

# COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillor G. Terry (Chairman), Councillors J. Clasby, M.F. Dare, G.F. Gardner, E. Ingram, J. Stradling and Mrs L. Woodward with District Councillor B. Crow and County/District Councillor M. Healey (until 7.45 p.m.)

## **124. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **125. Interests**

Members had no interests to declare.

## **126. Reports of the County and District Councillors**

District Councillor Crow provided his views on the major residential planning applications in Woolavington and County/District Councillor Healey reported upon a regeneration project in Central Bridgwater. Both representatives also reported upon the latest position regarding alternative bids for unitary authorities (combining various District and County authorities) in Somerset. Two options – one authority for the whole of Somerset and two authorities covering East and West Somerset respectively – were currently under consideration.

## **127. Report from Organisations**

Councillor Dare had no report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. In respect of Neighbourhood Watch, Councillor Clasby reported upon recent incidents in Middle Road. No further information had been received from PCSO Lora Bray regarding investigations into people accessing the playing field through gaps in the western hedge and sometimes flouting playing field rules. It had previously been clarified that access to the field from this boundary was legally considered as trespassing.

## **128. Maintenance Items**

There were no new highway defects or fly-tipping deposits to report. There was no report on behalf of the Flood Group but the stream was running smoothly. Monitoring of dog fouling was continuing with focus on problem areas reported by residents. Edge of carriageway/verge repairs had not been completed in Combe Lane and it was agreed to contact County Highways again regarding this matter.

County Highways had taken no action to rectify the drainage issues in Brent Road/Cossington Lane. During recent heavy rainfall, the Chairman had taken further photographs and was completing an illustrated report to encourage the attention of County Highways and the County Land Drainage Section in resolving this and related matters. Due to their long-standing nature it was agreed to invite Liam Gill, Assistant Highway Services Manager, to either a Parish Council or Site Meeting to discuss the issues concerned. Responsibilities for the roadside ditch adjacent to the playing field would also be confirmed.

It was reported that a possible alternative location had been identified for the village nameplate in Middle Road. Councillor Dare would contact the adjacent landowner before clearing the site ready for installation. Councillor Dare would also clear vegetation in Locks Way which was obscuring a street name plate within the next few weeks.

Discussion also took place regarding the need for permission from County Highways through licensing for new accesses onto the highway and for any significant work affecting or modifying existing grass verges.

## **129. Authorisation for Payment**

The following payment was authorised:-

000982	GWB Services	grass cutting	£594.00
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### **130. Bank Reconciliation**

A bank reconciliation as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 was checked with the original bank statements and signed by the Members who did not sign cheques as part of the Council's financial controls.

Open Meeting 8.05 p.m.

The member of the public in attendance had no issues to raise.

Open Meeting closed at 8.06 p.m.

### **131. Planning Applications**

There were no new planning applications to consider.

It was reported that application 003 – Work to 4 trees at Bridge School, Cossington Centre, Middle Road – Somerset County Council had been approved by the District Council but there was no information as yet on any related planning application for the proposed fence.

There was no update on the two planning contraventions which were being investigated by the District Council. It was noted that the owners of Green Paddocks had been invited to submit a retrospective planning application in respect of a partially erected stable and storage building. There was no update on the suspected breach of planning conditions at Henshirl Paddocks.

### **132. Playing Field**

Councillor Stradling outlined an action plan on issues raised in the recent Annual Inspection Report of the play equipment. It was agreed to remove the remaining items of the trim trail, clean and repaint areas of rust on the youth shelter and see-saw and trim overhanging trees. It was agreed that consideration be given to possible new play equipment and the availability of grant aid next year.

There was no update from the Archery Club on their use of the field although it was understood there had not been any recent reoccurrence of the recent trespassing and vandalism issues affecting their sessions.

It was agreed to contact the Polden Hills Veterinary Practice to ascertain if they still required use of the playing field car park for staff parking.

A fresh enquiry had been received from different owners of nearby land for a wayleave agreement to lay service pipes and cables through part of the playing field. In the first instance, it was agreed to meet them to discuss the matter in detail following initial comments from members - and report back to the next Meeting.

### **133. Cossington in Bloom**

The Chairman reported that all prizes and certificates had been delivered in connection with the 2020 Cossington in Bloom Competitions. The results were made public on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 and an article on the Competitions would be supplied to the Polden Post Magazine.

### **134. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next Meeting would be held on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Note: THIS IS A WEEK LATER THAN THE USUAL "SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH"

The Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman