Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 8 February 2016 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr J Palling (JP) (Chairman) Mrs G Martin (GM)

Mr S Clark (SC) Mr B Martin (BM)

Mr T Clary Mrs J Wright (JW) (Clerk)

Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor Mr J Chowen – Horsham District Councillor Tony Skelding – Horsham District Council

Public: 2 Press: 0

Tony Skelding explained the Village Recovery Co-ordination Planning process. Mr and Mrs Martin volunteered to formulate a plan for Cowfold.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Clarke, Mr C Collins and Mrs E Precious.

2. Approval of the Minutes

With the exception of the following amendment, the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 January 2016 were agreed by all as a true and correct record:

Item 14 Representatives' Reports, Finance: Add "It was agreed to table updated costs against budget information on a quarterly basis".

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Matters Arising

As Mr Collins was not in attendance, no further information on the cost of photo panels to be installed in the bus shelter was available.

(CC)

Mrs Wright had contacted Wellers Headleys solicitors with regard to the air pollution problem and had received a response stating that the initial work associated with looking at the draft action plan was anticipated to take around two hours at a cost of £195 excluding VAT per hour, with additional costs being incurred if a letter to Horsham District Council was deemed necessary. It was agreed not to take this course of action but to write an official letter to Horsham District Council. Mr Chowen was asked to find out if the new member of staff responsible for the air pollution problem was now in post.

(JW/JC)

Mrs Wright had again reported the road sign lying on the ground, the potholes in St Peter's Close and the blocked drains in Horsham Road to Highways. A response had been received stating that the blocked drains and gullies had been logged for

cleaning, the road sign would be investigated and an order had been raised to fill the pot hole in St Peter's Close. Mr Chamberlin said that there was more than one pot hole in the Close.

Mr Palling had also met with Chris Stark and Lionel Barnard to discuss the safety issues associated with the road outside the Co-op store. Chris Stark said that he was aiming for installation of the planters for the 25th or 26th of February but this was still subject to final confirmation for the traffic management arrangements. With regard to the rest of the footway, Chris confirmed that he would need to undertake a closer site inspection for installation of bollards due to the proximity of underground BT cables along that section of road and would arrange for an officer to visit the site in the following week. As no information had been received on this visit, Mr Palling said that he would find out if this inspection had taken place.

(JP)

With reference to the repainting of the road markings at the roundabouts, Chris said that he would look to schedule the work at a time when it can be achieved with minimal disruption to traffic and would ideally be carried out as evening/night work and at a time when the weather is neither wet or cold.

The Public

Mr Chamberlin said that he had surveys carried out on the Village Hall and Pavilion and that there were new tenants in the Village Hall flat.

Mr Rolfe commented that in his opinion the air pollution monitor was a waste of money.

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Chowen reported on the following issues:

- Horsham District Planning Framework
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- HDC Budget Cuts
- Council Tax
- Parking Charges
- Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre
- Devolution

Mr Chowen agreed to find out what the current situation was with regard to the proposed closure of the swimming club at Lower Beeding.

(JC)

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- Certificate of Achievement Presentation
- Fire & Rescue Services changes
- Boundary Commission
- Chichester By-pass
- Operation Watershed

8. Correspondence

C Brewer – Request for information on the use of the Scout Hut. Complaint regarding overgrown vegetation along Church Path and request for additional dog bins and no fouling signs.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting between representatives of the Parish Council and Scouts to discuss the use of the Scout Hut.

(JW)

Mrs Wright said that she would investigate the overgrown vegetation problem.

(JW)

The ongoing dog fouling problem was discussed and it was pointed out that Horsham District Council had refused to empty bins from the back of the field and that the Parish Council was already paying £81.44 per month for dog bin emptying. Dog fouling was a major problem throughout the village but it was not considered that additional no fouling signs were much of a deterrent.

9. Vehicle Activated Sign

Since the last meeting when the Parish Council agreed to fund the shortfall of the purchase of a VAS, the Safer Roads Committee had met and decided that for various reasons, gates maybe a more viable option for the village and had carried out a public vote on the subject. The current results were 67% in favour of gates and 33% in favour of a VAS. It was agreed to ask the Committee to let the Parish Council know when they had reached a decision on the subject.

(JW)

10. Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Clark updated the meeting on the progress being made with regard to producing a Neighbourhood Plan. Although nobody turned up to the recent meeting, Mr Clark had been liaising with Horsham District Council on the subject of registration and grants available. It was agreed that initially, Mr Clark would complete and submit the registration form. Mr Clary said that he would assist Mr Clark.

(SC/TC)

It was agreed to fund the cost of a boundary map at a cost of £20.00.

11. Skateboard Park

Nothing to report.

12. Play Area Makeover

It was agreed to accept the quotation from R J Playground Services Limited at a cost of £1790.00 excl.VAT to repaint the play equipment in the play area and jet wash the surface in the toddler area. With regard to the rest of the surface it was agreed to obtain a cost of installing additional wood chippings.

(JW)

13. Village Volunteers

Mrs Precious had asked for this item to be put on the Agenda. As she was not in attendance it was agreed to keep it on the Agenda to be discussed at the March Council

meeting

14. Pavilion

Nothing further to report.

15. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Nothing to report.

Finance

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

It was agreed to add a permanent Accounts item to the Agenda to follow Correspondence.

Open Spaces

Nothing to report.

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

It was reported that the footpath behind Little Brook was overgrown. Mr Clark said that he would find out which footpath it was so that Mrs Wright could report it to WSCC.

(SC/JW)

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Nothing to report.

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

HALC

The Minutes from the recent HALC meeting had been circulated to all Members.

Village Hall

Mrs Martin had attended the Village Hall Management Committee meeting and said that she would circulate a copy of the Minutes to all.

Mrs Martin also said that she had asked for separate accounts for the Pavilion and had been told that they were currently being prepared.

The AGM will be held on Thursday 25 February 2016.

Website

Nothing to report.

CLC

Nothing to report.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 14 March 2016**.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.