

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The 2025 Annual Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 12th May 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Apology for absence received from Councillors E. Ingram and Somerset Councillors M. Healey and Suria Aujla.

1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Proposed Councillor Stradling, seconded Councillor Mrs Woodward and agreed that Councillor Ms G. Terry be elected Chairman for 2025/26. The Chairman signed a declaration of acceptance of office. Proposed Councillor Terry, seconded Councillor Mrs Woodward and agreed that Councillor J. Stradling be elected Vice-Chairman for 2025/26.

2. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 10th March and 14th April 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as correct records.

4. Reports of the Somerset Councillors

Neither Member was present.

5. Avalon and Poldens Local Community Network

The Chairman reported that a full meeting of the LCN was held in Cossington Village Hall on 23rd April, again poorly attended. There was an update on devolution, an update on behalf of the police plus updates on the Step, Ride and Thrive Project and the Highways Working Group. The AGM would be held on 9th July. A Meeting of the Highways Working Group had also been held at Shapwick and a summary of proceedings was given.

6. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare reported that the Village Hall Committee had organised a curry night on 10th May. Councillor Clasby had nothing to report in respect of Neighbourhood Watch.

7. Maintenance Items

There were no new highway defects to report. It was agreed to report fly-tipping at Cossington Level. The monitoring of dog fouling was continuing. There was no new update in respect of drainage issues. Councillor Dare was thanked for work to the ditch and tree planting. It was agreed to ascertain the present situation regarding repair work to the big tree surround and to check that the lump of concrete in the Manor Road ditch following repair of a damaged speed limit sign had been removed by Highways.

8. Finance

The following payments were authorised

DD	EDF Energy	playing field electricity	£19.53
001091	Parish Clerk	payroll & sundry payment reimbursement	£465.94
001092	GWB Services	grass cutting	£526.80
001093	Zurich Municipal	insurance premium	£643.58

Open Meeting 7.50 p.m.

No members of the public were present.

Open Meeting closed at 7.51 p.m.

9. Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications to consider.

Somerset Council had previously advised that a shortage of qualified staff in the planning section and illness in the enforcement section had resulted in a delay in dealing with issues including the report lodged over eleven months ago relating to suspected contravention of Condition 4 of planning permission 54/23/00002 (Land at Green Paddock, Cossington Lane). Following the advice of the MP an attempt would shortly be made to escalate the situation through Somerset Council's formal complaint procedure. It had been ascertained however that planning enforcement was not a statutory duty.

10. Playing Field

Gary Bickers had agreed to repaint the youth shelter. It was agreed to accept a quotation from S. Pinn of Tarnock in the sum of £3,252.20 + VAT for the renewal of the wooden car park fence with a wider metal gate onto the field, two self-closing pedestrian gates and restoration of a section of perimeter path. It was also agreed to arrange for the roadside hedge to be trimmed in the interest of the health and safety of users of the field.

The Cossington Community Wood Group had recently installed rainwater storage tanks. It was agreed that the plans from the Group for a footpath should be such that they do not encourage dog incursion onto the Playing Field

11. Cossington in Bloom 2025

It was agreed that the 2025 competitions be reduced to the four main core categories only - Best Kept Smaller Garden, Best Kept Larger Garden, Most Colourful Garden and Best Tub and Hanging Basket Collection. Independent judges would visit the village in late June. The possibility of linking a short prizegiving ceremony to another village event in July would be investigated. It was agreed to award engraved nickel-plated salvers for the winners of the categories in addition to the engraving on the village hall cups – and with the usual commemorative certificates for all placed gardens and garden vouchers for the best overall and runner up. Details would be provided in the imminent newsletter to be delivered to all village households.

12. Parish Council Newsletter

The Chairman agreed to circulate a draft newsletter to Members for comment. Main topics would include details of Cossington in Bloom for 2025, Local Government Re-Organisation update, Playing Field /Community Wood.

13. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 9th June 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Chairman