

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

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

Mrs S Payne – West Sussex County Councillor

Public: 0
Press: 0

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J Newman, Mrs C Towle, Mrs L Lambert and Ms J Knowles.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 9 October 2023 were agreed by all as a true and correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Matters Arising

The Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Order had been circulated.

An email had been sent to the company who was thought to be parking vehicles illegally in the car park and a response had been received ensuring that they would only park in legitimate parking bays in the future.

No progress had been reported with regard to the District Councillors asking for the coach park to be converted into car parking bays. Mrs Wright said that she would contact HDC for an update.

Mr Harsum had been sent all the information received with regard to the proposal to fell the Oak Tree adjacent to 14 Acorn Avenue and had obtained a report on the findings. The information had also been sent to an independent arboriculturist for comment.

5. Public

No public present.

6. District Councillor Report

Nothing to report.

7. County Councillor Report

Mrs Payne reported on the following:

- Charging Points – Mrs Payne was thanked for not supporting the proposal to install electric charging points in Station Road.
- Footpaths
- WSCC Highways monthly open days
- MIND support groups to be held in Horsham

8. Correspondence

Cowfold Resident: Complaint that the play area was inaccessible due to illegal parking of cars particularly at the weekend. Ms Kingshott said that she would request that the football club ensure that the area is easily accessible to everyone using the play area on match days. It was agreed to monitor the parking situation as a whole.

9. Outdoor Gym

The outdoor gym had been fully installed and commissioned.

10. Goal Posts

The goal posts had been ordered, following agreement to a 20% discount, delivered and stored. Mr Harsum said that he would look at putting them together over the Christmas period.

11. Battery Storage Farm

Representatives from Enso Energy had been invited to the January Parish Council meeting to present their proposals to develop a battery energy storage project on land West of Kent Street. It was agreed to ask Enso Energy to ensure that their presentation includes a mitigation strategy.

The question of whether the land for the proposed development sat in the Parish of Cowfold or Shermanbury had been asked. Horsham District Council Planning Department had admitted to the mistake made on their website and confirmed that the land was in the Parish of Cowfold and not Shermanbury.

12 . Rampion 2 Update

Mrs Everest reported that she had registered with the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Parish Council in order to be permitted to comment on the forthcoming planning application and had received notification of the first formal meeting to be held, the date of which was to be determined.

13. Environment

Ms Kingshott confirmed that photos of the foraging dinner would suffice for the Allmond Centre website.

14 Neighbourhood Planning Update

No further action until notification is received that the Horsham District Council Plan had been agreed to.

15. The Allmond Centre

Nothing to report.

16. Representatives Reports

Planning

Nothing to report.

Finance

Approval for payments was requested and agreed by all.

It was agreed to hold the annual Finance Committee meeting in the first week of January 2024 (date to be determined) to discuss the budget for 2024/5

(JW)

Open Spaces

Nothing to report.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport

Mrs Newman had sent an email reporting the receipt of an email containing information on the status of resurfacing of the road surfaces on the A272 and A281. However, no date had been set to carry out this work. Mrs Newman said that she would continue to request updates.

Footpaths

Notification had been received that the Public Rights of Way inspections were scheduled to take place in January 2024. Any known problems should be reported to Sarah Payne before the end of the year.

Streetlights

Nothing to report

HALC

Nothing to report.

Website

Nothing to report.

Youth Activities

There were concerns with regard to there only being one Youth Worker attending the Youth Club and the Parish Council had already paid for two. Mrs Wright said that she had asked the Youth Worker to keep Mrs Towle informed on a weekly basis of the progress being made to employ an additional person.

Concerns were also raised with regard to the state that the Allmond Centre is left in after the Youth Club sessions. Mrs Wright said that she would contact the youth worker asking that the Community Area and kitchen are left clean and tidy.

(JW)

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 8 January 2024.**

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.