

# COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors J. Clasby, M. Dare, E. Ingram, J. Stradling, G. Terry and Mrs L. Woodward with County/District Councillor M. Healey and District Councillor Mrs A. Hamlin.

Apology for absence received from Councillor N. Downing.

## **1. Election of Chairman**

Proposed Councillor Mrs Woodward, seconded Councillor Ingram and agreed that Councillor G. Terry be elected Chairman for 2017/18. The Chairman signed a declaration of acceptance of office.

## **2. Election of Vice-Chairman**

Proposed Councillor Clasby, seconded Councillor Dare and agreed that Councillor J. Stradling be elected Vice-Chairman for 2017/18.

## **3. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as correct records.

## **4. Interests**

Members had no interests to declare.

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

County/District Councillor Healey reported that David Fothergill had been elected as the new Leader of Somerset County Council. He also reported upon work he was undertaking in connection with planning issues at Cossington Lane including application 54/17/0003 (proposed site for Hinkley workers at Montana Scaffolding) for which he was thanked. District Councillor Hamlin had no report to make.

## **6. Report from Organisations**

Councillor Dare reported that changes were likely to take place to the membership of the Village Hall Committee. Councillor Clasby reported upon fires at Cossington Level.

## **7. Maintenance Items**

It was noted that a pothole had been filled and a water-leak repaired at Brent Road. There were no new highway defects or fly-tipping issues to report. Regarding Cossington Flood Group, the Chairman reported that he had inspected the water course and it was flowing well. Suggested work to a ditch at Brent Road was unlikely to be practical due to permissions / licences being required. The issue regarding foul water entering a ditch in Cossington Lane was being investigated by appropriate authorities and a progress report was awaited on the matter. Information was still awaited from the County Council regarding the existence of the necessary Traffic Regulation Order to enable Avon and Somerset Police to commence mobile speed camera monitoring of traffic in Middle Road. Dog fouling had subsided a little but was still occurring in certain locations. It was agreed to continue to monitor the matter and to include a section on responsible dog ownership in the Welcome Packs for new residents and on the website for existing residents.

## **8. 2016/17 Accounting Statements**

The Financial Statement for 2016/17 and 2016/17 Accounting Statements required by the external auditors were formally approved.

## **9. Review of Insurance Cover**

The Council reviewed their insurance cover for 2017/18. The existing long term agreement with Zurich Municipal had expired and it was agreed to enter into a new 5-year agreement with an initial premium of £635.28.

## **10. Authorisation for Payment**

The following payments were authorised: -

000909	GWB Services	grass cutting	£375.00
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Open Meeting 7.55 p.m.

Members of the public received an update on the current position regarding planning application 54/17/00003. (see below – Section 11, Planning Applications)

Open Meeting ended 7.57 p.m.

## **11. Planning Applications**

There were no new planning applications for consideration. With regard to planning application 54/17/00003, Temporary change of use of land for 10 years as a caravan site for touring and static caravans and construction of a games room to be used by Hinkley Point workers only at Cossington Lane for Montana Scaffolding, the Chairman reported that both this Parish Council and Woolavington Parish Council had recommended refusal, some 36 objections had been lodged by local residents and the Ward Members were opposed to the proposals. The application would therefore be determined by the District Council's Development Committee if thought to be acceptable by the Local Authority

With regard to 005 - Retention of change of use from residential to mixed use (residential and wedding/function event venue) at Cossington Park for G. Wason, the Chairman reported that this application was to be considered by the Development Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> May and he would be addressing Members as the planning officers did not fully support the conditions requested by the Parish Council.

The District Council had indicated that a planning application was in the pipeline regarding regularisation of planning contraventions at Henshirl Paddocks. A copy of the application had not yet been received.

## **12. Playing Field**

The construction of the path from the car park pedestrian gate had been largely completed. Councillors Clasby, Ingram and Stradling undertook to investigate adjustments to the safer surfacing under the roundabout to achieve greater ground clearance under the platform prior to the annual safety inspection in late May. It was agreed to request Mr Bickers to repair the broken rail in the car park fence. It was also agreed to charge Woolavington Football Club £275 for use of the pitch and changing rooms during the 2017/18 season.

## **13. Cossington Housing Needs Assessment**

The Chairman reported upon feedback from the District Council Affordable Housing Officers who supported the two-stage approach Housing Needs Assessment for Cossington. He undertook to circulate a draft first stage form for comment by Members prior to circulation with the autumn newsletter.

## **14. Spring Newsletter**

Members approved the content of the spring newsletter which had been circulated for comment prior to the Meeting.

## **15. Cossington in Bloom**

It was agreed that the categories for the four trophies for the 2017 Gardens Competitions should be "small", "most colourful", "tubs/hanging baskets" and "best kept". Councillors Clasby and Ingram undertook to compile a shortlist for the official judging in early July. Bridge School were considering holding a children's competition associated with Cossington in Bloom throughout their sites.

## **16. Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7.30 p.m. following an inspection of the Playing Field at 6.45 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman