

Cowfold Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 15 May 2023 in the Allmond Centre

Present: Mr S Reading (SR) Chairman Mr J Hooper (JH) Mrs D Everest (DE) Ms K Kingshott (KK)	Mrs C Towle (CT) Mr P Harsum (PH) Mrs J Newman (JN) Mrs J Wright (JW) Clerk
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Mrs L Lambert – Horsham District Councillor
 Mrs S Payne – West Sussex County Councillor
 Public: 10
 Press: 0

1. Election of Chairman

Mr Reading was proposed by (1) Mrs Everest and (2) Ms Kingshott and agreed by all.

2. Election of Vice Chairman

Mr Hooper was proposed by (1) Mr Reading and (2) Mrs Everest and agreed by all.

3. Election of Treasurer

Mrs Towle was proposed by (1) Mr Reading and (2) Mrs Everest and agreed by all.

4. Responsibilities

Planning	All Interested Councillors. Mrs Everest responsible for reporting to HDC
Finance	Mr Reading, Mr Hooper, Mrs Towle, Mrs Wright
Open Spaces	Mr Harsum
Footpaths	Mrs Neville
Allotments	Ms Kingshott
Roads & Transport	Mrs Newman
Streetlights	Mrs Wright
HALC	Mr Reading, Mrs Everest
Website	Dr Williams
SSALC	Mr Reading, Mr Hooper
Youth Activities.	Mrs Towle

5. Register of Interests

A Register of Members' Interests Forms were tabled together with the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders for the attention of Mr Harsum and Mrs Newman.

6. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Ms J Knowles.

7. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17 April 2023 were agreed by all as a true and correct record.

8. Matters Arising

The replacement village gate sign was in progress.

Mrs Wright had contacted the Arboricultural Officer at Horsham District Council with regard to the decision to allow the felling of the Oak tree adjacent to 14 Acorn Avenue which was made on the basis of the tree's involvement with a structural defect at the property. It was confirmed that the responsibility of removing the tree falls upon the Parish Council. However, those who applied for the works would be responsible for planting the replacement tree. Mrs Wright was currently communicating with the Parish Council's insurers on the matter.

(JW)

Mrs Wright had investigated the requirement for any precautions or warning signs to be installed at the Acorn Avenue Pond area and had found none. It was suggested that Horsham District Council Planning department should be consulted on the matter.

(JW)

Mrs Wright had contacted Dean Sweet, the Youth Leader and Director of 4The Youth to ask if there was any possibility that he would be able to bring the Youth Club back to Cowfold. Dean said that there was still a shortage of youth workers but would bring the subject up at his next Directors meeting and would inform the Parish Council of the outcome.

9. The Public

Mr Rolfe asked if he could investigate the installation of additional cigarette disposal boxes for the village. No objections were raised to this request.

Mr Rolfe made the Parish Council aware of the broken bench at the back of the Playing Field which was becoming dangerous. He also reported on the broken road sign at St Peter's Close and the saplings and broken fence in the play area

Mr Rolfe requested replacing the old broken goal posts used by children, with fixed ones. It was agreed to discuss this request at the next Parish Council meeting as a separate Agenda item.

Members of the public raised concerns with regard to the forthcoming Rampion 2 leaflet drop being limited to properties within one hundred meters of the project site which was thought unacceptable. Mrs Everest said that she would contact Rampion to clarify the situation.

(DE)

Concerns were expressed with regard to the state of the roads and pavements.

Mr Isaacs expressed concerns with regard to uncut verges in the centre of the village which were considered to be a danger to traffic visibility and the obstruction of pathways. It was explained that the Parish Council were no longer involved in the 'no mow' scheme and Mrs Everest said that she would contact WSCC to officially withdraw from it.

(DE)

10. District Councillor Report

Mrs Lambert reported on the following issue:

- Post-election Induction Process.

11. County Councillor Report

There was no report available this month. However, Mrs Payne welcomed questions and took

note of the public's concerns including the state of the roads.

12. Correspondence

Val Swaffer: Further correspondence regarding the suitability of some of the lanes in Cowfold to be designated 'Quiet Lanes'. Mrs Swaffer has requested information from Mrs Payne and she requested the Parish Council's support with the application. There were no objections to Mrs Swaffer applying for 'Quiet Lane' status.

Giles Kolter: Request to display banners advertising St Peter's primary school. It was agreed to allow banners to be erected on the playing field railings on a one month on and one month off basis. It was also suggested that Mr Kolter could approach Jason Bailey to ask if he could use the Village Hall railings.

13. Outdoor Gym

The Survey Monkey had been re-opened to gauge further interest and a Facebook survey was to be implemented. The Parish Council also manned a stand at the Coronation party where additional members of the public completed the questionnaire. There are currently around 90 responses. It was suggested that the Proludic representative be asked to attend Cowfest to demonstrate some of the equipment that would be available.

(CT)

14. Rampion Update

Rampion 2 will be holding a meeting for Cowfold residents to express concerns and ask questions regarding the project on Wednesday 21 June 2023 in the Allmond Centre from 4pm until 8pm.

15. Environment

Nothing to report.

16. Neighbourhood Planning Update

Nothing to report.

17. Cowfold Coronation Party

Mrs Towle was congratulated for organising the very successful village party held on the playing field on Sunday 7 May. A total of £1,844.69 was raised to be shared between Cowfold village groups.

18. The Allmond Centre

Nothing to report.

19. Representatives Reports

Planning

Nothing to report.

Finance

Approval for payments was requested and agreed by all

Open Spaces

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

The Parish Council stand manned at the Coronation party included petitions for promoting the implementation of 20mph road signs to which residents of 8 properties were in favour and the installation of a pedestrian crossing at Mercers Mead to which residents of 14 properties were in favour. Both of these projects had recently been rejected by West Sussex County Council Highways. A second application for the 20mph signs had been submitted. The second application for the crossing is still to be submitted.

(JW)

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

HALC

Nothing to report.

Website

Nothing to report.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday 14 June 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.