- possibility of increasing the width of the entrance to the car park to allow vehicles to enter and exit at the same time
- increase the size of the car park to relieve congestion
- more sympathetic signs as the site is in a conservation area

The Co-op Area Manager made notes on all the issues that were raised and said that he would be acting on them. He also said that he would be attending future Council meetings to report on any actions that had been taken to eliminate the current problems.

Two residents raised concerns regarding the lack of public toilets in the village and it was agreed to discuss this topic as an Agenda item at the next meeting.

It was reported that the Chalet Café sign was in need of attention and it was agreed to contact the owner to ask him to attend to it.

(JW)

District Councillor Report

Mr Chowen reported on the following issues:

- Alley Groves Housing Development Application (November Planning Committee)
- HDC Development Plan
- Amalgamation of HDC Offices
- Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre
- Major redevelopment of Southwater Country Park

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- Heritage Coaches decision (No verdict to date)
- Boundary revision of County seats
- Henfield Adult Centre
- Fracking

8. Correspondence

James Stobart – Notification of the link to the new “dashboard” for interrogating the data that Operation Crackdown received. <http://dashboard.sussexsrp.org.uk/>. Noted.
Charlene Parsons, PCSO – October report. Noted.

9. Neighbourhood Planning Public Meeting Date

Following the public planning seminar that had taken place recently where a few residents were keen to find out more about Neighbourhood Planning it was agreed to arrange a public meeting to which representatives from Horsham District Council and Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS) would be invited to speak on the subject. Mrs Wright said that she would arrange a meeting to be held in the Village Hall in November.

(JW)

10. Skateboard Park

A quotation to extend the basketball area was awaited

Unfortunately, the Co-op grant scheme was currently closed for review. However, the Co-op Area Manager said that it may still be possible to obtain a grant. He also said that he may be able to hold fundraising events in the store in aid of the new Skateboard Park.

11. Pavilion

The Building Regulation drawings had now been received and it was agreed to hold a Pavilion Renovation Committee meeting to discuss the tendering process.

12. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Allmond read the Planning Report for October 2014.

Finance

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

Open Spaces

Mr Carugati said that he had received a request from Robin Lackford to sponsor the verge outside Cobwebs. As the area is owned by WSCC Mr Carugati was asked to tell Robin to contact WSCC Highways as he would require a licence.

(PC)

Mrs Chamberlin asked if a litter bin could be put back outside the old Co-op site at the end of the church path. Mrs Wright said that she would contact HDC and ask if this would be possible.

(JW)

Pond Warden

Nothing further to report.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Mr Carugati said that he had spoken to the Highways Agency who had said that the diversion signs would be removed soon after the A23 work is completed.

It was reported that the traffic lights only stayed on red for 7 seconds which did not appear to be sufficient time for pedestrians to cross the road. It was agreed to speak to Tim Boxall about traffic lights timings.

(JW)

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

Health Care & Social Services

Nothing to report.

HDALC

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

Village Hall

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 16 October 2014.

School Governors

Nothing to report.

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 10 November 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.