

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 13th February 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Apology for absence received from Councillor P. Blundell and County/District Councillor M. Healey.

66. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

67. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th December 2022 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

68. Reports of the County and District Councillors

Neither of the Members were in attendance.

69. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare had no report in respect of the Village Hall. In respect of Neighbourhood Watch, Councillor Clasby referred to reports of an individual acting suspiciously along the Sustrans track.

70. Maintenance Items

A road defect at Station Road had recently been reported and subsequently repaired but it was agreed to report further defects and fly-tipping deposits at Bell Lane and damage caused by a vehicle to the verge/watercourse at the Middle Road/Landshire Lane junction. Regarding the Flood Group, the water course was flowing smoothly, and the monitoring of dog fouling was continuing.

County Highways had not yet carried out the further work previously agreed to rectify the drainage issues in Brent Road nor cut gripes into the verge on the southern side of the road to allow surface water to enter the ditch. It was agreed to send a reminder. A reminder would also be sent regarding the request for provision of cattle warning signs at Bell Lane.

The County Council's contractor had now lowered the village nameplate at Middle Road so that it would not undesirably dominate the eastern approach to the village and was less likely to be damaged when the adjacent hedge was cut.

There was no update regarding the condition of the former railway bridge at Broderip. The field gate just past the footpath sign at the junction of footpath BW11/6 and Combe Lane was being left open near to allow walkers to access the path while the landowner was carrying out work at this location which was reported would be completed soon and the footpath route restored. A resident had requested provision of a pavement in Brent Road between Park Crescent and the playing field together with a 20 mph speed limit but he had been advised that this was a matter for the County Council and would only likely to be considered if it met their current guidelines and was supported by a compelling evidence-based justification.

71. Finance

The following payment was authorised:-

001034	GWB Services	maintenance work	£246.00
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Open Meeting 7.45 p.m.

Members of the Village Events Group enquired as to whether any events were being planned to celebrate the Coronation in May. They were invited to come back with any ideas to the next Meeting and the Parish Council would see if they could offer any assistance.

Open Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

72. Planning Applications

The following planning application was considered.

22/22/00017 – Work to trees adjoining Woodside, Brent Road – Sustrans - confirm recommendation of permission, it being noted that permission had subsequently been granted by the District Council;

It was also reported that the long-outstanding retrospective application 22/20/00006 – Retention of stable building and erection of dayroom at Green Paddock – D. Goddard had been approved by the District Council's Development Committee. A report had been submitted giving reasons for the Parish Council's continued objections and also referring to the lack of response to the latest reminder for the promised follow up meeting with planning officers regarding the impact of the traveller sites in the vicinity of the playing field upon the village. The matter would be followed up with the Council's Chief Executive if there continued to be no response.

It was agreed to formulate a response to the recent consultation on the Somerset Council Statement of Community Involvement (Planning) at the next Meeting. However, from an initial review, no concerns had been raised.

73. Playing Field

Councillor Stradling reported that he was seeking quotations for some new play equipment for younger children to replace the see-saw and spring riders. It was agreed to accept a quotation of £50 per cut + VAT from Clean Surroundings for gang mowing during the 2023 season.

An update was submitted on the situation regarding the community wood and the recent well supported tree planting day.

74. Village Survey

The Chairman reported that packs would be provided to Members for delivery on 2nd March. The special temporary post boxes would be erected in Middle Road and Brent Road by the Royal Mail post boxes for the collection of completed questionnaires on 3rd March. Additional publicity would be forthcoming and the survey would end on 20th March.

75. Cossington in Bloom

It was agreed that the categories remain unchanged for the 2023 competitions. It was also agreed that a prize giving event be held in late September/early October with the addition of some relevant simple competitions for residents. The plans would be firmed up at future meetings and possible dates would be investigated.

76. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 13th March 2023.

The Meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman