

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 14th December 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillor G. Terry (Chairman), Councillors J. Clasby, M.F. Dare, G.F. Gardner, E. Ingram and J. Stradling.

Apology for absence received from Councillor Mrs L. Woodward.

135. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th October 2020 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

136. Interests

Members had no interests to declare.

137. Reports of the County and District Councillors

Neither Member was present.

138. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare had no report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. In respect of Neighbourhood Watch, Councillor Clasby reported the situation was generally quiet. Lora Bray had now been appointed as a PCSO supervisor and PCSO Ben Simpkin was covering this area. No further information had been received regarding investigations into people accessing the playing field through gaps in the western hedge with occasional flouting of playing field rules and criminal behaviour. It had previously been clarified that access to the field from this boundary was legally considered as trespassing.

139. Maintenance Items

It was agreed to report highway defects at Manor Road, Bell Lane and Cossington Level and a fly-tipping deposit at Mowground Lane. Regarding the Flood Group, investigations would take place into an impediment to the water flow between Middle Road and Locks Way when weather conditions were more suitable. Monitoring of dog fouling was continuing with focus on action around specific problem areas reported by residents near the Triangle and at the Middle Road / Orchard Close junction. It was agreed to request Mr Bickers to clear fallen leaves from The Drain footpath and possible disposal of paint in the highway drains in the Manor Close area will be monitored.

An illustrated report compiled by the Chairman had been sent to County Highways regarding the drainage issues in Brent Road/Cossington Lane. Following receipt of this, the Assistant Highway Services Manager had set out a programme of work to rectify the issues which he hoped to be completed by February 2021. County Highways had also partially carried out some work to improve the drainage at Eight Acre Drove and it was understood that this work would be completed in the new year.

A possible alternative location had been identified for the village nameplate in Middle Road. Councillor Dare would contact the adjacent landowner before clearing the site ready for installation. Councillor Dare would also clear vegetation in Locks Way which was obscuring a street name plate.

A parishioner had reported issues with the warning signs near the former railway bridge at Brent Road. It was agreed to request County Highways to replace the existing signs, one of which was partially obscured and damaged, with a single "Slow" warning sign also warning of both cyclists and pedestrians.

140. Authorisation for Payment

The following payments were authorised:-

DD SDC	clerk's salary recharge 3 months	£500.01
000983	GWB Services grass cutting	£198.00
000984	SDC gang mowing	£288.00
000985	Parish Clerk expenses and sundry payments	£298.56
000986	Cossington Village Hall grant	£400.00
000897	Cossington PCC grant	£225.00
000898	Cossington N. Watch grant	£50.00

141. Estimates, Risk Management Report and Statement of Internal Control

The Council considered the draft estimates for 2021/22. It was agreed that, subject to minor amendment, the Estimates be approved and the precept for 2021/22 be £11,000. The Council also considered and approved a Risk Management Report and a Statement of Internal Control for 2020/21.

Open Meeting 8.05 p.m.

The member of the public in attendance had no issues to raise.

Open Meeting closed at 8.06 p.m.

142. Planning Applications

The following new planning applications were considered:-

004 – Change of use of land to a glamping site with 7 pods, 3 shepherd huts, car parking, pathways and associated groundworks, Ditch Furlong House, Middle Road – J. Sampson. This application came in too late for a detailed appraisal prior to the meeting. Initial views were discussed including suitability of the site, access, parking, and disturbance to adjoining dwellings. A full assessment will be formalised amongst members prior to submission to the District Council in January.

005 – Installation of 3 dormer windows to accommodate proposed loft conversion, 7 St Marys Close – Mrs K. Marchant – recommend refusal on the grounds of potential overlooking.

007 – Variation of condition 2 of permission 22/19/00012 to allow for alterations to specified windows, walls and garage, Station Road – Mr & Mrs D. Parsons – recommend permission.

The two planning contraventions on sites on the western fringes of the village were still being investigated by the District Council following further suspected issues.

143. Playing Field

Councillor Stradling reported that he had trimmed the trees which had overhung the play area. Work to remove the remaining items of the trim trail and clean and repaint areas of rust on the youth shelter and see-saw would take place in the spring. It was agreed that a plan would be prepared by Councillor Stradling for new play equipment, and the corresponding availability of grant aid to support this, by April 2021.

After discussion, it was agreed that no alterations were required to current playing field parking arrangements. The Polden Hills Veterinary Surgery had kindly agreed to periodically fill in any potholes to assist with ongoing maintenance. An enquiry had been received from a company wishing to use a large area of the car park in connection with work they would be undertaking along the Sustrans path. Further detailed information had been requested before a decision could be made and a response was awaited.

It was understood that there was no longer any interest from the owners of nearby land for a wayleave agreement to lay service pipes and cables through part of the playing field.

144. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting held on Monday, 8th February 2021.

The Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman