

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 12th February 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillor Ms G. Terry (Chairman), Councillors P. Blundell, J. Clasby, M.F. Dare, E. Ingram, J. Stradling and Mrs L. Woodward with Somerset Councillor M. Healey (from 7.55 p.m.)

75. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

76. Minutes

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

77. Reports of the Somerset Councillors

Somerset Councillor Healey reported that he had had a period of absence due to a family bereavement and outlined matters relating to the financial emergency affecting Somerset Council. Members referred to the increasing importance of active involvement from the Somerset Councillors to assist the Parish Council in matters such as planning.

The Chairman outlined proceedings at the Meeting of the Avalon and Poldens Local Community Network held at Glastonbury on 27th January 2024. It was felt that Cossington had little in common with Councils situated in the east of this LCN such as Street and Glastonbury and it was agreed to consider a possible request to relocate to an alternative LCN at the next Meeting.

78. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare reported that the Village Hall Committee were seeking assistance from an audio and sound engineer. Councillor Clasby had nothing to report with regard to Neighbourhood Watch but it was noted that PCSO Tom Russell had now joined the local beat.

79. Maintenance Items

Road defects at Cossington Level, Bell Lane, Manor Road and Mowground Lane had been reported. A number had been filled. It was agreed to request that a recent reinstatement at Bell Lane be reinspected as it appeared to be subsiding. Fly-tipping deposits at Cossington Level, Bell Lane and Combe Lane had also been reported.

Following the recent flooding around the Triangle, it was agreed to purchase some long-handled rakes to enable any build-up of fallen leaves to be cleared from the grills to the main watercourse during future periods of persistent heavy rain with the cost being met from the flood defence work and equipment balance. A blocked drain would be jetted in the next financial year.

The monitoring of dog fouling was continuing. County Highways had successfully completed the further work previously agreed to rectify the drainage issues in Brent Road. Work was now taking place to repair a small drain near Woollands Cottage. It was agreed to investigate an issue of odours noticed along the drainage channels on the northern side of Brent Road.

The work in the vicinity of Footpath BW 37/14 to the south of Combe Lane was continuing but completion 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.

80. Finance

a) The following payments were authorised

001058 Parish Clerk	payroll & sundry payment reimbursement	£472.08
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b) The Council considered and approved a Risk Management Report and a Statement of Internal Control for 2023/24.

c) It was agreed to enter into a new agreement with EDF Energy for the supply of electricity to the playing field with payments to be made by monthly direct debits with a smart meter fitted to enable advantage to be taken of a more favourable tariff.

Open Meeting 7.40 p.m.

A member of the public raised issues relating to potholes.

Open Meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

81. Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications to consider

It was agreed to issue another reminder for the follow-up meeting promised by the Somerset Council in 2023 regarding traveller site control and policy.

82. Playing Field

Councillor Stradling reported details of a quotation received from Sutcliffe Play for the provision and installation of a replacement see-saw and a whirly-bob (small roundabout) in the play area. It was agreed to proceed with the provision and installation of the new see-saw for now at a cost of approximately £5,000 + VAT, financed through CIL monies. He also reported that the installers had carried out work to the trim trail to correct issues identified in the 2023 safety inspection. The Archery Club had viewed the playing field hut but were yet to indicate their thoughts into the possibility of renting it.

Councillor Dare emphasised the importance of retaining the support of the Somerset Playing Fields' Association particularly in view of the Somerset Council's financial emergency.

There was no update on the Cossington Community Wood in the playing field but Members were reminded that a Polden Environmental Network Seminar would be held in Cossington Village Hall on 21st March 2024 to which they had been invited.

83. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 11th March 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman