

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 12th December 2022 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 County/District Councillor M. Healey.

56. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

57. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th November 2022 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

58. Reports of the County and District Councillors

Neither of the Members were in attendance.

59. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare reported on Village Hall security improvements and a initial discussions regarding a village flower show for around next August. Councillor Clasby reported that there was nothing new in respect of Neighbourhood Watch.

60. Maintenance Items

There were no new road defects or fly-tipping deposits to report. Blocked highway drains at Bell Lane and in the Village Centre would be reported. Regarding the Flood Group, the water course was flowing smoothly, and the monitoring of dog fouling was continuing.

County Highways had carried out an assessment of the work carried out to rectify the drainage issues in Brent Road. They had advised that ground water now appeared to be rising through the utility trench prior to reaching the new drain. They agreed that they would need to carry out further drainage work as a result and further jetting of the drains in the vicinity would also be arranged. County Highways would also cut gripes into the verge on the southern side of the road to allow surface water to enter the ditch.

The County Council's contractor had now relocated the village nameplate at Middle Road to the position near the flower tub but it had been erected on high posts and undesirably dominated the eastern approach to the village. It was very close to the recently cut hedge and was likely to be damaged when the hedge was cut from the other side and growth had occurred. It was agreed to request the Area Highways Engineer to arrange for the installation to be suitably modified. It was noted that the hardened cement smears left following initial installation had been cleaned.

There was no update regarding the condition of the former railway bridge at Broderip. The landowner advised that the field gate just past the footpath sign at the junction of footpath BW11/6 and Combe Lane would be left open near to allow walkers to access the path while work was being carried out at this location and a notice advising of this temporary diversion would be erected on the footpath marker.

61. Finance

The following payments were authorised:-

001030	GWB Services	grass cutting	£262.20
001031	Cossington Village Hall	grant	£400.00
001032	Cossington PCC	grant	£50.00
001033	Parish Clerk	expenses & sundry payments reimbursement	£639.26

The Council considered the draft Estimates for 2023/24. It was agreed that the Estimates be approved and the precept for 2023/24 be fixed at £11,000.

Open Meeting 7.50 p.m.

A member of the public requested that consideration be given to an extension of the 30 mph speed limit and/or provision of cattle and agricultural vehicle warning signs in Bell Lane due to the increase in speeding traffic following recent road resurfacing.

Open Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

62. Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered.

22/22/00010 – Erection of replacement workshop/store with calf shed, Brookhayes Farm, Bell Lane – IJ & SA Bell & Son – recommend permission;

22/22/00013 – Erection of agricultural building with concrete yard, Brookhayes Farm, Bell Lane – M. Bell – no objection to the main structure but clarification/conditions relating to surface water management and the treatment of the gradient of the land was required;

22/22/00014 – Erection of detached gym building for personal and business use, Sunnyholme, Middle Road – S. Brewer – recommend permission;

22/22/00016 – Erection of boundary wall to south elevation, 9 Station Road – Mr & Mrs K. Fitcher – This application was received shortly before the meeting so only a brief appraisal was allowed. The initial opinion, prior to any further detailed scrutiny, was to recommend permission subject clarification/conditions relating to detailed design, position, and appearance of the wall – along with integration with the existing wall to the rear and the Broderip street scene in general.

54/22/00019 – Removal of condition 7 of 54/05/00001 to allow more residential caravans to be sited, The Paddocks, Cossington Lane, Woolavington – G. Mason – it was noted that this application had very recently been removed from the Planning website. Clarification would therefore be sought regarding the current application status from the Local Authority.

The Chairman reported that there had been no response to the latest reminder for the promised follow up meeting with planning officers regarding the impact of the traveller sites in the vicinity of the playing field upon the village which was promised following the site meeting on 1st December 2021. The reminder had been copied to Sedgemoor Customer Services who had also not responded by their promised date. A further reminder would be sent and followed up with the Council's Chief Executive if there continued to be no response.

63. Playing Field

It was reported that Sutcliffe Play South West had not yet completed the remedial work required to the new equipment prior to release of the final payment.

Councillor Stradling was preparing a further grant application to provide for some new play equipment for younger children to replace the see-saw and spring riders and new fencing and was now seeking quotations.

An update was submitted on the situation regarding the community wood.

64. Village Survey

It was agreed that the proposed new village survey would be formally launched following the March 2023 Parish Council Meeting. A location for a letter box in the Brent Road area for the collection of completed questionnaires was agreed. The most practical method for the option of the questionnaire to be completed and returned electronically would be further explored.

65. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 13th February 2023.

The Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman