

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 9 January 2017 in the Village Hall

Present:	Mr J Palling (JP) (Chairman) Mr C Collins (CC) Mrs E Precious (EP) Mr T Clary (TC) Mrs G Martin (GM)	Mr B Martin (BM) Mrs S Parsons (SP) Mrs M Cutbush (MC) Mrs R Detnon (RD) Mrs J Wright (JW) (Clerk)	
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Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor

Public: 1

Press: 0

Neil Ward-Dutton was in attendance to speak about 1st Cowfold Scouts and their role in the Community. There are currently 110 members and 16 helpers involved with the Scouts. Neil said that the Scouts would like to be more involved with the Community. They have already helped with spreading wood chip in the play area, have in the past painted a section of fencing and would be happy to help by undertaking future tasks when necessary. It was suggested that representatives from the Scouts should attend a Parish Council meeting from time to time as their input would be appreciated. Also, it was suggested that members of the Parish Council could attend an Explorers meeting.

The Manager of the Co-op was in attendance to update the Parish Council on recent events. Tom said that he had now been in post for ten months and that there were no plans to relocate him. He reported that the entrance to the car park had been widened and that the extension to it should be taking place in quarter two of 2017. He also confirmed that the Co-op had not extended the lease on the previous site which was now available to be let.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Clark and Mr J Chowen.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 December 2016 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

As Mr Clark was not present, no information was available with regard to progress made with regard to the installation of 'Unsuitable for HGV's' road signs nor any contact made with the environmental law group ClientEarth.

(SC)

Mr Collins had arranged a date to hold a Finance Committee meeting to discuss the

budget for 2017 and this had taken place on Thursday 5 January 2017.

Further information had been received from Alan Hall with regard to a request to use the Playing Field to launch a hot air balloon in the summer of 2017. It was agreed to invite Alan to a Parish Council meeting.

(JW)

Mrs Cutbush had reported back on the damage done to the fence at Potters Green and it was agreed to ask Shaun Stevens for a quotation to repair it.

(JW)

5. The Public

Mr Chamberlin informed the meeting that Planning Application DC/16/2952 submitted by Gladman Developments to build 110 new dwellings in the village was now available on the Horsham District Council Planning Portal.

6. District Councillor Report

Nothing to report.

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following:

- Proposed increased budget for adult care
- Southern Rail Issues
- AQMA Reviews

8. Correspondence

Cowfold Residents - Mr Palling read four copies of letters sent to Gladman Developments objecting to their proposal to build 110 new dwellings in the village.

Horsham District Age UK - Request for donation. It was agreed not to make a donation at this time but to put the request onto the Parish Council website.

9. Accounts

Mrs Wright had tabled the costs against budget for Q3 of 2016/17 with an estimate of costs to the end of the financial year.

10. 2017/18 Budget

Mr Collins presented the budget for 2017/18. All voted in favour of requesting a Precept of £39,153 excluding an amount associated with paying back the Public Works Loan of £21,000 to be voted on under Agenda Item 14.

11. Arrangements for Closure of Pavilion

It was agreed that a separate meeting should take place to discuss the arrangements for the closure of the Pavilion and the future management once a start date had been established for the building work.

12. Neighbourhood Plan

Nothing to report.

13. Emergency Plan/Village Volunteers

Mr Martin said that this would now be a Spring initiative.

14. Pavilion

It had previously been agreed to apply for a Public Works Loan to pay for the refurbishment/rebuild of the Pavilion. The public had been consulted by way of delivering a leaflet to all properties explaining how the loan would affect the Council Tax payment and the plans had been displayed at the annual fete in July 2016. No objections had been received and, therefore, it was proposed that the Parish Council should apply for a Public Works Loan of £500,000 to be repaid over a 50 year period. It was also proposed to add an amount of £21,000 to the Precept for 2017/18 representing one year's loan repayment. All present voted in favour of both proposals. Mr Clark was the only Councillor not present and, therefore, Mrs Wright said that she would ask him to confirm his agreement to both proposals separately.

(JW)

It was still the intention to apply for any available grants to cover additional costs and Mr Martin asked if there were any penalties associated with a possible early repayment of the loan. Mrs Wright said that she would check this point.

(JW)

15. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Mrs Precious had circulated the Planning Report for December 2016.

Finance

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

An estimate for painting the Skateboard Park equipment had been received from a local tradesman. It was agreed to accept the quotation at a cost of £480.00.

Open Spaces

The licence for the installation of the Village Gates had been received from West Sussex County Council Highways the conditions of which were read to the meeting. It was agreed to speak to the Council's insurers with regard to the clause indemnifying the County Council against any costs, claims and demands that may arise as a consequence of its placing or existence or removal.

(JW)

Shaun Stevens had produced an advisory note with regard to his concerns about the poor state of the fencing around the main play area on the Playing Field. It was agreed to ask Shaun for a quotation to repair the fencing.

(JW)

Pond Warden

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Nothing to report.

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

HALC

Nothing to report.

Village Hall

Nothing to report.

Website

Nothing to report.

CLC

Nothing to report.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 13 February 2017**.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m