

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 13th November 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors G. Terry (Chairman), N. Downing, E. Ingram, J. Stradling and Mrs L. Woodward (until 7.40 p.m.) with District Councillor Mrs A. Hamlin.

Apology for absence received from Councillors J. Clasby and M.F. Dare.

69. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th October 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

70. Interests

Councillor Stradling declared an interest in the planning matter relating to Millmoot Farm.

71. Reports of the County and District Councillors

District Councillor Mrs Hamlin had no report to make.

72. Report from Organisations

In the absence of Councillor Dare, there was no report on the work of the Village Hall Committee. Councillor Clasby had indicated that there was nothing to report relating to Neighbourhood Watch.

73. Maintenance Items

There were no new highway defects to report. It was agreed to report a tyre which had been fly-tipped at Hurst Lane and to record appreciation of the work of a parishioner who had collected litter while Councillor Dare had been incapacitated. Two black bin bags dumped in Manor Road (South) had also been disposed of. Regarding Cossington Flood Group, the Chairman reported that the entrance to the culvert at the School had been cleared and consideration would be given to reconstituting the Group. It was understood that the County Council were again searching for the Traffic Regulation Order required to enable Avon and Somerset Police to commence mobile speed camera monitoring of traffic in Middle Road. 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 following the resolution of the speed camera issue, with Councillor Ingram leading on the matter. It was agreed to seek a progress report from County Highways on the work being carried out by appropriate agencies with landowners to resolve an issue of blocked ditches at the southern approach to Cossington Level. It had been confirmed that work would take place to ditches on both sides of the carriageway and it was agreed also to report water run-off from farm premises to the south. It was agreed to monitor a reported issue of double-parked vehicles in Manor Road (North) which were reported as giving rise to highway safety problems approaching Brent Road. A replacement parish notice board for the village centre was on order and should be delivered by the end of November.

74. Financial Matters

The following payment was authorised: -

000920	GWB Services	grass cutting	£358.00
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A bank reconciliation for the period 1st April to 30th September 2017 was checked with the original bank statements and signed by the Members who did not sign cheques as part of the Council's Internal Controls.

Preliminary consideration was also given to the Estimates for 2018/19.

Open Meeting 7.55 p.m.

No issues were raised by the public.

Open Meeting ended 7.56 p.m.

75. Planning Applications

It was noted that C. Stradling and Son had submitted a Notice of Proposed Agricultural Development for the erection of an agricultural building for the storage of hay, straw and implements at Millmoot Farm. As this was not a formal planning application as such, the observations of the Parish Council had not been requested.

The Chairman reported upon his attendance at a District Council Planning Seminar on 18th October and outlined issues relating to rural housing, progress on the Local Plan and new Government planning targets.

76. Playing Field

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. Councillor Stradling would also trim the hedges and remove some low branches from the roadside trees when ground conditions were firm.

The movements of vans in the car park would continue to be monitored. Some fly-tipping of green waste had recently occurred around the edge of the car park.

77. Village Nameplates

The County Council had given a firm quotation of £500 for the provision of a village nameplate in Middle Road along with replacement matching nameplates in Brent Road and Manor Road, showing an image of the former Big Tree. It was agreed that an order be now placed and, if necessary, the planter below the Manor Road nameplate be lowered or replaced.

78. Cossington Housing Needs Assessment

Members had completed the distribution of the questionnaire with the autumn newsletter and at least 12 responses had been received in the first few days. The Chairman and a Sedgemoor District Council Affordable Housing Officer would man an information stand at the St. Michael's Church Christmas Fayre at the Village Hall on 18th November 2017. The deadline for return of the Stage One questionnaires was 28th November, following which they would be analysed. Residents with a likely affordable housing need would be invited to formally register this need confidentially with Sedgemoor District Council by completing a Stage Two form. It was anticipated that the full results of Stage One would be reported to the February 2018 Parish Council Meeting and more widely summarised in the Spring 2018 Newsletter.

79. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 11th December 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman