

Cowfold Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13 July 2020 via Video Link

Present: Mr S Reading (SR) – (Chairman) Mr D Wilkins (DW)
 Mr J Hooper (JH) Mrs D Neville (DN)
 Mrs D Everest (DE) Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

Public: 1
Press: 0

Mr J Chowen – Horsham District Councillor
Mrs L Lambert – Horsham District Councillor

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Clark and Ms K Kingshott.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 June 2020 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 requested the required additional information from the Football Club and contacted Horsham District Council on the possible health and safety issues of installing a water butt. The advice was that there are too many opportunities for contamination if allowing dogs to drink from a butt and if one fell ill, the Parish Council would be held responsible. Also, there are many parasites that can be passed between dogs, so tests would be required of more than E.coli. Water butts also tend to grow algae and slime. For the above reasons, the request to install a water butt on the playing field was refused.

5. The Public

Nothing to report.

6. District Councillor Report

Mrs Lambert and Mr Chowen reported on the following issues:

- Rampion 2 Update
- HDC Development Plan
- Community Hub Update

7. County Councillor Report

Nothing to report.

8. Correspondence

Dean Sweet – Update on the provisions made by 4TheYouth for the young people through the summer months.

Cowfold Football Club – Request to open the Allmond Centre storeroom for access to equipment. It was agreed to hold a separate meeting to discuss the re-opening of the Allmond Centre and, therefore, no access will be permitted until future arrangements have been agreed.

9. 2019/20 Annual Accounts

The 2019/20 Annual Accounts had been circulated. There were no comments or queries and all voted in favour of their acceptance.

10. High Speed Broadband

Mr Hooper outlined the details of an opportunity that had arisen that would enable the village to be connected to the highest level of Broadband. It was agreed that Mr Hooper would draft a leaflet to be delivered to all properties in the village informing residents of this opportunity.

(JH)

11. WSCC/HDC Strategy on Electric Cars

Nothing to report.

12. Speed Watch/Speed Signs

Mr Wilkins reported on progress made with regard to the training of speed watch volunteers. As there were continuing delays on the ability to access training packages on line, Mr Wilkins had offered to be trained in a one to one session which would enable him to train the rest of the volunteers in an effort to speed up the process.

Mr Wilkins also reported on progress made on the installation of speed signs. Some concerns had been raised on the brightness of the signs which could cause a nuisance for some residents and, therefore, it was suggested that those that may be affected should be consulted. The installation sites were likely to be the A272 east and west and the A281 Henfield Road. The A281 past the Co-op is unlikely to be suitable due to the road layout. It had been suggested that a number of posts could be installed to allow signs to be moved around. A rough estimate of the cost was presented. Progress on this project will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

13. Neighbourhood Planning Update

Mr Hooper said that there had been a hiccup on the progress of the plan due to one of the sites identified for development being flagged as a medieval pottery site. This was currently being investigated and information on the findings was awaited.

14. The Allmond Centre

It was agreed to hold a separate meeting to discuss if, when, and how the Allmond Centre can be re-opened safely.

15. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Nothing to report.

Finance

Approval for payments was requested and agreed by all.

The quotation to carry out surgery on approximately nine trees on the kicking field for the sum of £980.00 excl. VAT was agreed by all.

The quotation to level the compost area of the allotments in the sum of £717.00 was agreed by all.

Open Spaces

A letter had been written to a resident who had installed a gate to the rear of his property to allow direct access to the Kicking Field requesting that the gate be removed. A response had been received asking for additional information on the reasons for removal of the gate. Mrs Wright said that she would respond to this request.

(JW)

It has also been reported that another resident had installed a shed at the bottom of his garden which encroached onto the Kicking Field. Mrs Wright said that she would write to this resident asking for the shed's removal.

(JW)

Mrs Wright had contacted Saxon Weald again with regard to the gates that had been installed by residents of Fairfield Cottages allowing direct access to the playing field. A response had been received to say that one of the gates had been removed and that they had written to the other resident again asking for their gate to be removed and the ditch which had been filled in to be unblocked.

Chloe Crellin who had been carrying out fitness training on the playing field had been contacted asking for her to request permission to use the playing field and to produce a copy of her insurance cover. This had now been received and no objections were raised to Chloe continuing her training sessions.

Allotments

Nothing further to report.

Roads & Transport

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Mrs Neville requested an additional footpath map. Mr Hooper said that he thought it was available on Parish On-Line and would send the access password to Mrs Neville.

(JH)

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

HALC

Nothing to report.

Village Hall

Nothing to report.

Website

It was reported that Dr Williams was currently working on updating the website in line with the new access regulations which come into force in September 2020.

CLC

Nothing to report.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 10 August 2020**.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.