

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 14 January 2019 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr J Pallling (JP) (Chairman) Mr J Bailey (JB)
Mr C Collins (CC) Mrs D Everest (DE)
Mr S Clark (SC) Ms K Kingshott (KK)
Mrs M Cutbush (MC) Mr S Reading (SR)
Mr J Hooper (JH) Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

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 Mr T Clary and Mr P Wilson.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 December 2018 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

Mrs Wright had still not managed to speak to the Manager of the Co-op with regard to the car park flooding issue. As Mr Clark visited the Co-op on a regular basis, he agreed to try and make contact with the Manager.

(SC)

With regard to a request for assistance to repair/improve the school swimming pool, Mr Clark had forwarded details of a funding source to the school. A proposal containing future running and maintenance costs was awaited.

No suggestions for expenditure to be included in the 2019/20 budget had been received.

5. The Public

Mr Chamberlin expressed concern regarding potential drainage problems resulting from pond filling especially with regard to the recent activity in Thornden and on land to the rear of the Church. The Thornden activity had been reported to Horsham District Council as it was considered to be a danger to the public as large vehicles were entering and exiting the rear of the property by crossing a public footpath onto the A272 without any traffic controls in place. The owners were asked to apply for retrospective planning permission and the application was on the Agenda to be

discussed at the Planning Committee meeting following the Council meeting.

Mr Chamberlin also asked what was happening with regard to the pollution problem in the village. Mr Chowen acknowledged that Horsham District Council were responsible together with the County Council for establishing plans to solve the pollution problem, however, currently no action appears to be taking place.

As it was considered that the majority of pollution was caused by the amount of traffic passing through the village and all suggestions to reduce this number had been rejected, it was suggested that the village should organise a 'Direct Day of Action'. However, investigation into this kind of activity was required to determine the rules. Mr Barnard said that if such an activity did take place he would be happy to be involved.

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Chowen reported on the following:

- Year of Culture 2019
- Ecology, Wildlife & Landscaping.

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following:

- Council Tax Increase
- Grant Cuts
- 2019/20 Budget.

8. Correspondence

West Sussex Mediation Service – Request for donation. It was agreed to make the annual donation of £25.00.

St Catherine's Hospice – Request for donation. It was agreed not to make a donation at this time but it was agreed to put the information on the website.

9. Year of Culture 2019

Ideas were put forward to involve the village in HDC's Year of Culture 2019. It was agreed to organise an activity which included the current problems in the village such as pollution etc. Mrs Everest suggested staging an 'Eco Mystery' play which she would be happy to write. The item would remain on the Agenda for further discussion.

10. Neighbourhood Planning Update

A closed meeting took place following the December Council meeting to finalise the housing numbers and a public meeting to present the chosen sites would take place shortly.

11. The Allmond Centre

Mrs Wright said that on the basis that nothing had been done to promote the Allmond Centre it was doing well. However, based on the likely annual costs associated with the running of the facility, more effort needed to be made to encourage more users.

The subject of caretaking which was currently being carried out by Dr Williams free of charge needed to be addressed for the future. It was agreed to discuss this item in more detail at the next meeting.

12. Minute Books

Mrs Cutbush agreed to investigate the cost of digitising the Minute books which date back to 1894 when Parish Councils were introduced, as some of the pages which were handwritten in ink were fading.

(MC)

13 . Representatives' Reports

Planning

Nothing to report.

Finance

Approval for payments was requested and agreed by all.

Following the Finance Committee meeting which had taken place on Wednesday 9 January 2019, Mr Collins presented the proposed 2019/20 budget figures. All voted in favour of accepting the budget and, therefore, requesting a Precept for 2019/20 of £62,520 which includes an amount of £18,500 for the annual repayment of the Public Works Loan associated with the building of the Allmond Centre.

Open Spaces

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.

Newsletter

Mrs Cutbush said that she needed more volunteers to help deliver the Newsletter.

CLC

Nothing to report.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 11 February 2019.**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.