

Cowfold Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 9 October 2017 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr J Palling (JP) (Chairman) Mr T Clary (TC)
 Mr B Martin (BM) Mrs M Cutbush (MC)
 Mrs G Martin (GM) Mrs R Detnon (SC)
 Mr S Clark (SC) Mrs J Wright (JW) (Clerk)
 Mrs E Precious (EP)

Public: 5

Press: 0

Mr J Chowen – Horsham District Councillor

Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Parsons and Mr C Collins.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 September 2017 were agreed by all as a true and correct record.

3. Co-option

All present voted in favour of Jerry Hooper being co-opted onto the Parish Council and he was invited to join the meeting. Cowfold Parish Council with 11 Members has now achieved its full quota.

4. Declarations of Interest

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

5. Matters Arising

Mrs Wright had spoken to the Manager of the Co-op who had no problem with additional cameras being mounted on the building to monitor traffic but the request did need to be agreed to by the landlords. Confirmation of the request is now awaited.

At the same time Mrs Wright spoke to the Manager with regard to the complaint received about the lack of sweeping in the area outside of the shop and asked if he could arrange for the planter which had been hit by a vehicle to be straightened.

Mrs Knight had written a letter on the subject of safety issues for pedestrians walking to the Co-op which will be sent to WSCC Highways. Mrs Wright had also

(1532)

agreed to produce a letter from additional points that Mrs Knight had made and make copies to return to Mrs Knight for her to distribute to interested parties to sign before they are forwarded to WSCC Highways.

(JW)

The contractors had been contacted complaining about the grass cutting throughout the village and the number of the footpath at the back of the churchyard with the broken stile had been identified. However, further information on the specific location was required before it can be reported to WSCC.

(EP)

Mrs Wright had contacted WSCC Highways to ask when the road signs were next due for cleaning and thanked Sussex Coaches for taking over the Sunday bus service.

Mr Martin and Mr Clark had attended the WSALC AGM and conference at which Parish Mapping was presented. It was agreed to contact the Shipley Parish Council Clerk to ask him to attend a meeting to talk on the subject. It was also agreed to register for the service.

(JW)

The Age UK information had been put onto the website.

It had been established that the gate installed by the occupier of 53 Acorn Avenue was on Parish Council land and, therefore, it was agreed to ask for the gate, which is an obstruction to people with buggies and mobility aids etc. trying to access the Kicking Field, to be removed forthwith.

(JW)

6. The Public

Mr Berry was concerned with the amount of debris which had collected in the gutters. Mrs Wright said that she would contact Horsham District Council and ask if they would send a sweeper out.

(JW)

7. District Councillor Report

Mr Chowen reported on the following issues:

- Property Acquisition
- Alley Groves Development
- Broadbridge Heath Sports Centre
- Re-opening of Leonardslee in March 2018
- Gypsy Sites
- Upcoming HALC/HDC meeting
- Resignation of CEO Tom Crowley
- Year of Culture 2019
- New Car Parks
- Ice Rink in the Park

8. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- Recent awards ceremonies/conferences
- Purchase of the former Novartis site in Horsham
- Budget savings
- A27 Improvements

Mr Barnard said that Chris Stark will shortly be inviting Members to visit Highways offices two at a time.

9. Correspondence

Mrs J Knight/Mrs J Morley – Letters requesting that action is taken to make the walkway to the Co-op safer. To be forwarded to WSCC Highways. It was also suggested that WSCC legal department should be contacted on the subject.

(JW)

Fay Revell – Request to speak to the Parish Council about a proposal to set up a youth club. To be included on the November meeting Agenda.

Clerk to West Grinstead Parish Council – Request for support in persuading Stagecoach to extend the No.17 bus service in the evenings. Mrs Cutbush said that she had included an article in the first edition of Cowfold News and said that she would be prepared to produce a questionnaire asking if residents would use an extended service.

(MC)

Mrs Wright reminded Members that they should not be voicing their opinions by responding to emails etc. without discussing the content with the Council.

The following is an extract from 'The Local Clerk's Guide':

"It is the clerk's responsibility to implement the council's decisions. This usually entails the writing of letters.....".

"It is generally inappropriate for the chairman or other councillors to write letters on behalf of the council, save for ceremonial or political reasons.....".

10. Accounts

Quarter 2 Costs Against Budget spreadsheet was tabled.

11. Cowfold Air Quality Committee Update

Matt Davey, Director of Highways and Transport has requested a meeting with Members to discuss the Cowfold air quality problem. Available dates are currently awaited.

12. Emergency Plan/Village Volunteers

Mr Martin said that the Clean Up day which had been held on Saturday 7 October 2017 had been very successful and had attracted in excess of 30 people, a good number of which had signed up to become a village volunteer.

13. Newsletter

Mrs Cutbush said that reminders had been sent for articles to appear in the Winter edition of the newsletter. This next issue will include an update on the Neighbourhood Plan, Air Quality, Pavilion progress, and the new Alley Groves development.

14. Pavilion

Work was proceeding well.

15. Management of New Pavilion & Community Facility

As there was no time to discuss this item in detail, it was agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting within the next four weeks.

(JW)

16. Representatives' Reports

Planning

No planning report was available.

Finance

Approval for payments was requested and agreed by all.

It was agreed to fund the cost of printing Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires.

Open Spaces

Mrs Wright had been contacted by Mrs Allmond to say that Turlough Murphy had mentioned that he would like to make a bench in memory of Vic Allmond to be sited in the Bowling Green area. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should support such a project by funding the installation and maybe purchasing a plaque. Mr Allmond, who had recently passed away had been a Member of the Parish Council for around 25 years and was Chairman for most of that time.

It was agreed to accept the quotation from Tim Jordan Grounds Maintenance Ltd to cut the hedge on the left hand side of the playing field in Fairfield Cottages for a cost of £375.00 excl. VAT.

Immediately following the repair of the fence on the Kicking Field, someone had deliberately cut round the fence to allow access to Eastlands Lane. The fence has been repaired again but unfortunately someone has now decided to damage the fence in another area by trampling it down again to gain access to the lane.

Eastland Lane is privately owned. The Managers and owners of Eastlands Farms Ltd have both written objecting to making an official access to the lane both on road safety grounds and encouraging additional dog fouling both in the lane and the fields.

It was agreed to arrange for the fence to be mended once again and should this vandalism continue the police will be contacted as this is criminal damage.

(JW)

(1535)

It was agreed to ask the grounds maintenance contractors to look at the conifer trees at the Bowling Green to establish what work, if any, needs to be carried out on them.

(JW)

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Nothing to report.

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

HALC

Nothing to report.

Village Hall

Mrs Martin reported on the success of the stage performance that had recently taken place in the Village Hall.

Website

Nothing to report.

CLC

Nothing to report.

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

The meeting closed at 9.03 p.m.