

# COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 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.

Apology for absence received from District Councillor B. Crow and County/District Councillor M. Healey.

## **23. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **24. Interests**

For the benefit of attendees, the Chairman described what constitutes a disclosable interest, in accordance with the Parish Council Code of Conduct. Members had no interests to disclose.

## **25. Reports of the County and District Councillors**

Neither Member was present.

## **26. Report from Organisations**

Councillor Dare had no report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. In respect of Neighbourhood Watch, Councillor Clasby reported that there had been recent public concern regarding the speed of vehicles in the village. The police have been operating occasional mobile speed checks in Middle Road but had recently announced a new approach at sites where communities had concerns about speeding. This involves more thoroughly assessing what control measures were necessary in particular communities and taking appropriate action. Grants towards equipment such as speed monitoring devices were available. It was agreed to request a meeting with the police to explore these issues further and again endeavour to seek volunteers to form a community Roads and Traffic Working Group via the next Parish Newsletter and Facebook. Councillor Clasby also reported that the local PCSO's would also be taking an active role in speed control following widespread concern on the matter around the Poldens villages.

## **27. Casual Vacancy**

Four people had applied to be co-opted to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council. One person subsequently withdrew. Details supplied by the applicants had been circulated to Members in advance of the Meeting. Two of the applicants were in attendance and briefly introduced themselves to Members. A vote took place in accordance with a procedure outlined by the Chairman and Paul Blundell of 19 Middle Road was elected to serve on the Parish Council. Mr Blundell signed a declaration of acceptance of office and joined the Meeting. It was agreed to record a vote of thanks to all the other candidates for their interest in the vacancy.

## **28. Maintenance Items**

There were currently no new highway defects to report. Fly-tipping deposits at Cossington Level had recently been reported. Regarding the Flood Group, the water course was flowing smoothly. Monitoring of dog fouling was continuing with focus on action around specific problem areas reported by residents.

The Chairman reported that County Highways had yet to complete the work to rectify the drainage issues in Brent Road/Cossington Lane and it was agreed to issue a reminder. A possible alternative location had been identified for the village nameplate in Middle Road and Councillor Dare had sought agreement from the adjacent landowner and would clear the site ready for installation. Councillor Stradling would present options for the possible provision of a barrier near the Manor Road end of the Drain footpath to the next Meeting following a safety issue raised by a resident. Defects to the surface of the footpath had been reported to the County Council.

County Highways had advised that more than one post would be required at Brent Road to display a "Slow" warning sign and cyclists and pedestrians warning signs on the approach to the playing field and Sustrans track. It was agreed to investigate if a suitable post was available nearby.

Councillor Dare had trimmed back vegetation in the Triangle to improve visibility and Councillor Clasby had trimmed vegetation to improve visibility at the A39/Manor Road junction. The Manor Court Flats Residents Committee had also trimmed back shrubs obstructing visibility at the Manor Road/Brent Road junction.

It was agreed to request Sustrans to carry out a full structural survey of the parapet walls and foundations on the former railway bridge at Broderip following concern as to their stability. It was felt that the introduction of weight restrictions over the bridge might be necessary to prevent further deterioration. It was noted that a damaged part of one wall had been recently replaced by a simple wooden fence which detracted from the appearance of the structure.

## **29. Authorisation for Payment**

The following payments were authorised:-

000993	GWB Services	grass cutting	£618.00
000994	SALC	affiliation fee (part)	£138.91

A bank reconciliation as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 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.

The Internal Auditor had inspected the Council's Accounts for 2020/21. He recommended caution be exercised this year in awarding a grant to Cossington Parochial Church Council towards the cost of churchyard maintenance pending clarification of the legal position.

Open Meeting 8.35 p.m.

The members of the public in attendance had no issues to raise other than in connection with the wayleave request.

Open Meeting closed at 8.36 p.m.

## **30. Planning Applications**

The following new planning application was considered:-

20/006 – Retention of stable building and erection of dayroom, Green Paddock, Cossington Lane – D. Goddard – recommend refusal – the buildings were felt to be unduly visually prominent and further unauthorised structures within the curtilage of the site needed to be included in the application for possible retrospective permission.

## **31. Playing Field**

Councillor Stradling gave an update on recent progress on the plan for new play equipment. With all quotes now received, application for grant aid could proceed.

Adam Smith of County Roadways was in attendance to confirm a request for a single water easement across the playing field to serve several sites to the west of the Playing Field. It was agreed to hold a meeting between the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Councillor Clasby and Mr Smith to obtain a detailed assessment on all aspects regarding the matter with a view to reporting back to a future meeting with a proposal for consideration, if appropriate.

## **32. Cossington in Bloom**

Councillors Clasby and Ingram had compiled 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 (voted for by Parish Council members) for Hidden Gems and the most Original Garden Feature and it was agreed that these awards would be publicised on the Cossington Villagers Facebook site and elsewhere, inviting suggestions for consideration. Arrangements for prize-giving would be made at a later date, subject to any Covid restrictions then being in force.

## **33. Parish Council Newsletter**

It was agreed to produce the next edition of the Parish Council Newsletter (delivered to all households in the village) in the autumn. Various possible topics were outlined and the Chairman undertook to produce a draft for consideration at the next meeting.

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

It was agreed that the next Meeting held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The Meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Chairman