



PARISH COUNCIL – Changes

Following on from the May local elections, there have been several changes relevant to the Parish Council.

Firstly, Nigel Downing decided not to stand again following two full terms in office. Our grateful thanks are due for his time and attention to the role. Nigel leaves lasting reminders of his Parish Council work in the graphic depiction of the famous Big Tree of Cossington which can be seen at the header of this newsletter, on the village nameplates and the Middle Road noticeboard. Nigel put his artistic talents to work in creating this image from a 1950's photo – and also originated the design for the Big Tree monument opposite the school.

George Gardner has made a welcome return to the Parish Council after eight years absence. George's experience as a lifelong Cossington resident and former Parish Council Chairman will provide a valuable addition to the Council's ranks.

District Councillor Alison Hamlin did not stand for re-election this year. Alison was a frequent attendee at Parish Council meetings and other local events and was diligent in carrying out her duties during her time in office. Our grateful thanks are due, and we wish her well.

She has been replaced by Puriton Parish Council member and resident Barrie Crow. We wish Barrie all the best in his new role which we trust he will perform with the same diligence.

Congratulations are also due to County and District Councillor Mark Healey who has been re-elected.

Cossington In Bloom 2019

Despite the Village Flower Show being absent again this year, Cossington In Bloom will be taking place. All village front gardens are automatically included in the competition for consideration – the four prize categories being:

- Best Small Garden
- Best Kept Garden
- Most Colourful Garden
- Best Hanging Basket / Tub Display.

Certificates will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category and the category winners will have their names engraved on the relevant trophy on display in the Village Hall. There will also be garden voucher prizes for the winner and runner-up in the overall "Best in Show" across all four categories.

Short list judging will take place around the end of June with the final judging being carried out by an independent experienced judge from outside the village around the middle of July.

Prizegiving and announcement of the results will take place at a special event in the Village Hall for the afternoon of **Saturday 28th September** (more details to follow). Those short listed for a prize will be notified individually in advance.

New for 2019 are two competitions for children in the area:

- Vegetable Monster (a "monster" constructed from vegetables)
- My Favourite Local Place (photo or artwork)

Entry will be free, with judging taking place on the day of the above prizegiving event in September. There will be three age groups in each competition – pre-school, primary, secondary. Prizes are being finalised, and like the main Cossington In Bloom competitions, there will be a commemorative certificate for 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed entries in each age group for both competitions.

We'd like to thank the local parents for their ideas for the children's competition and we are hoping for a good turnout. More information to follow in the coming weeks as arrangements are confirmed.

Roads and Traffic News

Speeding through the village and careless parking continue to be a major areas of concern – as also highlighted in the last village survey. As mentioned in our last newsletter we are looking to resurrect the idea of a Roads and Traffic working group and are seeking volunteers to help. Please contact George Gardner (*Tel: 01278 722863, e-mail: georgegardner195@gmail.com*) for more information.

To support this group, we will also be looking to acquire our own hand-held speed monitoring device which will help the group gather statistics to help justify any improvement schemes

The long-awaited introduction of police mobile speed camera monitoring along Middle Road started in late April.

Playing Field News

Councillor Stradling has planted around 30 saplings (native mix, including alder, birch and rowan) at the far south-eastern corner of the field to environmentally improve the area.

A local Archery club, Coastal Archers, have recently started hiring the field for their use. They would be happy to welcome locals who might be interested. They usually meet on Saturday afternoons. Contact Anne Lewin (*tel: 07800 768320*) for more information.

A shipping container has been sited behind the changing rooms for Archery club storage. An additional one will be placed nearby for storage use by the Sustrans Rangers, a group of local volunteers who are doing a great job of keeping the Sustrans Cycle Path down to Bawdrip tidy.

To improve general service, we have recently changed the gang mowing contractors for the sports field to Sedgemoor Clean surroundings. The children's play area continues to be mowed by GB services – who also look after grass cutting in public areas around the village Triangle.

In Short

- **Dog Fouling** – Dog fouling, whilst not reaching epidemic proportions, continues to be an unpleasant and thoughtless issue which needs to be monitored and reduced. Recently, we cleared out 109 (yes, 109) full dog waste bags which had been thrown in the ditch in Bell Lane over time, just after the end of the 30mph speed limit. We have also had complaints from residents regarding dog walkers who thoughtlessly leave full dog waste bags on the road/track side intending to pick them up on return – but somehow forgetting to do it.
- **Sedgemoor Local Plan** – Sedgemoor District Council have now formally adopted their new Local Plan which replaces the old Core Strategy for District development aims and policy. Cossington is now considered a T4 Settlement, similar to the old “other sustainable settlement” classification. In particular, there have been some minor changes to the village development boundary and new policies introduced for small-scale self-build. See www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/planningpolicy for more information.
- **Cossington Villagers Group Facebook Page** – a village Facebook page was launched at the end of last year, which aims to provide a village-wide information and communication resource. This is a private initiative not connected to any particular organization or body – but which has already proved to be of benefit to the community. To find out more, look for the news article on our website – or contact Joe Stradling (*tel: 01278 722932, e-mail: joe_strad@hotmail.com*). Please note that you must have a Facebook account to join the group.

The Parish Council (website: www.cossingtonparishcouncil.org.uk)			
George Terry (<i>Chairman</i>)	☎ 01278 723646	Joe Stradling (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)	☎ 01278 722932
John Clasby	☎ 01278 722411	Martin Dare	☎ 07470 158713
George Gardner	☎ 01278 722863	Edward Ingram	☎ 01278 722289
Lynn Woodward	☎ 01458 840404		
Local Councillors		Parish Council Clerk & Main Contact	
Barrie Crow (<i>District</i>)	☎ 07770 895055	Richard Young, 5 Channel Court, Burnham-on-Sea, TA8 1NE	
Mark Healey (<i>County / District</i>)	☎ 01278 723552	e-mail: woolavingtonpc@aol.com ☎ 01278 789859	

The Parish Council forms an important part of Local Government comprising elected residents who carry out their responsibilities on a voluntary basis for the good of the community. We meet in the Village Hall - usually at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month apart from January and August. The public are welcome to attend meetings where there is an opportunity to ask questions or raise issues at the designated open session. We pride ourselves on keeping the meetings open and inclusive for all attendees whilst maintaining our formal regulatory responsibilities.

More information including full details of meeting times, agendas and minutes can be found on the Parish notice board in Middle Road, opposite the old school and on the Parish Council's web-site at www.cossingtonparishcouncil.org.uk. You can also subscribe to the Parish Council's e-mail News Alerts service by e-mailing info@cossingtonparishcouncil.org.uk with a Subject of “Subscribe”. Subscription is free and confidential – and only your e-mail address is required.