

Minutes of a meeting of Cocking Parish Council held in the Garden Room, The Rectory, Mill Lane, Cocking on Monday 10th September 2007 at 6.30 pm

Members Present: Miss Frances Russell (Chairman), Mrs Naomi Barnett, Mrs Betty Birch, Mrs Gill Buchanan and Mr R Marks.

Also Present: Mr John Cherry, District Councillor

In attendance: Mrs Gwen Miles

1. Apologies: Mr Brian Kemp, Mr Peter O'Neill and County Councillor Lt Col Tex Pemberton

2. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th July 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th July 2007 were confirmed and agreed as a true record

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Signage for the Children's Playground

The Clerk confirmed that the signage had been made and that she had asked Mr Osborne to contact F.R. or B.B. to discuss where they wanted the signage fixed.

3.2 Withdrawal of the Mobile Police Station and Policing

The Council asked the Clerk to arrange for a representative from Sussex Police to come along to a future meeting to discuss how changes in the delivery of neighbourhood policing is going to work for Cocking.

3.3 Sports Field – Frensham Heights

The Clerk confirmed that she had not yet received a cheque from the Frensham Heights School for using the sports field in the Summer. It was agreed that if a cheque had not been received by the next meeting the Clerk would approach the school.

3.4 Northbound VAS

Although the pole has been erected for the Northbound VAS the warning sign had not yet been fixed.

3.5 Chichester North County Local Committee

It was noted that the date of the meeting had been moved at short notice to Monday 10th September to discuss the future of St Richards Hospital.

3.6 Ditches along Bumblekyte Lane

It was noted that the ditches had not yet been cleared

3.7 Proposed South Downs National Park

It was confirmed that a letter had been sent to defra making representations about the proposed South Downs National Park. It was noted that defra had extended the consultation period until 24th September 07.

It was noted that a meeting organized by the Sussex Wildlife Trust and South Downs Campaign was being held on Wednesday 19th September starting at 7.30 pm with the theme “why the western Weald”, including Midhurst and Petworth, should be in the National Park.” Clerk to display posters in the notice boxes.

3.8 Parish Council Newsletter

It was proposed that a newsletter would be produced in Oct 07. The Items for the newsletter to include an update on the community centre project and the playground annual inspection report.

4. County Councillor’s Report

Nil Report

5. Highways

A resident from a neighbouring village had spoken to FR about the safety of pedestrians at the bottom of Cocking Hill. Ranch style fencing had been erected adjacent to Malthouse Cottages to replace a wall which had been accidentally been knocked down. There was concern that as children are sitting on the fence they could get injured if there is an accident. The Clerk was asked to speak to the Highways Department to get their views.

6. District Councillor’s Report

Mr Cherry reported on the following:

- CDC had presented a strong case for retaining local post offices
- CDC had set aside 3 million pounds to encourage local affordable housing in the District and is working closely with Martlet Homes, a local housing association to deliver this pledge.
- Repairs to the roof at The Guildhall are being carried out
- Consultation is taking place about the future of The Grange Centre at Midhurst.
- Work on the museum in Chichester is progressing well

7. Planning Application

CK/ 07/04210/LBC -176 Cocking Village

Conversion of existing store room to form a new study, the reconstructing of existing staircase to provide access to first floor and existing box room

which is to be converted into a new bathroom. The ground floor bathroom is to be converted into a utility room.

The Council had no objection to the application

At the Council's planning meeting on the 13th August they had recorded no objection to planning application CK/07/003374/TCA – Cowdray Estate, Church Lane, Cocking to fell 1 No Christmas tree. The Clerk had overlooked an email sent by Mrs Diana Zeuner of Lindford Cottage, Church Lane, attaching a copy of a letter to the Planning Department appealing for the tree to remain and therefore the Council were not aware of the letter when they made their decision. It was agreed that had they seen the letter it would not have changed their decision. It understood that Cowdray Estate had felled the wrong tree and that Mrs Zeuner had already alerted Cowdray Estate and the CDC Tree Officer of this fact.

