

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13 January 2020 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr J Hooper (JH) – (Chair) Mrs D Everest (DE)
Ms K Kingshott (KK) Mrs J Wright (Clerk)
Mr D Wilkins (DW)

Public: 1
Press: 0

Nina Humphreys – Representing St Peter’s Primary School

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

Nina Humphreys reported on the progress made and funding acquired to date for updating the school swimming pool. Camelia Botnar had donated £10,000 for a new boiler and had repainted the changing rooms. £8,000 had been secured from the Rampion fund for an Air Source Heat Pump. Nina said that funds were now being sought for the pool to be enclosed to enable more community use. The school were now asking for the Parish Council’s support to create a separate entrance to the pool from the churchyard to make the pool more accessible to the public. They had made this request and asked for support from St Peter’s church through discussing the situation with one of the church wardens. Mr Wilkins said that he would meet with Nina for a tour of the area and report back at the next meeting. Mr Barnard said that up to £2,000 may be available from the CLC fund which he would be happy to support if applied for.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Reading, Mrs D Neville, Mr J Palling and Mr S Clark.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 December 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

Mrs Wright had asked the History Society for some appropriate photographs which could be made to fit the worn bus shelter panels.

(1630)

Mr Wilkins had inspected the skateboard equipment and said that the laminate was lifting. Mrs Wright said that she would contact the company that repairs and refurbishes the play areas to see if the problem can be easily rectified.

(JW)

The cost of installing speed control signs was discussed at the recent Finance Committee meeting and estimated costs had been received. This together with speedwatch issues are currently being progressed by Mr Wilkins.

(DW)

Mrs Wright had emailed Mr Barnard asking for support for a controlled crossing on the A272 Bolney Road. Mr Barnard said that this should be discussed with the Air Quality Committee initially to gauge opinion on whether installing a crossing may in fact increase the pollution problem.

Mrs Wright was still to contact the West Grinstead Clerk to ask if they were still experiencing problems recruiting a caretaker for the Village Hall.

(JW)

More volunteers had signed up to the Sussex Police Speedwatch scheme and Mr Wilkins had arranged a meeting with Erica Baxter to find out how to proceed further.

5. The Public

(JW)

Mr Rolfe reported several highways problems and asked for arrangements to be made to disinfect the area around the oil store building on the playing field as people had been using it as a toilet.

6. District Councillor Report

Mrs Lambert reported on the following issues:

- HDC Local Plan Review – Mrs Lambert urged the Parish Council to read the document, register as an interested party, make comments on the content and write to the local MP's informing them of any concerns.

Mr Chowen announced that HDC had agreed to work in partnership with the Sussex Wildlife Trust to enhance wildlife across the Horsham district.

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on the following issues:

- New Chief Executive Becky Shaw who will run both East and West Sussex Councils.
- Temporary Closure of Henfield Library for refurbishment
- Fire and Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee

8. Correspondence

West Sussex Mediation Service – Request for donation. It was agreed to donate £25.00.

9. WSCC/HDC Strategy on Electric Cars

Nothing to report.

10. Neighbourhood Planning Update

Mr Hooper said that the public consultation period had now ended and was in the final process of finalising the submission pack but items have arisen that have delayed the process. A commitment has been made to HDC that the submission will be made by the end of January but will need to be agreed by the Parish Council beforehand. In order to meet the timescale it will be necessary to call an Extraordinary meeting of the Council. Mr Hooper will inform Mrs Wright when the documentation is ready to sign off and an Agenda will be posted advertising the meeting which will require a period of three working days.

(JH/JW))

11. The Allmond Centre

Mrs Wright reported that Fowlers had taken up the floor in the ladies toilets in order to identify the problem that had occurred. It is hoped that they would be back in service in a few days.

12. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Nothing to report.

Finance

A meeting of the Finance Committee had taken place on Monday 6 January 2020 to discuss the budget for the year 2020/21. This had been circulated to all Members for comment prior to the Council meeting. All present voted in favour of accepting the budget and requesting a Precept of £63,218 which includes the annual public works loan repayment of £18,318.

A wish list had also been circulated for items to be discussed on an individual basis. However, it was agreed to purchase four convector heaters for the Allmond Centre in case of heating failure from Mr Hooper at a cost of £10 each. The list did not include payment for a Caretaker for the Allmond Centre which would need to be kept in mind when agreeing to commit any existing funds.

It was also agreed to increase the Allmond Centre Community Area resident rates from £8.00 per hour to £10.00 per hour from 1 April 2020. There had been no increase since the facility opened in March 2018 and although income was rising steadily there was still a shortfall of around £3,000 for the year.

Open Spaces

Mrs Everest commented on the condition of the village gates. It was agreed that PC volunteers could clean them but would need to purchase some fluorescent jackets as the gates are sited on the side of the main highway. Ms Kingshott said that she would forward details of a company supplying jackets at a reasonable price.

(KK)

Flooding at the Co-op had not yet been addressed. Mrs Everest said that she would contact Steve Clark who had spoken to the Manager to see if any progress was being made.

(DE)

Footpaths

There were issues in Eastlands Lane that required reporting to WSCC.

(JW)

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

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 10 February 2020**.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.