

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 14th June 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillor G. Terry (Chairman), Councillors J. Clasby, M.F. Dare, E. Ingram, J. Stradling and Mrs L. Woodward with District Councillor B. Crow and County/District Councillor M. Healey.

12. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th May 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

14. Reports of the County and District Councillors

District Councillor Crow and County/District Councillor Healey reported upon the unitary authority debate, the Northgate Yard development in Bridgwater and a recent £22 million award for improvements in Bridgwater.

15. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare had no report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. In respect of Neighbourhood Watch, Councillor Clasby reported that graffiti had been applied to the memorial stone in the big tree surround. It had been partly cleaned but it was suggested that the incident be reported to the police due to the personal abusive nature of the graffiti.

16. Casual Vacancy

Following Mr G.F. Gardner's resignation from the Parish Council, a casual vacancy had arisen. The District Council vacancy notice had been displayed in accordance with the statutory procedure. The deadline for ten electors to request the District Council to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy had passed and confirmation of the outcome was imminently awaited. If a by-election was not required, the Parish Council would be able to co-opt a person to fill the vacancy and, if this was the case, the matter would be widely advertised (noticeboards, website, e-mail subscribers, Facebook) and those interested would be invited to apply to the Clerk in accordance with a procedure outlined by the Chairman. The intention would then be to fulfil the vacancy by co-option at the next Meeting. It was agreed to wish Mr. Gardner well for the future.

17. Maintenance Items

It was agreed to report highway defects at Bell Lane and Cossington Level, a blocked drain at the Manor Road/Brent Road bend and a fly-tipping deposit at Cossington Level. Regarding the Flood Group, the water course was flowing smoothly but some small build-ups of branches needed to be removed. Monitoring of dog fouling was continuing.

The Chairman reported that County Highways had scheduled work to rectify the drainage issues in Brent Road/Cossington Lane in the near future but had yet to complete them. The District Council's Environmental Health Officer had also investigated a recent discharge of contaminated water from a verge in Brent Road following examination, water sampling and reporting by Members. This discharge appeared to have now ceased following subsequent reported works by an unknown party.

A possible alternative location had been identified for the village nameplate in Middle Road. Councillor Dare agreed to contact the adjacent landowner before clearing the site ready for installation. Councillor Stradling agreed to investigate possible provision of a sprung gate near the Manor Road end of the Drain footpath following a safety issue raised by a resident and defects to the surface of the footpath would also be investigated.

A parishioner had reported issues with the warning signs near the former railway bridge at Brent Road. County Highways had been requested 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 but no reply had been received.

It was agreed to issue a reminder.

Councillor Dare would trim back vegetation in the Triangle to improve visibility for pedestrians and vehicles and it was agreed to look into possible trimming back of vegetation to improve visibility at the A39/Manor Road junction. A report of overgrowth of shrubbery on the Manor Road / Brent Road bend, potentially inhibiting traffic and pedestrian visibility, would also be investigated.

18. Authorisation for Payment

The following payments were authorised:-

000993	GWB Services	grass cutting (two months)	£618.00
000994	Parish Clerk	expenses and sundry payments	£244.88

Open Meeting 8.15 p.m.

The members of the public in attendance had no issues to raise other than in connection with planning application 006.

Open Meeting closed at 8.16 p.m.

19. Planning Applications

The following new planning applications were considered:-

006 (revised plans) – Removal of polytunnel, erection of a self-build dwelling and detached garage at Ditch Furlong – J. Baker – recommend refusal, primarily due to visual domination of neighbouring properties and the surrounding area and concerns regarding the relationship of the proposals to the Cossington settlement.

009 – Formation of additional vehicular access and erection of boundary wall and gates, Cheddar View, Middle Road – G. Heal – confirm earlier response of no objection subject to a condition to require permeable materials for the driveway and the necessary consents being obtained from County Highways.

20. Playing Field

Councillor Stradling reported that work had taken place to remove items of the trim trail which were at the end of their life. He outlined his plan for new play equipment and the availability of grant aid to support this. A picnic group were now using the playing field and improvements had taken place to the toilet block. Additional tree planting was also planned.

The Chairman outlined the current position regarding multiple ambiguous requests for wayleave agreement(s) to lay water supplies pipes through part of the playing field to sites to the west. Clarification and details of these requests were being sought whilst heeding current Council policy on such matters.

21. Cossington in Bloom

Councillors Clasby and Ingram agreed to compile a shortlist for each of the 2021 Garden Competition categories for the external judges. These categories would be the same as in recent years i.e. Best Small Garden, Most Colourful Garden, Best Kept Garden and Best Tub/Hanging Basket Display. In addition, there would be two Parish Council awards for “Hidden Gems” and the most Original Garden Feature. These two categories would be judged by Parish Council members from photographs taken by the Chairman. Arrangements for prize-giving would be made at a later date, subject to any Covid restrictions then being in force.

22. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting held on Monday, 12th July 2021.

The Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Chairman