

# COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: - Councillor G. Terry (Chairman) Councillors J. Clasby, M. Dare, N. Downing, E. Ingram (from 8.00 p.m.), J. Stradling and Mrs L. Woodward.

## **15. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **16. Interests**

Members had no interests to declare.

## **17. Reports of the County and District Councillors**

Neither Member was present.

## **18. Report from Organisations**

Councillor Dare had no report in respect of the Village Hall Committee. Councillor Clasby reported that no Neighbourhood Watch related incidents had taken place since the last meeting but an assessment of the Woolavington Neighbourhood e-Watch Scheme was still taking place and it was hoped that an update with more information would be provided at the next Meeting.

## **19. Maintenance Items**

It was reported that road defects at Hurst Lane and Cossington Level had been repaired and that County Highways would require the contractor to carry out further surface dressing work to Manor Road (south) at their expense. It was noted that all reported fly-tipping had been removed. There was nothing to report in respect of the Cossington Flood Group. Councillor Dare had commenced work on the planters in the village and would install and fill the new planters in the village centre later in the week. The First Group bus service between Bridgwater and Street had recently been reduced to a two-hour frequency following Webberbus ceasing trading. Discussions were continuing with the County Council regarding First Group continuing to operate the service on a commercial basis and further changes might occur. Councillor Dare had removed a dead cherry tree in the village centre and it was agreed that a low branch be removed from the oak tree, subject to first checking that it was not covered by a Tree Preservation Order. The Chairman undertook to investigate an issue of water seeping through tarmac at Brent Road. The Bridge School were still aiming to move into Cossington School during the autumn half term and proposed work on the site was outlined. This was in accordance with earlier discussions with little change to the site's external appearance in general - although concern was expressed regarding the proposed mesh fence behind the stone boundary wall on the bend on grounds of road safety. Councillor Stradling undertook to chase up the proposed treatment of the wooden slats around the big tree surround. Gary Bickers would be requested to trim the hedge in the village centre in front of Church Farmhouse. The Chairman also reported upon an updated banner for the web-site.

## **20. Authorisation for Payment**

The following payments were authorised: -

000892 GWB Services	grass cutting	£522.00
000893 Parish Clerk	expenses	£310.19

Open Meeting 7.50 p.m.

An offer from a member of the public to donate materials for the construction of owl nesting boxes for erection in suitable locations in the parish was discussed. Councillors Clasby and Stradling undertook to construct the boxes.

Open Meeting ended 8.00 p.m.

## **21. Planning Applications**

The following recommendations made in consultation with Members since the last Meeting, due to the District Council's deadline for submission of comments being prior to the date of this Meeting, were confirmed: -

002 - Erection of front porch, first floor extension, two storey extension to rear elevation and formation of parking, Calshot, Middle Road – Mr & Mrs M. Steyn – recommend permission.

003 – Certificate of lawfulness for use of land for the storage of caravans and vehicles (Use Class B8), Gardners Business Units, Brent Road – Mrs P. Gardner – no observations.

The following new application was considered: -

004 Erection of extension to holiday cottage at Grange Cottage, Middle Road – Mr & Mrs P. Jasinski – recommend permission (subject to holiday let conditions being retained) .

## **22. Playing Field**

The external annual inspection of the play equipment had taken place on 17<sup>th</sup> May and the report was considered. It was agreed in the first instance that GB Sport & Leisure be requested to carry out a full risk assessment of the wooden items requiring further more detailed assessment and Councillors Clasby and Stradling undertook to examine an issue with the roundabout.

Councillor Stradling reported that the skateboard facility in the “tennis court” area was still scheduled for August. It was agreed that an order be placed for two benches for installation in agreed locations in the playing field and quotations would be obtained for a path from the car park pedestrian gate to join with the Brent Road access path. It was also agreed that the car park pedestrian gate be fitted with a latch instead of a spring closing mechanism. Low branches would be removed from the perimeter trees in the autumn and it was noted that Village People had donated £600 to the Playing Field Association.

The remaining aluminium “no dog” signs had been erected at the agreed location at the southern end of the field and one damaged old sign at the entrance had also been replaced.

The Red Tile Football Club had finally paid their fees for use of the pitch and facilities during the 2015/16 season. It was agreed that they be again charged a fee of £250 should they wish to use the facilities during the 2016/17 season such sum to be payable at the commencement of the season in September 2016.

## **23. Village Community Survey**

The special newsletter containing a survey results summary was generally confirmed as having been distributed although there were a few outstanding which would be dealt with immediately. The Chairman also confirmed that personal responses to the 78 non-anonymous respondents who had raised specific issues were on target for delivery by early July, as previously agreed (via e-mail to those who had provided an e-mail address and via letter to others).

With regard to initial actions identified from the survey it was agreed that the Chairman lead on the matter of undertaking a Housing Needs Survey to clarify both affordable and general future housing needs, with a likely timescale of late 2016 following the next stage of the Local Plan consultation. In the meantime, the Local Authority would be informed of our intentions.

Councillor Stradling would lead the playing field improvements of providing additional benches and improved access to the play area from the car park and work was already underway.

Councillor Clasby would leading on the formation of a Roads and Traffic Working Group with interested residents and the Chairman would lead on the piloting of an electronic news alerts system via e-mail to those signing up to the service – with both initiatives due to commence after the summer holiday period.

## **24. Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman