

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 11th March 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillor Ms G. Terry (Chairman), Councillors J. Clasby, J. Stradling and Mrs L. Woodward with Somerset Councillor Suria Aujla.

Apology for absence received from Councillors P. Blundell, M.F. Dare and E. Ingram and Somerset Councillor M. Healey.

84. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

85. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th February 2024 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

86. Reports of the Somerset Councillors

Somerset Councillor Suria Aujla reported that Somerset Council had agreed a budget for 2024/25.

87. Local Community Networks

The Chairman explained that Cossington had little social and functional connection with other Councils situated in the east of the Avalon and Poldens Local Community Network which could limit its effectiveness. It was understood that currently only minor amendments could be made to the LCN groupings and it was felt that Cossington would also have little connection with Councils in the north of the adjoining Burnham and Highbridge LCN (which included Woolavington and Puriton). It was agreed that Somerset Council be informed that consideration should be given to a LCN based on the catchment area of the Polden Hills Medical Practice where the parishes would have greater social and functional connections drawing in membership from the relevant areas of both the Avalon and Poldens and the Burnham and Highbridge LCNs.

Discussion also took place regarding the announced reduced highway services in 2025 for what was termed reactive issues other than for what was deemed a safety risk. Consideration would need to be given to drain and gully clearance arrangements which fell into this category.

88. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare had no report in respect of the Village Hall Committee. Councillor Clasby had nothing to report with regard to Neighbourhood Watch but reference was made to a suspicious vehicle and also to a car fire in Trivetts Way.

89. Maintenance Items

Road defects at Combe Lane, Cossington Level, Bell Lane and Mowground Lane had been reported. A number had been filled and it was agreed to again report those which remained outstanding. There were currently no new fly-tipping incidents to report.

There was nothing to report in respect of the Flood Group although it was understood that some action might be under consideration by Somerset Council to reduce the risk of flooding at the School.

The monitoring of dog fouling was continuing – recognising that although most dog owners in the village were conscientious, a few continued to behave thoughtlessly. With regard to Brent Road, work was scheduled to take place to repair a small drain near Woollands Cottage in the new financial year. There had been no recent incidents of odours being noticed along the drainage channels on the northern side of Brent Road.

The work in the vicinity of Footpath BW 37/14 to the south of Combe Lane was continuing but completion had been delayed by weather conditions. However, walkers could get access around the footpath via an open gate. The matter would be kept under review until completion.

90. Finance

The following payments were authorised

001059	GWB Services	grass cutting	£288.50
001060	Parish Clerk	payroll & sundry payment reimbursement	£389.25

Open Meeting 8.00 p.m.

No issues were raised by members of the public.

Open Meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

91. Planning Applications

The following planning application was considered

22/24/00001 – Retrospective application for the retention of a detached garage, Sycamore Cottage, Middle Road – Mr & Mrs B. Stephens (previously approved in 2019 under 22/19/00009, but a new application was required because of a change in the orientation of the roof structure) – no objection.

The Chairman reported that the request for the follow-up meeting promised by the Somerset Council regarding traveller site control and policy had been referred to a planning policy officer. A date was awaited.

92. Playing Field

Councillor Stradling reported that an order had been placed with Sutcliffe Play for the provision and installation of a replacement see-saw in the play area at a cost of £4,973.00 + VAT, to be financed through CIL monies.

The Archery Club were keen to rent the playing field hut and had plans to refurbish it and carry out some alterations at their expense. It would still be available for general use should an event be held in the field such as a fete. It was agreed to rent the hut to the Archery Club for a combined rent with the field of £650 with effect from May 2024.

The Cossington Community Wood Group would be holding a volunteer day on 17th March in the playing field. They were planning to agree a constitution and to open a bank account. Members were reminded that a Polden Environmental Network Seminar would be held in Cossington Village Hall on 21st March 2024 to which they had been invited.

93. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 8th April 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman