

Cowfold Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 12 August 2024 in the Allmond Centre

Cllrs Present:	Everest (Chair) Hooper (Vice Chair) Clark	French Towle
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Lee Dunkley (Locum Clerk – remote)

Cllr Lambert – Horsham District Councillor

Cllr Knowles – Horsham District Councillor

Public: 3

Press: 0

1. Apologies Apologies for absence were received from Jan Wright (Clerk), Cllrs Harsum, Ireland, Newman, Payne. The Parish Council received the resignation of Jan Wright and expressed their gratitude for her work over the past 20 years. Cllrs Lambert & Knowles also expressed their sincere thanks. 2. Declarations of Interest & requests for dispensations None. 3. Approval of the minutes and matters arising The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 8 July 2024 were agreed by all as a true and correct record. Matters arising included: BT have been contacted about cable ties being left on posts; the application has been made to have the services of a fire crew for the day which would be used to help paint the Allmond Centre; an update on the Scout Hut; Finance sub committee met on 3rd August to discuss accounting software and IT hardware amount to a cost of up to £1,000 – The Council supported this. Proposed developments at Potters and Brook Hill were discussed, both of which are included in the Cowfold Neighbourhood Plan. The matter of provision of public open space at the Brook Hill development was discussed with regard to ownership and management of such space being under a resident's management company. The Council are generally supportive, but raised concern that HDC could grant alternative use of the land such as a bypass or further housing or that the management company could allow residents to use the land for further development (e.g. extensions to private gardens). 4. Public Members of the public were in attendance and contributions included opinions on speed limits, and a full discussion ensued. 5. District & County Councillor Reports Cllr Lambert (HDC) & Cllr Knowles (HDC) reported on the following: • Local Plan & NPPF update • Battery storage applications update	Cllr Hooper to investigate with HDC 1800
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• Rampion2 matters • Gatwick proposal matters • Dog bin consultation Cllr Payne (WSCC) issued a written update as follows: • Increased bus service provision is being investigated • hoping to recommence monthly reports to the Council from next month. 6. Correspondence Received a grant request from Church Mice Stay and Play – via St Peters Church. A grant of £465 was awarded for hire of the village hall. Update Cowfold Youth Club (4theYouth) – moved up from item 15. Received a report from Luise Funnell which included an update on activities and attendance figures. Public access and safeguarding matters were discussed. 7. Approval of outstanding payments A list of payments was approved. 8. Cowfold Colloquy content for the Parish Magazine Agreed the content to include a historical piece on communications, Greening Cowfold and a general Parish Council update. 9. Communication methods and policy Considered as above. The Council wished to pursue the drafting of a policy. 10. Organisational change for the Council Considered as above, which is more pressing due to the recent resignation of the Clerk. Important items were considered to be: formal email accounts for Cllrs; public participation protocol; various policy development; Cllr Everest emphasised that this will be a collective endeavour and require assistance and participation from all councillors. 11. Community Security initiatives Item deferred. Cllrs requested to consider potential options supported by HDC. 12. Potential projects to utilise the Rural England Prosperity Fund Item deferred. Cllrs requested to consider and present possible projects. 13. Future management arrangements for the Allmond Centre Considered as above. Cllr Towle outlined a number of issues regarding the need for: website update, an increase in bookings/income/use; promotion. A discussion ensued regarding potential actions. 14. Updates a. Environment	Cllr Everest to pursue Cllrs to consider To be added to the next agenda To be added to the next agenda 1801
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None.

- b. Tree at 14 Acorn Avenue: 360 GlobalNet awaiting estimate from their nominated tree surgeon. Felling date to be communicated to CPC.
- c. Rampion 2 – Public consultation closed. The Planning Inspectorate will submit recommendations to the Secretary of State for Energy, Security and Net Zero by 6 November 2024.
- d. Neighbourhood Planning Update – Date for HDC's further consideration of unmade NPs to be communicated. CPC will hold a further public exhibition of the CNP.
- e. The Allmond Centre – Cllr Towle outlined a number of promotional opportunities to make the AC more attractive to local residents. These were agreed by cllrs.
- f. Allotment matters – Cllr Newman has now taken over the management of the CPC owned Allotments and will make a monthly report.

15. Representatives Reports

Planning – Nothing to report.

Open Spaces – Nothing to report.

Roads & Transport – Nothing to report.

Footpaths – Nothing to report.

Streetlights –Nothing to report.

HALC –Nothing to report.

Website – Updating and revising the PC website will be included in the forthcoming Communications Policy.

Youth Activities – Cllr Towle is pursuing a People's Grant application – it is believed that the project requires Parish Council support. The estimated costs for a Mini Ramp with Steel frame and Skatelight Pro surface is £35,000 - £39,000, or a lower spec quote was £27,500 for steel frame and birch riding surface. It was agreed to consider in 2025 if grant funding was not in place by then.

Speed Sign – Highest figure recorded 66mph.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 9 September 2024.**

The meeting closed at 21:45