

Cowfold Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 14 August 2023 in the Allmond Centre

Present: Mr S Reading (SR) (Chairman) Mrs J Newman (JN)
 Mr J Hooper (JH) Mrs M French (MF)
 Mrs D Everest (DE) Mrs J Wright (JW) (Clerk)

Mrs L Lambert – Horsham District Councillor
Ms J Knowles – Horsham District Councillor

Public: 8
Press: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Ms K Kingshott, Mrs C Towle , Mr P Harsum and Mrs S Payne.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 10 July 2023 were agreed by all as a true and correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Matters Arising

As Mr Harsum was absent from the meeting, the subject of replacement goalposts would be revisited at the September 2023 meeting.

(PH)

It was confirmed that the Village Gate on the A272 had not been moved.

5. Public

The Councillors were asked if the Parish Council would be submitting a Local Impact Report (LIR) following the Development Consent Order (DCO) submitted by Rampion and were told that no decision had yet been made

6. District Councillor Report

Mrs Lambert and Ms Knowles reported on the following:

- Rampion DCO submission
- Local Plan
- Police Briefing
- Bus Service

7. County Councillor Report

Nothing to report.

8. Correspondence

Aislinn Dunne-Low Carbon: Request for a closed meeting with the Parish Council to present proposals for a Solar Farm on either side of the A272 west of Cowfold. In accordance with transparency rules, the request was rejected. However, it was agreed to invite Low Carbon representatives to a Parish Council meeting to present their proposals.

(JW)

9. Outdoor Gym

Tim Bird from Proludic had been invited to attend the September 2023 Parish Council meeting to present the revised plan.

10. Village Christmas Tree

It was agreed that Cowfold should have a Christmas Tree this year and that if possible, it should be made a community effort that could be carried on in the future. The landlady from the Hare & Hounds kindly offered to promote this idea to her customers.

11. Electric Charging Point Locations

An email had been received from Sarah Beddoe, WSCC in response to an email sent to her expressing concerns regarding the proposed locations for electric charging points. Apparently, residents had been sent a letter delivered by Royal Mail together with a leaflet indicating locations and notification of a public consultation being held from 10 July 2023 to 7 August 2023. However, some residents did not receive any communication and had discovered the proposal from a newspaper article.

The suggested locations were considered by the Parish Councillors to be totally unsuitable and that WSCC should be requested to reconsider this plan.

(JW)

12. Rampion 2 Update

Discussion on any further actions to be taken by the Parish Council would be discussed at the September meeting.

13. Environment

Mr Hooper reported on the following Greening Cowfold activities:

- Bulb Planting on Playing Field, Bowling Green and Acorn Avenue Pond area.
- Foraging Walk
- Bat Walk

14. Neighbourhood Planning Update

Nothing to report.

15. The Allmond Centre

Nothing to report.

16. Representatives Reports

Planning

Nothing to report

Finance

Approval for payments was requested and agreed by all.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Mrs Newman was now in possession of the Speed Watch equipment and had organised a training session for herself.

The TRO submission for a 20mph speed limit throughout the village had been rejected on the basis of a lack of community report. Mr Hooper suggested that a door to door poll be taken and agreed to draft a petition.

(JH)

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Streetlights

Nothing to report

HALC

Nothing to report.

Website

Nothing to report.

Youth Activities

In Mrs Towle's absence, she had requested that the funding of a Youth Club at the Allmond Centre be considered.

The cost for a member of staff from 4TheYouth to run the club would be £132.00 per week for 39 weeks totalling £5,148.00. The cost of the Allmond Centre would be in the region of £1,300.00 per annum. Mrs Towle suggested that to recover some of the costs, a weekly charge of £3.00 per child or £5 per family could be charged.

The previous Youth Club, also run by 4TheYouth was very popular with young people aged between 9 and 17 with attendance of 40-50 per week.

It was agreed in principle to the costs which would be formally voted on as an Agenda item at the September 2023 meeting.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 11 September 2023**.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.