

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 17 April 2023 in the Allmond Centre

Present: Mr S Reading (SR) (Chairman) Ms K Kingshott (KK)
Mr J Hooper (JH) Mrs C Towle (CT)
Mrs D Everest (DE) Mrs J Wright (JW) (Clerk)

Mrs L Lambert – Horsham District Councillor

Public: 12

Press: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Clark and Mrs L Lambert.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 March 2023 were agreed by all as a true and correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Matters Arising

Mrs Wright was still to get a quotation for the replacement village gate sign. (JW)

Mrs Wright had accepted the quotation to carry out the work required to the play area on the Playing Field which was scheduled to commence on Monday 24 April 2023.

5. Public

Most of the public in attendance were intested in Agenda Item 11.

Steve Rolfe expressed the following concerns:

Broken 'Cowfold' sign on Bolney Road

Oil from old Co-op

Cost of outside gym

Poltholes

Lack of senior school places.

The proprietors of the Hare & Hounds wished to know why a beer tent had been ruled out for the Coronation party and were told that it had been decided not to sell beer at the event.

6. District Councillor Report

Mr Chowen who was not standing for re-election, was thanked for his assistance whilst carrying out his role as District Councillor over the past 18 years.

7. County Councillor Report

Mrs Payne reported on the following issues:

- Partial re-opening of Church Hill on the A29
- 'Love West Sussex' switched off and replaced by Report a problem with a road or pavement
- Solar together 2023
- Post-16 Transport policy feedback
- Primary school admissions.

8. Correspondence

Mrs V Swaffer: Enquiry regarding the possibility of designating Picts Lane, Bulls Lane and Long House Lane Quiet Lanes. Mr Hooper pointed out that these areas would need to meet the criteria set by WSCC Highway. Mrs Wright said that any member of the public would be permitted to apply via a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). All relevant information and an application form can be found on the WSCC website.

360Globalnet: Asking what arrangements are being made to fell the tree in Acorn Avenue that has had its TPO removed due to perceived damage to No.14. It was agreed to speak to HDC with regard to the planning decision and also to the insurance company.

(JW)

9. Outdoor Gym

As there was some doubt as to whether the equipment would be used and, therefore, the best use of public funds, Mrs Towle said that she would run another SurveyMonkey poll to engage the village. Following the outcome of the survey, it will be decided whether or not to go ahead, order a scaled down version, for example, a table tennis table, or not to proceed at all.

(CT)

10. Risk & safety

Mr Hooper raised concerns with regard to the Acorn avenue pond which in his opinion was open to accidents. The pond has been unfenced for 37 years, however, as the Parish Council own the area, he considered that we should find out if any precautions or warning signs are required to be put in place.

(JW)

11. Rampion 2

Mrs Everest had drafted a stronger worded letter expressing concern with regard to lack of public consultation which she will circulate for comment before asking Mr Reading to send it.

A timeline had been produced as requested at the March Parish Council meeting. A redacted version could be made available for public interest.

Mrs Everest had accepted an invitation to join the Rampion 2 Liaison Group.

12. Environment

Mr Hooper reported on the activities of Greening Cowfold including

- Cowfest Stand
- Planting of Annual Seeds on the Butterfly Haven
- Habitat Mapping
- Co-op Recycling

13. Neighbourhood Planning Update

A referendum date was still awaited but was now not expected to take place until February 2024.

14. The Allmond Centre

Mrs Wright asked the Chairman and Vice Chairman to countersign the direct debit to be sent to HDC for the supply and collection of refuse bins.

Ms Kingshott said that she and Mrs Wright had spoken briefly with regard to marketing the Centre.

Mrs Towle asked if any progress had been made to get the Youth Club up and running again. Mrs Wright said that she would contact Dean Sweet, the Youth Leader, so see if the lack of youth workers situation had improved.

(JW)

15. King Charles III Coronation Event

Mrs Towle had all arrangements associated with the Coronation party to be held on Sunday 7 May 2023 in hand.

Mrs Towle also said that volunteers were needed for the Big Help Out taking place on Monday 8 May.

16. Representatives Reports Planning

Nothing to report

Finance

Approval for payments was requested and agreed by all.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Mrs Wright had resubmitted the application for a 20mph speed limit.

Mr Everest had circulated the latest speed sign results.

Footpaths

Mr Hooper had contacted Deb Neville with regard to the ongoing problems with the footpath at Littlebrook.

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 15 May 2023**.

The meeting closed at 8.33pm.