

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 16th October 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors G. Terry (Chairman), J. Clasby, N. Downing, E. Ingram, J. Stradling and Mrs L. Woodward with District Councillor Mrs A. Hamlin.

Apology for absence received from Councillor M. Dare.

57. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th September 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

58. Interests

Members had no interests to declare.

59. Reports of the County and District Councillors

District Councillor Mrs Hamlin had no report to make.

60. Report from Organisations

In the absence of Councillor Dare, there was no report on the work of the Village Hall Committee. With regard to Neighbourhood Watch, Councillor Clasby reported upon two thefts from outbuildings in the village.

61. Maintenance Items

There were no new highway defects or fly-tipping issues to report. Regarding Cossington Flood Group, the Chairman reported that he had carried out a six-monthly inspection of the water course which was generally running smoothly. A few minor issues would be dealt with. There had been no further information on the Traffic Regulation Order required to enable Avon and Somerset Police to commence mobile speed camera monitoring of traffic in Middle Road, which had now been going on for over a year. It had been expected to form part of a comprehensive Traffic Regulation Order to be made by the County Council during late 2017 and endeavour would again be made to ascertain the position. Dog fouling was still occurring in certain locations and it was agreed to continue to monitor the matter. It was agreed to build a case for an extension of the 30 mph speed limit in Middle Road eastwards to a position near Mendip View. Councillor Ingram was leading on this matter. County Highways had removed graffiti from a sign at Bell Lane. It was noted that appropriate agencies were working with landowners to resolve an issue of blocked ditches at the southern approach to Cossington Level and it was agreed to ensure that work would take place to ditches on both sides of the carriageway. It was agreed to monitor an issue of multiple parked vehicles outside of Manor Court which were reported by a resident as having caused highway safety problems due to impairment of visibility around the bend into Brent Road.

The parish notice board in the village centre had recently collapsed and was deemed to be beyond repair. The Chairman had placed a temporary notice board facility in the bus shelter to ensure that the Council met its statutory responsibilities. After discussion, it was agreed that options for a replacement notice board be explored as a matter of urgency and a possible budget for the unforeseen expenditure was identified. A parishioner had kindly donated £10 towards the cost of a new notice board.

62. Financial Matters

The following payments were authorised: -

000918	GWB Services	grass cutting	£627.00
000919	Grant Thornton	audit fee	£120.00

Grant Thornton UK LLP had completed the audit of the 2016/17 accounts and had concluded that on the basis of their review, in their opinion the information in the annual return was in accordance with proper practices and no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements had not been met. The Internal Auditor also had no issues to raise with Members.

Open Meeting 7.55 p.m.

A member of the public raised a question relating to drainage at Cossington Level.

Open Meeting ended 8.00 p.m.

63. Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications to consider.

The Chairman reported that he would be attending a District Council Planning Seminar on 18th October and would submit a report thereon at the next Meeting.

64. Playing Field

Councillor Clasby had repaired the wooden fence around the car park and adjusted the car park pedestrian gate to overcome possible health and safety issues. Councillors Clasby, Ingram and Stradling undertook to further adjust the safer surfacing under the roundabout to achieve greater ground clearance under the platform and to investigate possible replacement of a post on the trim trail climbing wall.

It was agreed to request Deane DLO to carry out an urgent grass cut of the field. The movements of a van in the car park would be monitored. The availability of Health grants from the District Council were discussed and it was considered that no projects in the playing field met the criteria but details should be forwarded to the Village Hall Committee for consideration. Some fly-tipping had occurred in the car park, which the Chairman had removed.

65. Village Nameplates

With regard to the provision of a village nameplate in Middle Road along with replacement matching nameplates in Brent Road and Manor Road, Members considered and approved revised artwork showing an image of the former Big Tree produced by Councillor Downing. Firm estimates would now be obtained from the County Council.

66. Cossington Housing Needs Assessment

Members approved a draft questionnaire which had been circulated by the Chairman. The questionnaire would be distributed with the autumn newsletter in early November with a public drop in stand at the St. Michael's Church Christmas Fayre at the Village Hall on 18th November 2017 for more information. The temporary letterboxes would be erected again for residents to return their questionnaires before a deadline of 28th November with the Village Hall Post-box providing an alternative.

67. Cossington Parish Council Autumn Newsletter

Members approved a draft of the autumn newsletter which had been circulated by the Chairman.

68. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 13th November 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman