

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 8th October 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Apology for absence received from Councillors N. Downing and J. Stradling.

47. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th September 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

48. Interests

Members had no interests to declare.

49. Reports of the County and District Councillors

District Councillor Mrs Hamlin reported that the District Council had met the Leader of the County Council to discuss financial issues.

50. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare reported that the Village Hall Committee were to carry out internal decoration work and remove the pumps from the bar. He had raised an issue regarding the hire fee for a non-profit making village event with the Hall Committee. Councillor Clasby had no issues to report in respect of Neighbourhood Watch but outlined changes to Police Beat operational procedures.

51. Maintenance Items

There were no new highway defects to report. A quantity of tyres had recently been fly-tipped along Bell Lane and had been removed by the District Council along with other fly-tipping previously reported at Bell Lane/Hirst Lane junction. It was agreed to reported additional tyres which had been fly-tipped along Cossington Level to the north of the Combe Lane junction. There was nothing new to report regarding the Flood Group, although the water course was currently running smoothly. County Highways had agreed to arrange for vegetation obscuring the 30 mph signs on approaching the village to be cleared and they had also been requested to repair damaged signs. This work was required to enable Avon and Somerset Police to commence mobile speed camera monitoring of traffic in Middle Road. The land drainage issue at the southern approach to Cossington Level was being addressed by the local Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group but no timescale had been set for completion of works. Dog fouling was still occurring in certain locations and it was agreed to continue to monitor the matter. It was noted that dog waste bags were still being deposited in the ditch at Manor Road and in hedges at other locations. It was agreed to check the health of a mountain ash tree in the Village Centre. A resident had also raised an issue of a traffic and pedestrian safety hazard caused by vehicles parked in the vicinity of the Bell Lane/Middle Road junction, blocking visibility.

With regard to the issue of sewerage discharging into the roadside ditch in Brent Road, an Environmental Health Officer had been in contact with the adjacent site owner or his representative and ordered the ditch to be cleared and tanks to be emptied every two weeks to prevent this discharge pending implementation of a more permanent solution. It was understood that the whole length of the ditch which had suffered from pollution had been jetted but it was reported further discharge was occurring and it was agreed to report the matter again to the Environmental Health Officer and the Planning Enforcement Officer as appropriate following an inspection.

52. Authorisation for Payment

The following payment was authorised: -

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|--------|--------------|---------------|---------|
| 000939 | GWB Services | grass cutting | £185.00 |
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A bank reconciliation for the period 1st April to 30th September 2018 was checked with the original bank statements and signed by the Members who do not sign cheques as part of the Parish Council's Internal Controls.

Open Meeting 7.55 p.m.

No Members of the public were present.

Open Meeting ended 7.55 p.m.

53. Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications to consider.

With regard to 008 – Erection of dwelling and formation of parking bay, Hayesbrook House, Millmoot Lane – P. Heyward – the application had been withdrawn by the applicant.

The application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing use of Gardners Business Units, Brent Road for mixed business use, storage of caravans and residential use (007) had been refused.

With regard to 54/18/008 – Outline planning application with some matters reserved for the erection of up to 145 dwellings and formation of vehicular access at Cossington Lane, Woolavington – Gladman Developments Ltd, it was understood that amended plans had been submitted to reduce the number of dwellings to 125 and to increase the amount of landscaping.

The Chairman reported upon a consultation by the District Council on proposed amendments to the draft Sedgemoor Local Plan, following examination by an Inspector. Few of the changes directly impacted upon Cossington but it was agreed to respond by requesting amendment to the wording of Policy T9 (T4 Settlement Housing). It was disappointing to see consultation of the Parish Council and other local stakeholders watered down to what appeared to be an optional activity for the proposer and it was suggested that the wording be changed to emphasise the importance of such consultation - e.g. "It is important that promoters carry out meaningful and robust engagement and consultation with Parish Councils and other local stakeholders in advance of a detailed scheme being submitted. This is encouraged and expected"

54. Playing Field

Councillor Stradling had completed a maintenance issue on the trim trail. Councillor Clasby had painted the seats on the youth shelter and it was agreed to consider the need to repair a defective gate post near the playing field hut at the next Meeting. It was understood that the Football Club had not yet used the pitch, possibly due to the continued presence of surface cracks. It was also noted that the field had not been recently gang mowed and it was agreed to contact Deane DLO regarding the matter.

55. Autumn Newsletter

The Council considered several topics for inclusion in the 2018 Autumn Newsletter.

Following an update by a Local Authority Affordable Housing Officer, it was agreed to include a final reminder to those who had indicated a need for affordable housing in the November 2017 Housing Needs Assessment to complete a confidential expression of interest to the District Council if they wanted to pursue the matter.

The Chairman undertook to circulate a draft newsletter for approval prior to printing.

56. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 12th November 2018.

The Meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Chairman