

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 9th October 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillor J. Stradling (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), Councillors P. Blundell, M.F. Dare and E. Ingram.

Apology for absence received from Councillors J. Clasby, G. Terry and Mrs L. Woodward.

45. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

46. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th September 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Presiding Chairman as a correct record.

47. Reports of the Somerset Councillors

Neither Member was present.

48. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare had no report in respect of the Village Hall Committee and, in the absence of Councillor Clasby, there was no Neighbourhood Watch report.

49. Maintenance Items

A number of previously reported road defects had been marked for repair or had recently been repaired. County Highways had agreed to reinstate the give way markings at the Combe Lane and Hirst Lane junctions with Bell Lane. A further quantity of fly-tipping deposits at Cossington Level had been reported. There was no update regarding the Flood Group and the monitoring of dog fouling was continuing. It was noted that it was permissible to dispose of sealed dog waste bags in litter bins but not household waste. County Highways would be reminded of the need to carry out the further work previously agreed to rectify the drainage issues in Brent Road following odours recently noticed in the area.

A 30 mph repeater signpost at Middle Road had been firmly reinstated but with a single sided roundel. County Highways had again been requested to replace it with a double-sided roundel. A Bell Lane nameplate had been reinstated but approximately 3m from the highway and not readily visible when approaching from the south. Clarification on the current rules were being sought from County Highways.

Following reports of a blockage preventing access to Footpath BW 37/14 to the north of Combe Lane via the roadside stile, the landowner advised that it had been inspected by the County Rights of Way Officer and found to be accessible for walkers. The matter would be kept under review.

It was understood that no changes were proposed to bus route 75 at the present time.

50. Finance

The following payments were authorised

001047 Anita Roy	community wood work	£475.00
001048 SALC	affiliation fee	£153.41
001049 Parish Clerk	payroll & sundry payment reimbursement	£823.37

A bank reconciliation as at 30th September 2023 was checked with the original bank statements and signed by the Members who did not sign cheques as part of the Council's financial controls.

Open Meeting 7.45 p.m.

Members of the public referred to an outstanding planning application which had yet to be determined and fly-tipping

Open Meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

51. Planning Applications

The following planning application was reconsidered following recent submission of a report on phosphates and required land information.

22/22/00002 – Erection of self-build dwelling and garage, Ditch Furlong Road – Mr & Mrs J. Baker – confirm original recommendation of refusal whilst pointing out that the former nearby holiday cottages were now permanent self-contained dwellings.

Members were invited to complete their own responses to Somerset Council's public consultation on a set of outline principles that were designed to steer new development in Somerset.

52. Playing Field

Councillor Stradling advised that he would not be submitting a new grant application for play equipment for younger children at the present time. However, the see-saw needed to be replaced in the near future and quotations would be obtained for a replacement to be funded with CIL monies. A representative of the installers had agreed to visit and inspect the issues raised in the annual inspection report which were likely to be covered by the guarantee. The community group had carried out refurbishment work to the toilets. It was agreed to investigate changing the electricity supplier to the hut as a more advantageous contract might be available. Councillor Stradling also provided an update on work being undertaken at the community wood. A meeting had taken place when advice had been obtained to form a planting plan.

53. Cossington in Bloom

Members reviewed arrangements for the Presentation Event on 7th October which was well attended with good entries in the additional competitions comprising a vegetable monster competition for children and three other competitions covering art, literature and floral/shrub displays. One issue would be resolved as discussed and the entry criteria for the garden competitions would be reviewed for next year.

54. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 13th November 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

Chairman