

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 14 November 2016 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr J Palling (JP) Mrs S Parsons (SP)
Mr C Collins (CC) Mrs M Cutbush (MG)
Mr S Clark (SC) Mrs R Detnon (RD) – Co-opted
Mr T Clary (TC) Mrs J Wright (JW) (Clerk)

Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor
Public: 2
Press: 0
Presenter: Mr Adam Bunce – 2020 Consultancy

Adam Bunce had been invited to the meeting following an email he had sent outlining his company's services with regard to highways and transport planning support. Following his presentation it was agreed to produce a list of current highways/transport issues to include the air pollution problem with a view to identifying projects that 2020 Consultancy may be able to assist with.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs E Precious, Mr B Martin, Mrs G Martin and Mr R Clarke.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 October 2016 were agreed by all as a true and correct record.

3. Co-option of New Councillor

All voted in favour of co-opting Mrs Rachel Detnon onto the Parish Council. Rachel was welcomed as a new Councillor and joined the meeting.

4. Declarations of Interest

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

5. Matters Arising

Shaun Stevens had been asked to repair the retaining board between the two play areas on the playing field.

Mrs Wright had not been able to speak to the Manager of the Co-op with regard to rubbish being swept onto the footpath; however, the area had been recently cleared of litter and leaves.

Mrs Wright had researched the regulations with regard to the size restrictions of articulated lorries and the required road layouts to accommodate them and had concluded that confirmation is required from Highways (Traffic Section) that the mini-

roundabout designs were based on the turning requirements in TD 16/07. The design also needs to be reviewed to see if any modifications can be made to reduce the potential problem of over-running on the pavement at the junction. However, as it is an A road, it is inconceivable that restrictions will be placed on the use of the route by large articulated lorries.

Mrs Wright had spoken to David Sheldon from Horsham Matters with reference to his request with regard to information on youth provision in Cowfold and Emma Edwards will be attending the December Council meeting to speak about Horsham Matters community youth work initiative.

Adam Bunce had been invited to attend a Parish Council meeting.

The Home Start information had been put onto the website.

A response to the unsatisfactory report produced by HDC following a meeting with them to discuss the future of the Cowfold car park had been sent. On 11 November 2016 a letter had been received outlining recommendations for the future of the district's rural car parks to be taken to their Cabinet meeting on 24 November 2016. It was agreed to write to both Jonathan Chowen and Roger Clarke asking them to reject the current proposals on the following grounds:

- The proposal was only received on 11 November 2016 leaving very little time to review its implications fully.
- The item is due to be discussed at the HDC/HALC Annual meeting on Monday 21 November 2016 and is an opportunity for all rural village Parish Councils to consider and consolidate views. This leaves only two days to update the proposals before it is taken to the Cabinet meeting.
- The proposal is completely different to that discussed at the site meeting held in September.
- The Parish Council's response to the HDC report has been completely ignored and was not even acknowledged.
- The proposal does not contain all of the figures and information required to make a proper decision on the best way forward. The Parish Council expected full transparency on the capital and on-going maintenance costs, none of which have been included.

(JW)

Mr Barnard said that other Parish Councils were not happy with the situation and asked for all correspondence with HDC to be forwarded to him.

An advertisement asking for a volunteer to join the Neighbourhood Planning Committee to look after the finances had been put onto the website.

Part of the Pavilion floor had been exposed for inspection and this had taken place.

6. The Public

Mr Berry was still concerned that the Co-op were not making an effort to ensure that the outside area and the building itself were kept clean, tidy and maintained. It was agreed to invite the Manager and Area Manager to the December meeting to discuss all outstanding issues.

(JW)

Mr Berry said that the outside area of Palmerston House was still in need of attention.

7. District Councillor Report

Nothing to report.

8. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following:

- Attendance at a Standards Committee Hearing
- Approval of 280 Immigrants from France into West Sussex

Mr Barnard said that other Parish Councils had benefited from inviting Chris Stark from Highways to a Council meeting to discuss outstanding highways issues. It was agreed to invite Chris to a future Cowfold Parish Council meeting.

(JW)

9. Correspondence

Horsham District Council: Rural Car Parking Arrangements for Horsham District Council Car Parks. Discussed under Item 5.

PCC of Cowfold: Request for an increased donation to assist with the shortfall in funds to maintain the churchyard. It was agreed to discuss this request at the Finance Committee meeting in December 2016.

Mandi Lines, Aspirations Dance - Information on problems encountered recently with access to the Village Hall. Kay Blackwell had already apologised on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee for the inconvenience. Mrs Wright had also responded with information and rules regarding current arrangements for hiring the Scout Hut.

Home Start – Request for donation. It was agreed not to donate but to put the information onto the website.

10. Accounts

Nothing to report.

11. Cowfold Air Quality

Mr Clark had circulated the Cowfold Air Quality Management Area scheme proposals review dated September 2016. In summary, the report states that there are no clear cut highway infrastructure measure solutions to the problem because of concerns about either the deliverability of the schemes proposed, a lack of evidence that there would be any material improvement to air quality, or because of concerns about the likelihood of

schemes generating a business case.

Mr Clark requested that a letter is sent to the Air Quality Committee asking for 'Unsuitable for HGV's' road signs to be installed as although this would not solve the problem completely, it would help and was the lowest cost option. It was agreed that a letter would be written to be sent in readiness for the next meeting which was scheduled to take place in January 2017.

(JW)

Mrs Cutbush had tabled an interesting article copied from The New Scientist entitled 'Invisible Killer' which contained some very worrying statistics. Also, tabled was a column taken from the Guardian reporting on the Treasury blocking other government departments from charging diesel cars to enter towns and cities blighted by air pollution. The report states that the estimated number of early deaths caused by air pollution every year is 50,000. Environmental law group ClientEarth is challenging the government's pollution plan and Mr Clark said that he would contact them for further information.

(SC)

12. Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Clark said that a decision was still awaited with regard to grant applications.

No responses had been received to date to the advertisement asking for a volunteer to join the Committee and look after the finances.

13. Skateboard Park

Mr Chamberlin said that the installation of the remaining piece of equipment was imminent.

14. Emergency Plan/Village Volunteers

Nothing to report.

15. Pavilion

The project was moving forward and Doug Edwards was currently approaching possible Contractors. An updated estimate of costs was expected shortly.

16. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mr Collins read the Planning Report for October 2016.

Finance

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

Mrs Wright reported that she had received a cheque from the Firework Committee for just over £850 being the profit made from the event held on Saturday 5 November 2016. These funds are to be used specifically for skateboard park equipment.

Mr Collins said that he would arrange a date for some time in December 2016 for a Finance Committee meeting to discuss the budget for 2017/18.

(CC)

Open Spaces

Nothing to report.

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Nothing to report.

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

HALC

The HDC/HALC Annual meeting was due to take place on Monday 21 November 2016.

Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee had asked the Parish Council to develop a strategy to deal with the Pavilion closure and to share it with the Village Hall Committee. It was agreed to discuss this issue as an Agenda item at the January 2017 meeting.

Website

Nothing to report.

CLC

Nothing to report.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 12 December 2016**.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m