

Cowfold Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 10 August 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: 0
Press: 0

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

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Ms K Kingshott.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 July 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

Mr Hooper had drafted a flyer advertising the opportunity for the village to be connected to the highest level of broadband.

Mrs Wright had responded to the resident who had installed a gate to gain access to the Kicking Field.

Mrs Wright had written to the resident who had installed a shed onto the Kicking Field asking for its removal.

Mr Hooper had sent the Parish On-Line password to Mrs Neville to enable her to access the Cowfold footpath map.

5. The Public

Nothing to report.

6. District Councillor Report

Mrs Lambert and Mr Chowen reported on the following issues:

- HDC Development Plan
- Re-opening of Leisure Facilities
- Local Government Changes

7. County Councillor Report

Mr Barnard reported on WSCC's funding gap which now stood at between £100M and £200M following COVID-19 expenditure.

8. Correspondence

Cowfold Football Club – Information on the potential starting of the League in September, a request to use the Football Pitch following Government guidelines and a request to use the toilet facilities in the official's room of the Allmond Centre. Use of the football pitch was agreed. However, due to not being in a position currently to safely open the Allmond Centre, permission could not be given to use the official's room.

9. Gate Installation

Three requests had been made to the resident who had installed a gate in his fence to gain access to the Kicking Field to no avail. It was agreed to put a statement on the website with regard to the Council's legal position following which a further attempt will be made to request the gate's removal or confirmation that it would be permanently locked and stating that if this did not happen, the Council would be left with no option but to take further action.

10. High Speed Broadband

Mr Hooper had produced a flyer outlining the details of an opportunity that had arisen that would enable the village to be connected to the highest level of Broadband. The flyers had been printed and were in the process of being delivered to every property in the village.

11. WSCC/HDC Strategy on Electric Cars

It was agreed to remove this item from the Agenda until further information became available.

12. Speed Watch/Speed Signs

Mr Wilkins reported on progress made with regard to the training of speed watch volunteers. He had arranged 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. The siting of the speed signs was still under discussion.

13. Neighbourhood Planning Update

Information on how to proceed was still awaited following the identification of one of the sites being identified for development being flagged as a medieval pottery site.

14. The Allmond Centre

A separate meeting had been held to discuss the possibility of re-opening the Allmond Centre. It was agreed that the Council was not currently in a position to comply with all Government guidelines to open the facility safely. Another meeting would be held to discuss the situation in September 2020.

15. Representatives' Reports

Planning

Nothing to report.

Finance

Approval for payments was requested and agreed by all.

The quotation to carry out surgery on overgrown trees in Acorn Avenue for the sum of £380.00 excl.VAT was agreed by all.

The estimate to break out, clear and replace 14 rotten bollards on the Kicking Field for the sum of £900.00 was agreed by all.

Open Spaces

Mrs Wright had arranged for the tree surgeon to inspect the large Oak tree by the play area in Acorn Avenue following concerns from a resident living close by.

As the Parish Council was responsible for the maintenance of a great deal of the trees and vegetation around the village which had become quite costly of late, Mrs Wright suggested that the Open Spaces budget should be reviewed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Mrs Neville had reported several footpath issues to WSCC.

Streetlights

Mrs Wright had reported the streetlight outside the Smithy in Bolney Road which had been hit by a lorry.

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 14 September 2020**.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.