

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 12th February 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Apology for absence received from Councillor N. Downing and County/District Councillor M. Healey.

92. Minutes

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

93. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

94. Reports of the County and District Councillors

District Councillor Mrs Hamlin reported that she had attended a Meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee but had nothing specific to report on the matter.

95. Reports from Organisations

Councillor Dare had no report regarding the Village Hall Committee having been unable to attend recent meetings due to ill health. He hoped to be able to attend to the next Meeting. Regarding Neighbourhood Watch, Councillor Clasby reported that local residents were being encouraged to sign up the Polden e-Watch Scheme and he also reported upon a theft from a rear porch in Cossington.

96. Maintenance Items

There were no new highway defects to report. The damaged nameplates at Park Close and Walnut Lane would be replaced/repaired. It was agreed to report further fly-tipping in the Cossington Level/ Gold Corner Drove area. Regarding Cossington Flood Group, the Chairman reported that the water courses were currently flowing well and additional volunteers to join the Group were being sought. The County Council had now advertised a new 30 mph Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Cossington - required to enable Avon and Somerset Police to undertake mobile speed camera monitoring of traffic in Middle Road. It was understood that the police had recently carried out ad-hoc speed checks from a van in Middle Road and that Bridge School would be carrying out their speed checks outside their premises from 26th February in connection with roadside fencing proposals and would share the data with the Parish Council. It was agreed to defer building a case for an extension of the 30 mph speed limit in Middle Road eastwards pending approval of the proposed TRO following consultation. County Highways had confirmed that further work would be carried out with landowners by appropriate agencies to resolve an issue of blocked ditches at the southern approach to Cossington Level on both sides of the carriageway. Dog fouling was still occurring in certain locations and it was agreed to display posters and increase surveillance in appropriate areas with a view to alleviating the problem. Following reports of a smell of oil along the Sustrans track near the A39 bridge, the Environment Agency had been contacted and they were carrying out monitoring work to identify the source of any possible pollution

97. Financial Matters

The following payments were authorised: -

000926 A.J. Pole	electrical work in hut	£212.50
000927 Taunton Deane BC	gang mowing	£1,140.48

The Council considered and approved a Risk Management Report for 2017/18.

Open Meeting 8.10 p.m.

Issues were raised by the public related to the proposed pharmacy (see minute 103).

Open Meeting ended 8.11 p.m.

98. Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:-

17/010 – Erection of rear extension, The Pollards, Middle Road – Mrs R. Hall – confirm recommendation of permission;

18/001 – Erection of single storey dwelling and formation of parking spaces at Broderip – Mr & Mrs J. Webber – recommend permission.

The Chairman reported that, in respect of application 22/17/00006 relating to land at Henshirl Paddocks, Brent Road, the planning officer had clarified the issue regarding the application which had been mistakenly submitted for a discharge of all conditions. The officer confirmed that only certain conditions could be discharged and those only when implementation of the relevant approved scheme had taken place to the District Council's satisfaction and in accordance with previously approved plans.

99. Playing Field

Councillors Clasby, Ingram and Stradling would undertake further work to adjust the safer surfacing under the roundabout to achieve greater ground clearance under the platform and investigate possible replacement of a post on the trim trail climbing wall. Councillor Stradling would also trim the hedges inside the playing field 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.

100. Village Nameplates

The County Council had now erected replacement village nameplates utilising existing posts at Brent Road and Manor Road and would erect a matching new nameplate at a suitable location at Middle Road to be determined. A further request had been made for the old nameplates to be retained by the Parish Council.

101. Cossington Housing Needs Assessment

The Chairman gave an update on the Housing Needs Assessment. To date, none of the residents who had reported a likely affordable housing need in Stage One had formally registered this need confidentially with Sedgemoor District Council by completing a Stage Two "Expression of Interest Form" - required for this to be included as part of Cossington's official affordable housing need. The results of Stage One would be summarised in the Spring 2018 Newsletter, along with a reminder about the need for a Stage Two form submission, if appropriate.

102. Spring 2018 Newsletter

Members approved the content of the Spring Newsletter, a draft of which had been circulated by the Chairman.

103. Proposed Pharmacy, Windmill Crescent, Woolavington

Members considered the implications of the decisions of the Pharmacy Appeals Committee appointed by NHS Resolution to quash the previous decisions of NHS England and to award a licence to Magna Healthcare for a pharmacy in the former Co-op premises at Windmill Crescent, Woolavington and refuse a licence for a surgery at Higher Road. Patients at the surgery living within a one-mile radius of Windmill Crescent (approximately 94% of Cossington residents) would not be able to have their prescriptions dispensed at the Surgery – but instead would have to go to a pharmacy. A meeting between interested bodies to consider issues in the connection with the matter in detail had been called for 13th February at which the Parish Council would be represented. In the meantime, it was agreed to make representations to the Family Health Services Appeal Unit for an extension of the "Gradualisation Period" – the time from when the pharmacy opens and when patients lose their surgery dispensing rights (currently set at six months). It was noted that the applicant might also appeal for a shorter period to be applied.

104. Cossington in Bloom

The Chairman reported that a Cossington Village Flower Show would not take place in 2018. It was agreed that the Cossington in Bloom Competitions should continue with the presentations taking place at an alternative event, organised by Village People, in early September.

105. Next Meeting

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

The Meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Chairman