

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 11th December 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors G. Terry (Chairman), J. Clasby, N. Downing, E. Ingram and J. Stradling.

Apology for absence received from Councillors M.F. Dare and Mrs L. Woodward.

80. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th November 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

81. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

82. Reports of the County and District Councillors

Neither Member was present.

83. 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, the meeting discussed recent incidents of thefts and trespass on local farms which appeared to be committed by the same people. Councillor Clasby circulated images taken from cctv recordings which showed the individuals and a van and the police were understood to be following up the information.

84. Maintenance Items

There were no new highway defects to report. It was agreed to report damaged nameplates at Park Close and Walnut Lane and builders waste which had been fly-tipped at Combe Lane and Gold Corner Drove. Regarding Cossington Flood Group, the Chairman reported that there was a need for leaves to be cleared from various highway drains. The County Council had reportedly found the Traffic Regulation Order required to enable Avon and Somerset Police to undertake mobile speed camera monitoring of traffic in Middle Road and the police had been requested to commence checks. The County Council would no longer be installing Speed Indicator Devices due to budgetary issues. 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 commencement of mobile speed camera monitoring, with Councillor Ingram leading on the matter. It was agreed to seek a further 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. No work had yet taken place to ditches on the western side of the carriageway and a gully had been constructed on the eastern side above the level of the standing water. Dog fouling was still occurring in certain locations and it was agreed to continue to monitor the matter. A replacement parish notice board for the village centre had been installed by Councillor Clasby and appropriate arrangements were being made for public access to the left section shortly.

85. Financial Matters

The following payments were authorised: -

000921	GWB Services	grass cutting & maintenance	£221.00
000922	Cossington Village Hall	grant	£400.00
000923	Cossington PCC	grant	£225.00
000924	Whitehill Direct	noticeboard	£1,042.80
000925	Parish Clerk	expenses & sundry payments	£474.29

The Council considered the draft estimates for 2018/19. It was agreed that the Estimates be approved and the precept for 2018/19 be £11,000 less any Council Tax Support Grant.

Open Meeting 8.10 p.m.

No issues were raised by the public.

Open Meeting ended 8.11 p.m.

86. Planning Applications

Gary Berry made a pre-application presentation on plans for a three-bedroom dwelling with accommodation in the roof space on land granted outline consent for a single storey dwelling under application 22/17/00002. Members were aware of pre-determination rules and did not give an opinion but suggested that advice be obtained from the Village Design Statement regarding materials and the County Council's parking strategy regarding off street parking provision.

The Chairman reported that in respect of application 22/17/00006 relating to land at Henshirl Paddocks, Brent Road, an application had been submitted for a discharge of all conditions (Nos 1-10) which was considered inappropriate and unjustified. It was agreed to make strong representations to the Planning Officer regarding this matter.

87. 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 and stop up a gap in the western hedge.

The movement of a van in the car park would continue to be monitored.

88. Village Nameplates

An order had been placed with the County Council for the provision of a new village nameplate in Middle Road along with replacement matching nameplates in Brent Road and Manor Road. It was understood that the replacement nameplates would be erected first and a request had been made for the old nameplates to be retained by the Parish Council.

89. Cossington Housing Needs Assessment

The Chairman reported that 78 completed Stage One questionnaires had been received and gave a preliminary overview of the information contained therein. Some residents had reported a likely affordable housing need in Stage One but would need to formally register this need confidentially with Sedgemoor District Council by completing a Stage Two form for this to be included as part of Cossington's official affordable housing need. The full results of Stage One would be reported to the next Meeting of the Parish Council and more widely summarised in the Spring 2018 Newsletter, along with a reminder about the need for a Stage Two form submission if appropriate.

90. Cossington in Bloom

The Chairman reported that a Cossington Village Flower Show might not take place in 2018 following the retirement of two of the organisers. It was agreed that the Cossington in Bloom Competitions should continue with the presentations taking place at an alternative event, possibly organised by Village People.

91. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 12th February 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Chairman