

**Cowfold Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 12 August 2019 in the Village Hall**

**Present:** Mr S Reading (SR) – Chairman  
Mr D Wilkins (DW)  
Ms K Kingshott (KK)  
Mr J Hooper (JH)

Mrs D Everest (DE)  
Mrs D Neville (DN)  
Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

Public: 11  
Press: 0

Mr J Chowen – Horsham District Councillor  
Mrs L Lambert – Horsham District Councillor  
Mr L Barnard – West Sussex County Councillor

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Palling, Mr S Clark and Mr P Wilson who has resigned his position as Parish Councillor.

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 July 2019 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**

The grass verge at the end of Barleycroft had been cut.

Mrs Wright had contacted the estate agent dealing with the empty village store to ask for the vegetation to be cut back.

Mr Reading was still to measure up the Allmond Centre store rooms for the installation of racking.

(SR)

**5. The Public**

A member of the public raised the subject of the proposed Mayfield development. Mr Chowen and Mrs Lambert gave an account of the current status.

**6. District Councillor Report**

Mr Chowen reported on the following issues:

- Brexit Co-ordinator
- Climate Change Issues
- Ecology & Wildlife
- Year of Culture

## **7. County Councillor Report**

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- WSCC Budget Reductions
- Children's Services
- Appointment of new Chief Fire Officer

## **8. Correspondence**

*St Peter's PCC* – Request for donation to assist with the upkeep of the churchyard and clock winding. It was agreed to donate £800 which had been included in the 2019/20 budget.

*Lower Beeding and Handcross JFC* – Letter of thanks for the Parish Council's grant of £450 which had been awarded following the receipt of a completed grant application form.

## **9. Cowfold Football Club**

An informal meeting of Councillors had been held to discuss the latest requests from Cowfold FC regarding the use of the Allmond Centre.

With regard to lack of toilet facilities for spectators when the Community Area had not been booked on match days, it had been agreed to fix padlocks to the Home changing room benches to allow players to safely store their belongings and for spectators to use the facilities. However, it appears that following an inspection from representatives of the County League, it had been made clear that under no circumstances was it acceptable for spectators to use the changing rooms. The only solution would be for the FC to hire the Allmond Centre Community Area when available.

With regard to the inability to cater for officials of different gender and kitchen facilities for spectators, the only solution would be for the FC to hire the Allmond Centre Community Area when available.

With reference to the request for funds to pay for annual pitch maintenance, now that the Parish Council has a process in place for the award of grants, it was suggested that the FC could complete an application form in order for the request to be considered.

The cost per hour for the use of the changing rooms on training nights was no higher than the FC would have paid to use the old Pavilion.

The offer of paying £50.00 per home match to use the whole of the Allmond Centre was deemed unacceptable. Currently, the changing rooms were already

(1615)

being subsidised by £1,000 per season.

Mrs Wright said that she would draft a response to Mr William's email for approval by the Councillors.

(JW)

### **10. Community Speedwatch**

Ms Kingshott was keen to start a Community Speedwatch activity in Cowfold. She agreed to take the lead in investigating how to go about setting up the scheme by speaking to neighbouring parishes.

(KK)

### **11. Year of Culture 2019**

Mrs Everest said that Cowfold's Heritage and History Trail activity was progressing well.

### **12. Neighbourhood Planning Update**

Mr Hooper had circulated a pre-submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan for comment. All voted in favour of the plan which will now be submitted. The eight week public consultation period will commence on 19 August 2019. Every household in the village will need to receive a leaflet containing information on the plan.

### **13. The Allmond Centre**

Mrs Wright reminded the Councillors that Dr William's would not be undertaking caretaking duties after the end of September 2019. It was considered that this would have to be a paid position as no interest had been received from the recent advertising. Before advertising further, an hourly rate would need to be agreed.

(ALL)

### **14. Representatives' Reports**

#### **Planning**

Nothing to report.

#### **Finance**

Approval for payments was requested and agreed by all.

#### **Open Spaces**

Mrs Wright informed the Council of a problem with two Parish Council owned trees outside 87 Acorn Avenue which were being blamed for causing subsidence in the property. This issue had been handed over to the Parish Council's insurers who having received reports from Consultants advised that if it were proved that it was the trees causing the problem in the future it would be prudent to remove them sooner rather than later. It was agreed to arrange for this work to be carried out.

(JW)

#### **Footpaths**

Nothing to report.

#### **Allotments**

Nothing to report.

#### **Roads & Transport**

Nothing to report.

**Streetlights**

Nothing to report.

**HALC**

Nothing to report.

**Village Hall**

Mr Bailey said that WiFi was being installed in the Village Hall Reading Room.

**Website**

Nothing to report.

**Newsletter**

Nothing to report.

**CLC**

Nothing to report.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 9 September 2019**.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.