8. Children's Playground

BB reported to the Council on the Annual Playground report produced by N.W. Adams. The following action was decided:

- To replace the place matting and soil around the dizzy disc – RM offered to progress
- To remove moss using a pressure washer – RM offered to progress
- Ask Wicksteed Leisure to tighten the bolts in the tower and replace the two caps which are missing and inspect the shackles on the swings and grease the linkages.
- Treat the woodwork in the Spring
- The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for replacing the soft pour safety surfacing, when quotes had been received, grant funding would be applied for.
- The Council will need to consider whether it should start to plan for the equipment to be replaced.

9. Sports Field

It was agreed that the posters advertising the Halloween Bonfire and Firework Party produced by GB should be displayed by the end of September. The event would be risk assessed and a copy of the pro-forma supplied to the Clerk, who would notify the emergency services. It was agreed that the Council would spend £550 on the fireworks and that they would pay Mr A Paramor £50 for his insurance premium. For the event to take place it was essential that a qualified first aider was present. GB went through the arrangements for the party and members offered to distribute letters in the village promoting the evening and asking for donations towards the event.

The Council thanked GB and the Committee for organizing the event.

10. Community Centre Project

The grant application submitted to the South Downs Joint Committee applying for funding to carry out a full option appraisal and feasibility study had been turned down on the grounds that the owner of the barns should finance the study. It had been agreed not to proceed with the project and consideration would be given to replacing the sports pavilion using the existing hard standing for the proposed new building, which would not include changing rooms. It was agreed that there would need to be hard standing placed on the sports field to allow for vehicles to park. FR said that she would write to Mr R Windle from Cowdray Estate to advise him of the Council's decision.

11. Bus Shelter

The Clerk had received three quotations for a proposed new bus shelter adjacent to the lay-by opposite the Mouse House:

- Cowdray Estate – new bus shelter in Cocking as per drawing supplied to match existing bus shelter in village £4,000 plus VAT
- Bus Shelter Ltd – standard wooden shelters the one nearest to the Council's specification is The Rustic £4798.88 plus VAT (supplied and erected onto your prepared and level foundations)
- Queensbury Shelters – unable to manufacture a wooden shelter the size the Council required and had quoted £5376 plus VAT for a wooden shelter.

The Council agreed to accept the quotation provided by Cowdray Estate. The Clerk would ask for further details about the construction etc and would request for a site inspection to take place before works commenced so that everyone was clear what was proposed. Once everything had been clarified the Clerk would approach WSCC for grant funding. It was noted that Mrs J Marks was organizing a bring-and-buy sale and coffee morning on Saturday 15th September to help raise funds for the bus shelter.

12. Finances

The Clerk reported that at long last a cheque account had been opened with Lloyds TSB and that the following outstanding payments had been issued:

Mr B. Kemp – Reimbursement of items for the sports pavilion - £28.98

Mr J Mableson – Reimbursement of items for tractor - £22.28

SIAS – Report on Cocking lime Works - £5

Southern Electric - £11.67

Miss F Russell – Reimbursement of postage - £4.75

The following cheques were agreed and signed at the meeting
Mrs G Miles – Expenses £39.11
Clara.net – register Cocking Parish Council’s email address - £35.25

The Clerk confirmed that she was looking at various broadband packages. The Council asked her to record the hours she was currently working for the Council as they were concerned that the hours worked might be in excess of what she is being paid for. The Clerk agreed to do this.

13. Correspondence List

The items on the correspondence list were noted.

It was agreed to place the consultation document “creating an NHS fit for future” on the October agenda. Comments are required by the 30th October 2007.

14. A.O.B.

FR passed on to the Clerk the Cowdray Estate’s ten year forest plan.

GB said that she understood the owner of the tractor used on the sports field is considering selling the vehicle for £4,000 and that he had made a general enquiry as to whether the Council would be willing to purchase the equipment. It was agreed to make a decision if formally approached.

The following meeting dates were noted:

Joint meeting of North West Frontier and Rother Valley Community Forum –
Wednesday 19th September

Annual Meeting of Parishes at the Chichester District Council Offices on Monday
29th October

15. Date of next meeting

Monday 8th October at 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.17 pm

Chairman _____