

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Tues. 11th April 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Apology for absence received from Councillor Ingram.

88. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

89. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th March 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

90. Reports of the County and District Councillors

Neither of the Members were in attendance. It was noted that, disappointingly, neither had attended any Cossington Parish Council meeting since the local elections last May nor shown any inclination to become constructively informed or involved in any Parish issues.

91. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare reported that the Village Hall Committee were planning a “buy a brick” fundraising scheme. In respect of Neighbourhood Watch, Councillor Clasby reported that village leaders had met with the PCSOs on line. Reference was made to the importance of people reporting incidents promptly on 101 rather than just mentioning them elsewhere such as on Facebook and it was agreed to publicise this important advice as widely as possible.

92. Maintenance Items

A number of road defects had recently been reported and subsequently repaired. It was agreed to report a blocked culvert in the vicinity of the Millmoot Lane/Bell Lane junction. A quantity of fly-tipping deposits at Cossington Level would be reported. An uprooted 30 mph repeater sign post at Middle Road had been reinstated and County Highways would replace the missing roundel in the near future. Regarding the Flood Group, the water course was flowing smoothly and the monitoring of dog fouling was continuing.

County Highways would carry out the further work previously agreed to rectify the drainage issues in Brent Road and also consider the request for the provision of cattle warning signs at Bell Lane in the near future.

It was agreed to request a copy of a recent survey on the condition of the former railway bridge at Broderip from Sustrans. Temporary footpath diversion signs had been erected by the landowner along the footpath to the north of Combe Lane (BW 37/14 – previously part of BW 11/6). Following concern expressed by Councillors and members of the public regarding the scale and scope of the works it was agreed to formally invite the landowner to the next Meeting to explain the nature of the work at this location and completion / restoration to ensure the necessary approvals had been obtained. It was also noted that no update was available on the new field access being constructed at Bell Lane, following the landowner being reminded at the previous meeting of the need for a Highways 171 Order. It was understood that the Bell Lane nameplate which had been removed had been temporarily repositioned against the farm building on the opposite side of the road and would be reinstated in due course.

93. Finance

The following payments were authorised

DD SALC	affiliation fee (part)	£39.00
001037	GWB Services grass cutting	£262.20

94. 2022/23 Financial Statement

The financial statement for 2022/23 was formally approved.

95. Annual Governance Statement

The Council agreed the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 as required by the External Auditors.

96. 2022/23 Accounting Statement

The 2022/23 Accounting Statement required by the External Auditors was formally approved.

97. Exempt Authority

It was agreed to declare that Cossington Parish Council is an exempt authority within the definition contained in the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

98. Review of Insurance Cover

The Council reviewed their insurance cover and deemed that no changes were required at the present time.

Open Meeting 8.15 p.m.

Members of the public referred to issues of mud on roads, damaged verges and debris left on roads following hedge cutting.

Open Meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

99. Planning Applications

The following planning application was considered.

54/23/00001 – Reorganisation of traveller site comprising 11 pitches to allow for the siting of an additional 11 mobile homes, The Paddocks, Cossington Lane – G. Mason – recommend refusal, contrary to Local Plan Policy D8 and the Government's National Planning Policy for traveller sites.

The former Chief Executive of the District Council had responded to the complaint regarding a lack of response to reminders 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 but had failed to address the Council's particular issue and merely referred that the matter of traveller site provision in general would form part of a study by the new Somerset Council. It was agreed to further escalate the matter as a formal complaint.

100. Playing Field

Councillor Stradling reported that he was investigating possible new play equipment for younger children. Some more trees had been planted in the community wood and seeds sown for a wildflower meadow. It was agreed to carry out repairs to the eastern fence and investigate the surface of the path in the play area where pools of water were forming in heavy rain

101. Village Survey

The Chairman reported that 112 completed survey forms had been received. A verbal summary of the draft results was submitted, and the resulting information would be checked by Councillors Dare and Stradling before general release to the community. The winner of the £50 voucher was Linda Moore. It was suggested that a drop-in event for residents be held in the Village Hall on the survey results and work of the Parish Council in general, and planning for such an event in the near future should commence – to coincide with the distribution of the next Parish Council newsletter which would include the survey results.

102. Cossington in Bloom

It was agreed to develop ideas for the prize giving event be held in the Village Hall on Saturday, 7th October 2023.

103. Coronation

Members of the Events Committee were in attendance to outline their plans a Big Lunch event to celebrate the Coronation in the Village Hall on 6th May, followed by entertainment and food in the Red Tile Inn during the evening. It was agreed that the Parish Council should make a grant of £250 towards the cost of the event.

104. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Tuesday, 9th May 2023.

The Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Chairman