

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 12th June 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 with Somerset Councillor M. Healey.

Apology for absence received from Councillor P. Blundell.

13. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

14. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th May 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

15. Reports of the Somerset Councillors

The Chairman reported that he had met with Somerset Councillor Suria Aujla since the last Meeting to explain the key issues affecting Cossington. Somerset Councillor Healey outlined bus fare concessions for students, issues relating to on-call fire fighters, staff redundancies and Local Community Networks.

16. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare reported that he was unable to attend the last meeting of the Village Hall Committee. Councillor Clasby had nothing to report in respect of Neighbourhood Watch.

17. Maintenance Items

There were no new road defects to report. A further quantity of fly-tipping deposits at Gold Corner would be reported. A 30 mph repeater signpost at Middle Road had again been uprooted and would be reinstated by County Highways more firmly and the missing roundel would be replaced. Regarding the Flood Group, some debris would be removed from the bed of the water course while water levels were low. The monitoring of dog fouling was continuing.

County Highways would be reminded of the need to carry out the further work previously agreed to rectify the drainage issues in Brent Road. No further information had been received from Sustrans regarding the results of the survey on the condition of the former railway bridge at Broderip.

With regard to the field crossed by footpath BW 37/14 to the north of Combe Lane, the landowner reported that the work being undertaken to level the land was still in progress. The Public Rights of Way Officer had contacted the Parish Council for comment following a new complaint from a resident. There appeared to be some confusion with another right of way heading north from the other side of Combe Lane which, apparently in error, resulted in the new complaint being marked as resolved despite being outstanding. A response was awaited. The landowner clarified that the steep slope leading down to an important adjacent watercourse would be properly stabilised to prevent subsidence that could potentially cause watercourse blockages. It was agreed to monitor the situation until completion.

18. Finance

The following payments were authorised

001040	GWB Services	grass cutting (2 months)	£1,154.40
001041	Parish Clerk	payroll & sundry payment reimbursement	£1,304.74
001042	Water2Business	water bill for playing field	£371.25

Open Meeting 7.45 p.m.

Members of the public referred to matters relating to the playing field and suggested that the Somerset Councillors should hold drop-in sessions for the public.

Open Meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

19. Planning Applications

The following planning application was considered

22/23/00002LB – Repairs to first floor beam above old drawing room including the addition of joists, steel angle, insecticide treatment and installation of hearth, Cossington Park, Middle Road – G. Wason – raise no objection.

The Chairman reported that a follow up meeting with the Development Management Service Manager and other relevant parties regarding the impact upon the village of the traveller sites in the vicinity of the playing field, would take place after the new paper on traveller site strategy and provision had been considered by Somerset Council.

The enforcement issue regarding the unauthorised construction of a large storage building/workshop at Brent Road, originally reported in November 2022, was now under consideration by the planning enforcement officers following a reminder.

20. Playing Field

Councillor Stradling reported that he was progressing the grant application for new play equipment for younger children and car park fencing. The deadline for the grant was 31st July. Once this was underway, consideration of ideas for additional facilities would commence, including those arising from the recent village survey. A water leak in the hut had been repaired but a large than normal water bill resulted. A community group who met in the playing field were willing to refurbish the toilet block and it was agreed in principle to consider a grant of up to £50 for this purpose. The play equipment received its annual inspection by an independent RPII qualified inspector on 8th June and the detailed report was awaited. Concern had been expressed however by the inspector at the amount of cracking in the wood of the new equipment installed in 2022. There was no update in respect of the community wood.

It was agreed that the Council should carry out an inspection of the playing field prior to the next Parish Council Meeting on 10th July at 7.00 p.m.

21. Village Survey

The Chairman reported that a summary of the results of the survey had been released to the community in a recent newsletter. An informal coffee morning would be held in the Village Hall, on Saturday 8th July with Parish Council members on hand to answer any questions. Other village organisations would also be given the opportunity to be represented at this event. An informal Parish Council quiz (optional) would also be held.

22. Cossington in Bloom

Councillors Clasby and Ingram would compile a shortlist for each category by the end of June with a view to the external judges visiting Cossington in early July. All Members would consider and propose ideas for additional competitions for the October prize giving event ready for the next Parish Council Meeting.

23. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 10th July 2023 at 7.30 p.m. following an inspection of the playing field at 7.00 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Chairman