

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 14 December 2015 in the Village Hall

Present:

Mr J Palling (JP) (Chairman)	Mrs G Martin (GM)
Mr C Collins (CC)	Mr B Martin (BM)
Mrs E Precious (EP)	Ms S Awcock (SA)
Mr S Clarke (SC)	Mrs J Wright (JW) (Clerk)
Mr T Clary	

Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor

Mr J Chowen – Horsham District Councillor

Public: 3

Press: 0

Members of the Cowfold Safer Roads Committee

Following further investigation the Cowfold Safer Roads Committee confirmed that the cost of installing a VAS would be £8,000 and, therefore, would not be affordable as the only funds available currently amounted to £3,000. Several alternatives were discussed and on the recommendation of Mr Barnard, it was agreed that the Committee would initially contact Dean Wadey at WSCC to discuss the best way forward.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Clarke.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 November 2015 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 Collins had investigated the possibility of covering the damaged glass panels of the bus shelter and suggested using Perspex photo panels at a cost of around £300. Mr Collins said that he would ask for a quotation.

(CC)

Mrs Wright had spoken to Adam Draycott at HDC who said that Lisa Hawtin the officer responsible for the Air Quality Monitoring programme had left and her replacement was awaited. A Steering Committee had been set up involving officers from WSCC; however, no meetings had taken place to date. The current lack of action was considered to be unacceptable and Mr Chowen said that he would get the latest information on the subject from those responsible at HDC. It was agreed to locate a solicitor who

(1445)

specialises in this type of work with a view to contacting them if no positive solution to the problem was found in the very near future.

(JC/JW)

Mr Clarke had visited the Play Area, had taken photographs and made a list of repairs and updating required. It was agreed to ask Shaun Stevens for a quotation to repair the damage to the wire fence, the kick boards and the post. It was also agreed to contact R J Playground Services for a quotation to repaint and refurbish the play equipment.

(JW)

With regard to Village Recovery Co-ordination Plans, Mrs Martin had spoken to Tony Skelding at HDC who offered to attend a Council meeting to speak on the subject. Mrs Wright said that she would invite him to the February Council meeting to be held on Monday 8 February 2015.

(JW)

It was agreed to accept Shaun Stevens' quotation to repair the fence on Acorn Avenue Kicking Field at a cost of £190.

5. The Public

There were no questions from the public.

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Chowen reported on the following issues:

- Horsham District Planning Framework
- Devolution
- HDC Budget

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- FGM Ban
- Henfield Haven

8. Correspondence

A message had been received from a Thornden resident with concerns about the parking in the road. Mrs Wright had responded to the message saying that kerb parking was not illegal, however, if any vehicles were causing an obstruction or visibility problem, then details should be recorded and reported to Operation Crackdown, the contact details of which were given to the resident.

9. Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Clarke intended to hold a Neighbourhood Planning meeting for all interested parties in the Reading Room of the Village Hall on Monday 18 January 2016 between 7.00pm and 9.00pm.

10. Skateboard Park

Mr Chamberlin had sent a message stating that the grind rails will be installed before

Christmas. An estimate for the ramps was awaited and Mr Chamberlin had arranged a meeting with the pre-fabricator.

Mrs Martin said that HDC were promoting their mobile skateboard park. It was agreed to book the facility for some time in the Easter holidays.

(JW)

11. Pavilion

A meeting of the Cowfold Pavilion Renovation Committee had taken place prior to the Council meeting. The Committee were currently in the process of examining quotations received from the Building Surveyor and the Quantity Surveyor. Further investigation into these costs was required and it was intended to present these costs for approval by the Parish Council at the January 2016 meeting.

16. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Collins read the Planning Report for November 2015.

Finance

Mr Collins had distributed a copy of the proposed Budget for 2016/17 which had been prepared following the Finance Committee meeting held on Wednesday 9 December 2015. It was agreed to discuss any suggestions for projects that may be funded in the financial year 2016/17 at the next Council meeting.

Mrs Wright reported that the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is working with other organisations and authorities to establish a 'sector led body' to procure audit for smaller authorities for the 2017/18 financial year. The new body will be responsible for procuring audit services for smaller authorities and the management of the audit contracts for a period of five years. It was agreed to appoint auditors through a 'sector led body' thereby agreeing to become an opted in authority.

Open Spaces

Mrs Wright had received a quotation to cut back the overgrown vegetation on the Acorn Avenue Kicking Field at a cost of £450.00. It was agreed to accept this quotation.

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

It was reported that a road sign opposite the Care Home was lying on the ground. Mrs Wright said that she would report this to WSCC Highways.

(JW)

Parking on the grass verge opposite the Co-op and on the corner of Thornden were considered to be a real problem and it was suggested that posts or a post and rail fence should be installed. Mrs Wright said that she would speak to WSCC Highways for their comments on these suggestions. However, as no action on outstanding issues had been taken by WSCC and no notification had been received on when the work would be undertaken, Mr Palling agreed to contact Tony Steer, Chairman of Bolney Parish Council

who had also encountered problems with WSCC Highways to get his views on the way forward.

(JW/JP)

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

HALC

Mr Martin reported on the HALC meeting he had recently attended.

Village Hall

Nothing to report.

Website

Nothing to report.

CLC

Nothing to report.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 11 January 2016**.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.