

**Cowfold Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 8 January 2024 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)  
Mrs C Towle (CT)

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

Richard Moore & Ryan Warman – Enso Energy Ltd.

Richard and Ryan presented Enso Energy’s proposal for a Battery Energy Storage Project on land west of Kent Street.

Public: 30  
Press: 0

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J Newman and Ms K Kingshott.

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

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

**3. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**4. Matters Arising**

The Finance Committee meeting was held on Wednesday 3 January 2024.

The problem with the cleanliness of the Allmond Centre following Youth Club sessions had been addressed and rectified.

**5. Public**

Members of the public were in attendance with interest in either the proposal for a Battery Energy Storage facility on land west of Kent Street or Planning Application DC/23/2172: Street Record, Burnthouse Lane – Construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm and associated infrastructure.

## 6. District Councillor Report

Mrs Lambert and Ms Knowles reported on the following:

- Local Plan Consultation Period
- Rampion 2 Registration
- Cobwood Solar Farm Consultation
- Acquisition of a Horsham property to accommodate small start-up companies

## 7. County Councillor Report

Mrs Payne reported on the following:

- Road Repairs

## 8. Correspondence

*Cowfold Resident:* Requesting the possibility of turning the stump of the recently removed Oak Tree into a sculpture. Apart from the area being owned by Horsham District Council, Mr Hooper said that it was his understanding that the centre of the stump was rotten and, therefore, it would not be an option. It was established that Horsham District Council would be planting a replacement tree in the same area.

## 9. Budget 2024/25

The budget for 2024/25 suggested by the Finance Committee following their meeting on Wednesday 3 January 2024 had been tabled and all voted in favour of its acceptance.

## 10. Battery Storage Farm

There were several questions raised on the prospect of installing a Battery Storage Farm on land west of Kent Street. Mrs Lambert suggested that to understand all the implications, the Parish Council should set up a meeting with Trevor Brown or request that he attends a Parish Council meeting.

## 11. Rampion 2 Update

The Rampion2 Examination Procedure schedule of meetings hosted by the Planning Inspectorate commences on 6 February 2024 to which the Parish Council has been invited either in person or virtually. Mrs Everest suggested that the Parish Council should register as an active participant rather than an observer. This was agreed by all present. Mrs Everest said that she would ask whether the meetings could be represented by a variety of Councillors as she could not guarantee that she would be available for all of them.

(DE)

## 12. Environment

Mr Hooper said that Greening Cowfold would be organising another foraging event and the Parish Council's Clean-up day in April 2024. He also suggested a Community event be held in May 2024. Mrs Towle said that she would assist but would require some volunteers. The item will be added to the February 2024 Agenda.

### **13. Neighbourhood Planning Update**

Nothing to report.

### **14. The Allmond Centre**

Nothing to report.

### **15. Representatives Reports**

#### **Planning**

Nothing to report.

#### **Finance**

Approval for payments was requested and agreed by all.

#### **Open Spaces**

Nothing to report.

#### **Allotments**

Nothing to report.

#### **Roads & Transport**

Mrs Newman had sent an email reporting that she is continuing to liaise with Highways regarding the state of the roads and the ever increasing number of potholes and hopes to have more encouraging news for the February Council meeting.

#### **Footpaths**

Nothing to report

#### **Streetlights**

Nothing to report

#### **HALC**

Nothing to report.

#### **Website**

Nothing to report.

#### **Youth Activities**

Mrs Towle said that there was still only one official youth worker allotted to Cowfold although at the last meeting a volunteer was present and it was hoped that she would want to be recruited as the second.

Mrs Towle also reported that the village teenagers, although keen to join the Youth Club, wanted to be separate from the primary school children. She was currently exploring the possibility of extending the hours to accommodate two separate groups.

A breakdown of expenditure to date, both from the donation received and from subscriptions had been requested and will be required on a regular basis.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 12 February 2024.**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.