

# COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Apology for absence received from Somerset Councillor Suria Aujla.

## **24. Interests**

Members had no interests to disclose.

## **25. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **26. Reports of the Somerset Councillors**

Neither Somerset Councillor was present, but it was noted that Councillor Healey did attend the coffee morning on 8<sup>th</sup> July. The first meeting of the Avalon and Poldens Local Community Network would take place at the Crispin Hall, Street on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

## **27. Report from Organisations**

Councillor Dare reported upon the recent Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee. In respect of Neighbourhood Watch, Councillor Clasby report upon recent thefts in Manor Road and upon incidences of vandalism in Middle Road and the village centre during the early hours of 9<sup>th</sup> July which had been reported to the police. Public appeals through E-watch for more information had achieved a good immediate response and further surveillance is being considered.

## **28. Maintenance Items**

Road defects at Bell Lane would be reported. A further quantity of fly-tipping deposits at Gold Corner/Cossington Level would be reported. A 30-mph repeater signpost at Middle Road had been reinstated by County Highways more firmly but with a single sided roundel. It was agreed to request it be replaced with a double-sided roundel and that County Highways trim hedges obscuring the 30 mph signs on the approaches to the village. 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. Following recent incidents, it was agreed to place a notice on litter bins to request residents not to deposit household and garden waste in them.

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

Footpath BW 37/14 to the north of Combe Lane was now negotiable for walkers via the access stile. The landowner confirmed that the Environment Agency had approved the work being undertaken to level the land and shore up the bank to the adjacent watercourse - work which was still in progress.

## **29. Finance**

The following payments were authorised

001043	GWB Services	grass and hedge cutting	£658.20
001044	Parish Clerk	payroll & sundry payment reimbursement	£430.00

A bank reconciliation as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 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 matters relating to an overgrown field access and highway defects.

Open Meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

### **30. Planning Applications**

The following planning applications were considered

22/22/00013 – Erection of agricultural building with associated concrete yard (revised), Brookhayes Farm, Bell Lane – M. Bell – confirm no objection to main structure but clarification/conditions relating to surface water management and the treatment of the gradient of the concrete yard were still recommended as the issue had not been addressed in the revisions.

22/23/00006 – Reduce height and spread of Monterey Cypress tree, Cossington Grange, Middle Road – Mrs C. Gardner – raise no objection.

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 – A. Roper. Defer to enable Members to consider the information contained in the application in detail, the application having only been received that afternoon.

### **31. 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 31<sup>st</sup> July. Once this was well underway, consideration of ideas for additional facilities would commence, including the suggestions arising from the recent village survey and input and assistance from local residents would be sought. A community group who met in the playing field had started to refurbish the toilet block and a grant of £50 had been awarded for this purpose. The play equipment received its annual inspection by an independent RPII qualified inspector on 8<sup>th</sup> June and the detailed report had been received. It was agreed to seek a quotation to rectify an issue with a seat chain on the basket swing. Councillor Stradling would take up issues raised by the inspector relating to the amount of cracking in the wood of the new equipment installed in 2022 and other outstanding minor installation defects. Wessex Water had awarded a grant of £2,000 to enable the community wood to be further developed.

### **32. Village Survey**

The Chairman reported that the informal coffee morning held in the Village Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> July had been successful despite only 42 people attending. The other village organisations represented at the event were thanked for their attendance, notably St. Mary's Church for their fine display, and "The Kitchenettes" for the excellent event catering. Kathy Smith was the winner of the informal Parish Council quiz.

### **33. Cossington in Bloom**

The results from the external judges were awaited on each of the categories. Once received, the "Hidden Gem" candidates would be ascertained. The additional competitions for the prizegiving event on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October were agreed including a "vegetable monster" competition for children and three other themed competitions covering art, literature and floral/shrub displays. It was agreed that entries in advance would be encouraged.

### **34. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

Chairman