

**Cowfold Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 11 September 2023 in the Allmond Centre**

**Present:** Mr S Reading (SR) (Chairman)                      Mrs C Towle (CT)  
Mrs D Everest (DE)    Mrs M French (MF)  
Ms K Kingshott (KK)     Mrs J Wright (JW) (Clerk)  
Mr P Harsum (PH)

Mrs L Lambert – Horsham District Councillor  
Ms J Knowles – Horsham District Councillor  
Mrs S Payne – West Sussex County Councillor

Public: 21  
Press: 0

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Hooper and Mrs J Newman.

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 14 August 2023 were agreed by all as a true and correct record.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**4. Matters Arising**

Mr Harsum had researched the cost of various replacement goal posts which ranged from £500 to £2,000. It was agreed to discuss the subject as an Agenda item at the October Council meeting.

Aislinn Dunne representing Low Carbon had been formally informed that the Parish Council was not prepared to hold a closed meeting with her. However, she was invited to attend a Parish Council meeting when all interested parties could be in attendance.

Mrs Wright was still to send Mr Hooper the petition used at the Coronation party to gauge support from the public with regard to the recently rejected TRO request for a 20mph speed limit.

(JW)

**5. Public**

Members of the public in attendance were either interested in Item 14 or wanted to make the Parish Council aware of their concerns with regard to the proposed installation of a Solar Farm (see Item 8).

## 6. District Councillor Report

Mrs Lambert and Ms Knowles had nothing to report. However, they remained at the meeting to answer questions on various subjects.

## 7. County Councillor Report

Mrs Payne's update had been circulated to all Members and contained the following subjects:

- West Sussex Brighton and Hove career hub launch
- Prevention assessment teams
- Gatwick Northern Runway application
- Government funding for defibrillators across West Sussex

## 8. Correspondence

*Cllr. Wayne Bayley, Nuthurst PC* – Concerns regarding safety issues at the crossing of the A272 from Nuthurst to Littleworth Lane. Mrs Payne said that she would make enquiries with WSCC Highways for any available information. (SP)

*Steve Rolfe* – Notification that he no longer feels safe whilst litter picking on Horsham Road due to the narrow path and speeding traffic. Mrs Payne said that she would investigate the problem. (SP)

*Val Swaffer* – Request for support from the Parish Council to strengthen the TRO application being submitted to WSCC to have Picts Lane, Bulls Lane and Long House Lane designated Quiet Lanes. After discussion and confirmation from Mrs Payne that she was in support of this application, it was agreed to send an email confirming the support of the Parish Council also. (JW)

*Cowfold Residents* – Concerns raised by email from around a dozen residents to the early stage proposals for a Solar Farm to be located on land either side of the A272 and west of Cowfold. The residents in attendance explained the reasons why the proposed location was unacceptable. There will be a public consultation held sometime in October, the date of which is to be determined.

If, following the public meeting, a Planning Application is submitted for approval, the Parish Council will be requesting that it is considered by Committee and not by an HDC Planning Officer.

## 9. Outdoor Gym

Tim Bird from Proludic was in attendance to present the revised plan for an outdoor gym to be located on the playing field next to the play area. Five of the six Councillors present voted in favour of accepting the quotation to include an Acti'Fit Chest Press, an Acti'Fit Abs Bench, an Acti'Fit Bike, a Metal Pod Swing and a Concrete Sports Outdoor Table Tennis Table at a discounted cost of £26,999.46.

## 10. Village Christmas Tree

It was reported that Christmas Tree funding had been secured for the village but would not now be coming from Mrs Towle's family due to unwelcome interference from a village resident. The new supplier will remain anonymous to avoid any further interference. Ms Kingshott expressed an interest in forming a small committee to discuss ideas for decorating the tree. Mrs Towle offered to assist. (KK/CT)

### **11. Youth Club**

All voted in favour of the costs associated with re-starting the Youth Club as agreed to in principle at the meeting held on 14 August 2023. Terms and financial arrangements are still to be determined.

### **12. Electric Charging Point Locations**

WSCC had been notified of the dissatisfaction of the Parish Council to their proposed locations for electric charging points. No decisions have been made as consultations are continuing. Mrs Payne is aware of the issue and will be in a position to update the Parish Council as things progress.

### **13. Procedure for Vexatious Public Behaviour**

Following the recent behaviour of some members of the public towards Members of the Parish Council, all voted in favour of adopting a procedure to deal with vexatious public behaviour which will be posted on the Parish Council website.

### **14. Rampion 2 Update**

Following questions from a member of the public it was reported that the date for the submission of Local Impact Reports is to be advised and that it is believed that invitations are to be extended to concerned individuals to participate in the liaison group meetings.

### **15. Environment**

Mrs Everest reported on the recent Bat Walk activity. The next arranged event would be a Foraging Walk.

### **16. Neighbourhood Planning Update**

Mrs Everest and Mr Hooper had attended the HDC Local Plan Parish Council Workshop on 7 September 2023.

HDC's Local Plan Development Scheme goes to Cabinet on 28 September 2023 and full Council later this year. If agreed, it will proceed to Regulation 19 consultation. This process is likely to extend significantly into 2024. After agreement by HDC, the Local Plan becomes District policy which provided a level of protection to local Neighbourhood plans

### **17. The Allmond Centre**

Ms Kingshott expressed concerns regarding the car park. Recently, new businesses now working in the village are parking vehicles in the car park and not always in the allotted spaces. Vehicles were also being parked for long periods of time. Ms Kingshott was concerned that potential Allmond Centre Hirers will be put off due to the lack of parking. It was agreed to discuss the issue as a separate Agenda item at the October Council meeting.

## **18. Representatives Reports**

### **Planning**

Nothing to report.

### **Finance**

Approval for payments was requested and agreed by all.

### **Open Spaces**

A decision had to be made with regard to the tree adjacent to 14 Acorn Avenue which is alleged to be causing subsidence to the property. The TPO had been removed by HDC due to lack of funds to cover any insurance claim and local residents were campaigning against the removal of the tree.

It was agreed to appoint an independent Consultant to investigate and report on the situation before a final decision could be made.

(JW)

### **Allotments**

Nothing to report.

### **Roads & Transport**

Nothing to report.

### **Footpaths**

Nothing to report.

### **Streetlights**

Nothing to report

### **HALC**

Nothing to report.

### **Website**

Nothing to report.

### **Youth Activities**

Nothing further to report.

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

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.