

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 8th April 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillor J. Stradling (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), Councillors J. Clasby, M.F. Dare, E. Ingram and Mrs L. Woodward.

Apology for absence received from Councillors P. Blundell and Ms G. Terry and Somerset Councillors M. Healey and Suria Aujla.

94. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

95. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th March 2024 were confirmed and signed by the Presiding Chairman as a correct record.

96. Reports of the Somerset Councillors

Neither Member was present.

97. Local Community Networks

Members received a report from the Chairman on a Meeting of the Avalon and Poldens Local Community Network held at Shapwick on 27th March. She had also prepared a report to inform Somerset Council that consideration should be given to a LCN based on the catchment area of the Polden Hills Medical Practice where the parishes would have greater social and functional connections drawing in membership from the relevant areas of both the current Avalon and Poldens and the Burnham and Highbridge LCNs.

98. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare had no report in respect of the Village Hall Committee. Councillor Clasby had nothing to report with regard to Neighbourhood Watch but reference was made to damage to the noticeboard at the playing field.

99. Maintenance Items

Road defects at Combe Lane, Cossington Level, Bell Lane, Manor Close and Mowground Lane had been reported. A reminder had been sent in respect of outstanding defects. It was noted that the new highways contract was now in operation. It was also agreed to report a damaged Give Way sign at the Manor Road/A39 junction and to send a reminder regarding the need for the refurbishment of the road markings at the Combe Lane/Bell Lane junction. There were currently no new fly-tipping incidents to report. There was nothing to report in respect of the Flood Group and the monitoring of dog fouling was continuing. With regard to Brent Road, reference was made to odours and discoloured water being noticed along the drainage channels on the southern side of Brent Road. It was agreed to report this issue to the Environmental Health Section of Somerset Council for investigation.

The work in the vicinity of Footpath BW 37/14 to the south of Combe Lane had been delayed by weather conditions. However, walkers could get access around the footpath via an open gate. The matter would be kept under review until completion. A complaint had been received regarding the positioning of defibrillators in the village. It was noted that no formal consents such as planning permission were required. The complainant had been informed. No response had been received and the matter was deemed concluded.

100. Finance

The following payments were authorised

DD SALC	affiliation fee -part	£39.00
001061 Sutcliffe Play SW	play equipment	£5,967.60 (£4,973 CIL monies)
001062 GWB Services	grass cutting	£697.20
001063 Parish Clerk	payroll & sundry payment reimbursement	£261.26

101. 2023/24 Financial Statement

The financial statement for 2023/24 and a list of assets were formally approved.

102. Annual Governance Statement

The Council agreed the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 as required by the External Auditors.

103. 2023/24 Accounting Statement

The 2023/24 Accounting Statement required by the External Auditors was formally approved.

104. 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.

Open Meeting 7.50 p.m.

A member of the public raised the profile of the Somerset Bus Partnership with a view to increasing usage of the 375 service. It was suggested that publicity be obtained through the village web-site, Facebook and newsletter. Other issues raised included Villages Together, dogs urinating on recycling bins, inconsiderate car parking and a need for police speed enforcement in Brent Road.

Open Meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

105. Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications to consider. With regard to 22/22/00002 – Erection of self-build dwelling at Ditch Furlong Road, it was noted that the application was now “awaiting Committee referral”. Somerset Councillor Suria Aujla had requested the planning officers to take note of the Parish Council’s objections.

106. Playing Field

Councillor Stradling reported that work to install the replacement see-saw was nearing completion. It was suggested that ideas for further new equipment be sought via the next parish newsletter.

The Archery Club had agreed to the combined rent of £650 p a for use of the field and hut but as they had plans to refurbish the hut and carry out some alterations at their expense, a £150 discount was agreed for the first year. They also wished to hold evening beginner courses in the summer and a fee would be agreed.

An update on the work of the Cossington Community Wood Group was received and possible water catchment from the hut roof into a water butt would be investigated. Reference was also made to proceedings at the Polden Environmental Network Seminar held on 21st March 2024.

107. Cossington in Bloom 2024

It was agreed to confirm the same categories as in previous years for the garden competitions. Councillors Clasby and Ingram agreed to compile a short list in June with independent judges visiting in early July. A separate “Hidden Gem” competition would also take place. A Presentation Event would be held in late September and it was suggested that the children’s competitions should include a sculpture made from recycled materials.

108. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 13th May 2024 at 7.30 p.m and that the June Meeting should follow an inspection of the Playing Field at 6.45 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman