

**Cowfold Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 12 December 2022 in the Allmond Centre**

**Present:** Mr J Hooper (JH) (Vice Chairman)      Ms K Kingshott (KK)  
Mrs D Everest (DE)                                      Mrs C Towle (CT)  
Mr P Everest (PE)                                        Mrs J Wright (JW) (Clerk)  
Mr S Clark (SC)

Mrs S Payne – West Sussex County Councillor

Public: 19

Press: 0

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Reading, Mr J Chowen and Mrs L Lambert.

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 November 2022 were agreed by all as a true and correct record.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**4. Matters Arising**

Mrs Towle said that ideas and budget details for the King's Coronation event will be available for the January 2023 meeting.

The Playground will be inspected and a quotation received for repairs after the Christmas period.

**5. Public**

Apart from one or two, all members of the public were in attendance to express their concerns with regard to the Rampion 2 proposal.

Those present did not object to the project in principle but had serious concerns with regard to how little awareness there seems to be in Cowfold of the proposals after two years of consultation. They also believe that under the Planning Act 2008, Rampion has failed to meet their legal obligation with regard to carrying out adequate consultation. This would require another consultation in which the community can be properly engaged from the start.

The main concerns are as follows:

- The effect that the substation construction and operation will have on the village
- Lack of properly conducted consultation procedures
- No Rampion meeting in Cowfold until nearing the end of the consultation
- Inadequate publicity

A document is currently being prepared to submit to WSCC and the Planning Inspectorate listing the inadequacies of the consultation against their legal requirements and Rampion's own stated objectives.

The Parish Council was asked to convey the concerns raised by the public before WSCC submit their Adequacy of Consultation Report to the Planning Inspectorate. Mrs Everest said that she would draft a letter to be circulated for comment.

(DE)

## **6. District Councillor Report**

Nothing to report.

## **7. County Councillor Report**

Mrs Payne had sent her December report which had been circulated to Members. Mrs Payne also ran through the contents of the report at the meeting.

It was agreed to accept Mrs Payne's offer to meet with a WSCC Highways Officer to discuss the rejection of the pedestrian crossing at Mercers Mead in the new year.

## **8. Correspondence**

All correspondence received came from residents expressing their concerns with regard to the Rampion 2 project.

## **9. Outdoor Gym**

Mr Bird had sent a message to say that a revised plan had been prepared following his presentation at the November meeting and asked for a Zoom/Teams meeting with Mrs Towle and Mrs Wright to discuss it.

(CT/JW)

## **10. Greening Cowfold**

A vote was taken on the subject of whether or not Greening Cowfold should remain part of the Parish Council or should be run as a separate organisation. As there was a split vote of 3/3, it was agreed to defer the decision until the January meeting when the Chairman is present.

## **11. Rampion 2**

See Item 5.

## **12. Neighbourhood Planning Update**

Nothing to report.

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

Ms Kingshott asked if two refuse bins, one of which would be for recycling, could be organised through Horsham District Council. The request was thought to be a good idea and Ms Kingshott said that she would circulate the cost of the bins and collection of them to all Members.

(KK)

### **14. Representatives Reports**

#### **Planning**

Nothing to report

#### **Finance**

Approval for payments was requested and agreed by all.

#### **Open Spaces**

Nothing to report.

#### **Allotments**

Nothing to report.

#### **Roads & Transport**

Nothing to report.

#### **Footpaths**

Nothing to report.

#### **Streetlights**

Nothing to report.

#### **Greening Cowfold**

Mr Hooper reported on Horsham District Council's Climate Change Action project and recycling.

#### **HALC**

Mrs Everest had attended the HALC meeting held on Wednesday 30 November 2022.

#### **Village Hall**

Nothing to report.

#### **Website**

Nothing to report.

#### **CLC**

Nothing to report.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 9 January 2023**.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm.