

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Apology for absence received from Councillor Mrs L. Woodward.

106. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th February 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

107. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

108. Reports of the County and District Councillors

District Councillor Mrs Hamlin had nothing specific to report.

109. Reports from Organisations

Councillor Dare reported upon a recent Meeting of the Village Hall Committee. Councillor Clasby reported that 69 local residents had signed up to the Polden e-Watch Scheme.

110. Maintenance Items

It was agreed to report highway defects in the vicinity of Brookhayes Farm. Damaged nameplates at Mowground Lane, Park Close and Walnut Lane would be replaced/repared. 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 would be sought later in the year. The County Council were processing the 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. Consideration of an extension of the 30 mph speed limit in Middle Road eastwards would be deferred pending approval of the new TRO. It was agreed not to take part in the County Council's scheme for the continued deployment of SIDs at a cost to the Parish Council of £100 for each occasion of two-weeks in duration. County Highways had confirmed that further work would be carried out 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. A poster had been placed on the noticeboard and surveillance would be increased in appropriate areas with a view to alleviating the problem. No information had been received from the Environment Agency regarding their investigation into possible pollution following reports of a smell of oil along the Sustrans track near the A39 bridge, but the smell appeared to have subsided.

111. Financial Matters

The following payment was authorised: -

000928 Parish Clerk	expenses and sundry payments	£213.07
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The Council considered and approved a Statement of Internal Control for 2017/18.

Open Meeting 7.55 p.m.

No members of the public were present.

Open Meeting ended 7.56 p.m.

112. Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications to consider.

The Chairman reported that, in respect of application 22/17/00006 relating to land at Henshirl Paddocks, Brent Road, the District Council's Planning Web-site indicated that conditions relating to landscaping and the visibility splay had now been discharged following receipt of satisfactory plans. The work to satisfy the conditions would need to be undertaken within specified timescales. The District Council still had open queries regarding the plans submitted for the sewerage and surface water drainage conditions

113. 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 at the appropriate time. A quotation for gang mowing during the 2018 season was still awaited. Reference was made to an unauthorised activity in the field which hopefully would not reoccur after Parish Council intervention. Arrangements would also be made to clear litter from the field and its surrounds.

114. Village Nameplates

The County Council had 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.

115. 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 had been summarised in the Spring 2018 Newsletter, along with a reminder about the need for a Stage Two form submission, if appropriate.

116. Proposed Pharmacy, Former Co-op Premises, Windmill Crescent, Woolavington

Members considered an update on this matter. Representations had been made 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 understood that others had made a similar approach and the case was likely to be judged by 30th June. It was noted that the applicant might also appeal for a shorter period to be applied.

Two Meetings between interested bodies to consider possible alternative uses for the vacant shop unit had been held, at which the Parish Council had been represented. Various ideas for possible uses which would give greater benefits to the wider community had been suggested but currently there was no specific detailed proposal. The District Council had stated that a detailed bid with a full business plan should be submitted by 29th March and an extension of this deadline was now being sought as these timescales were considered inadequate – particularly considering that commercial details relating to the premises had only been received a week ago.

It was agreed to make a further representation in connection with this matter in response to the District Council's initial reply, supporting an extension of the deadline for submission of a detailed business plan for an alternative community use of the premises.

117. Cossington in Bloom

Following confirmation from the organising committee that the Village Flower Show would not be taking place this year, it was agreed that the Cossington in Bloom prizegiving should take place at an alternative event, to be organised by Village People, in early September. It was also agreed to retain the same categories as last year for the 2018 Cossington in Bloom Competitions.

It is understood that there may be some residents may be interested in resurrecting the Flower Show – and, if so, they should liaise with Village People.

118. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting, the Annual Parish Meeting, be held on Monday, 9th April 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman