

Cowfold Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 9 October 2023 in the Allmond Centre

Present: Mr S Reading (SR) (Chairman) Mrs C Towle (CT)
Mr J Hooper (JH) Mrs M French (MF)
Mrs D Everest (DE) Mrs J Newman (JN)
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: 25
Press: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Payne.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11 September 2023 were agreed by all as a true and correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Matters Arising

Mrs Wright had sent Mr Hooper the information used at the Coronation Party regarding the 20mph speed limit.

Mrs Payne had arranged for the vegetation to be cleared from the footpaths on Brook Hill which will enable the litterpicking to continue in that area.

Mrs Wright had sent an email to Mrs Swaffer in support of her TRO application to have Picts Lane, Bulls Lane and Long House Lane designated Quiet Lanes.

5. Public

Mrs Lambert and Mrs Everest answered questions from the public regarding the Rampion2 proposal. Mrs Lambert and Ms Knowles answered questions regarding the proposed battery storage farm, solar panel farm and housing development.

6. District Councillor Report

Mrs Lambert and Ms Knowles reported on issues which included the following:

- HDC Local Plan
- Rural Business Grants
- Stoptober
- Pavements
- Nature recovery fund

7. County Councillor Report

Nothing to report.

8. Correspondence

Rampion Extension Development Ltd – The Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Order. It was agreed to circulate to all Councillors.

(JW)

9. Outdoor Gym

Mrs Towle and Mrs Wright met with Tim Bird and members of the construction team on Wednesday 4 October. Work is due to start around the end of the month and should take no longer than two weeks.

10. Goal Posts

Mr Harsum had researched suitable replacement goal post options and following some consideration, it was agreed to purchase 2 goal posts at a cost of £3,075.00.

11. Cobwood Solar Farm

Low Carbon is preparing to submit a planning application for a solar farm on land either side of the A272 and west of Cowfold. A public consultation event was held in the Allmond Centre on Thursday 5 October 2023. Comments from the local community were and will be welcomed by Low Carbon with the deadline being Wednesday 18 October 2023. Cowfold Parish Council await sight of the planning application from Horsham District Council for consideration before making any comment.

12. Battery Storage Farm

There are currently two battery storage farm installations being proposed, one in Wineham Lane which is within the Mid Sussex District Council area and one in Kent Street which affects Shermanbury and is in the Horsham District Council area.

13. Procedure for Vexatious Public Behaviour

The Procedure for Vexatious Public Behaviour had been circulated to all Members and all voted in favour of its adoption.

14. Village Car Park

Use of the village car park and lack of parking spaces was discussed. It appears that businesses in the village are parking vehicles all day in non-allocated parking spaces. This becomes particularly difficult when the area next to the Allmond Centre is being blocked. It was agreed to purchase 'No Unauthorised Parking' signs for this area and to write to the company who is thought to be illegally parking to ask for confirmation that it is indeed their vehicles that are involved and if so asking for them to refrain from doing so.

(JW)

The District Councillors said that they would investigate the use of the Coach Park with a view to converting the area into additional parking spaces.

(LL/JK)

15 . Rampion 2 Update

Mrs Everest reported that she had attempted to register with the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Parish Council in order to comment on the forthcoming planning application which was rejected on the grounds that representation by bodies was not permitted. The closing date for registration is currently 6 November 2023.

Mrs Lambert said that it would be advisable to receive a written synopsis on the information collected from the Officer employed by HDC to deal with the proposal instead of asking him to attend a Council meeting.

16. Environment

Mr Hooper reported on the recent Foraging Walk/Dinner. He also said that the Butterfly Haven had been tidied up for winter and he had now located a suitable sign for installation. It was agreed to fund the sign at a cost of £160.00. 5000 bulbs had been planted on the edge of the Playing Field by volunteers.

Ms Kingshott asked for photos of the Foraging event for the Allmond Centre website.

17 Neighbourhood Planning Upddate

Nothing to report.

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

Mrs Wright had received recommendations for two independent consultants to

investigate the decision made to fell the Oak tree adjacent to 14 Acorn Avenue. It was agreed to pass this and all information received on the subject to Mr Harsum to deal with.

(JW/PH)

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

The date for the new Youth Club to be held in the Allmond Centre will be Thursday 2 November 2023. Mrs Towle had secured a donation of £1,000 from the Oakendene Industrial Estate to purchase equipment for the club.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 13 November 2023.**

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.