

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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

55. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

56. Minutes

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

57. Reports of the Somerset Councillors

Neither Member was present. The Chairman outlined proceedings at a Meeting of the Avalon and Poldens Local Community Network held on 9th October and related plans, for the information of Members.

58. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare reported that the Village Hall Committee were reviewing their policies. Councillor Clasby had nothing to report in respect of Neighbourhood Watch

59. Maintenance Items

A number of potential road defects would be monitored and reported if they increased in size. A further quantity of fly-tipping deposits at Cossington Level had been reported. Regarding the Flood Group, it was reported that the main watercourse was running smoothly despite the recent heavy rains. A blocked drain at Millmoot Lane had been reported and it was agreed to report a highway issue at the eastern end of Combe Lane directly in front of the footpath stile. The monitoring of dog fouling was continuing. County Highways had reported that the further work previously agreed to rectify the drainage issues in Brent Road would be carried out in December but could not guarantee that this would permanently resolve the surface water issue due to the unpredictable nature of underground natural springs.

County Highways had not yet replaced the single sided roundel with a double-sided roundel on the 30-mph repeater signpost at Middle Road. A reminder would be issued. There were some confusion different parts of Somerset Council regarding the repositioning of a Bell Lane nameplate – but it was concluded that, as the sign was considered superfluous to requirements, no further action was necessary.

Following issues reported earlier, work had taken place in the past week to level the land and clear foliage to allow access to Footpath BW 37/14 to the south of Combe Lane for walkers. The matter would be kept under review until completion of the work. The highways issue stated above also needed to be addressed to facilitate safe access to the footpath.

60. Finance

The following payments were authorised

001050 GWB Services	grass cutting (2 months)	£865.10
001051 Parish Clerk	payroll & sundry payment reimbursement	£589.58
001052 Rachel Dyer	reimburse printing costs for the community woodland	£43.20

Members gave preliminary consideration to the Estimates for 2024/25.

Open Meeting 7.50 p.m.

No issues were raised by the public.

Open Meeting closed at 7.51 p.m.

61. Planning Applications

The following planning application were considered

22/23/00008 & 00009LB – Change of use and conversion of barn to form holiday let including erection of an extension, Gardener's Cottage, Middle Road – G. Wason – recommend permission;

22/23/00010 – Work to trees, Plane T1 and Lebanon Cedar, The Grove, Manor Road – K. Yates – recommend permission.

The Chairman reported that he had endeavoured to progress the promised follow-up meeting with the Service Manager, Development Management, Somerset Council regarding traveller site issues but she was currently unavailable, and the matter had been referred to a planning officer for a response.

It was reported that application 22/23/00001 – Reconfigure Plot 5 to include an additional 4 mobile homes and 4 tourers all to be occupied by extended family members; retention of one utility room and re-siting of dayroom, Henshirl Paddocks, Cossington Lane - had been approved on a delegated basis despite the Parish Council's recommendations of refusal. There had been a recent change in Local Authority procedure and, whereas a Parish Council recommendation of refusal would have previously meant referral to the Development Committee, it could now be approved on a delegated basis subject to agreement by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Development Committee, The situation was not helped by the Somerset Councillors concerned not submitting comments on the application despite being invited to do so.

62. Playing Field

Whilst a new grant application for play equipment for younger children would not be resubmitted soon, the see-saw needed to be replaced and quotations were being obtained for a replacement to be funded with CIL monies. A representative of the installers of the recently installed equipment had visited the site and inspect the issues raised in the annual inspection report. The cracks were thought to be due to the timber drying out. Some missing end caps had been replaced and movement in some posts would be rectified.

Councillor Stradling also provided an update on work being undertaken at the Community Wood. The Archery Club had also expressed an interest in renting the playing field hut. The use was agreed without an increase in charges for this year, but a final decision on future charges would be made following a review of their use of the facility at the end of the year.

63. Cossington in Bloom

The Chairman reported that all follow up activities arising from the 2023 Competitions and Presentation Event had now been carried out. Attention can now be given to building on this year's successful format for the 2024 event.

64. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 11th December 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Chairman

