

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 13th September 2021 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 District Councillor B. Crow and County/District Councillor M. Healey.

35. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

36. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th July 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

37. Reports of the County and District Councillors

Neither Member was present.

38. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare had no report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee and Councillor Clasby had nothing to report in respect of Neighbourhood Watch.

39. Maintenance Items

It was agreed to report highway defects in Bell Lane and Cossington Level and fly-tipping deposits at Combe Lane and Manor Road. Regarding the Flood Group, the water course was flowing smoothly but action was being taken to secure removal of brambles in the vicinity of the school. Monitoring of dog fouling was continuing. It was noted that black bin bags containing large quantities of dog mess had been fly-tipped in certain village locations and this would be reported.

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 further reminder. An alternative location had been identified for the village nameplate in Middle Road and Councillor Dare had obtained agreement from the adjacent landowner and would clear the site when the County Council were ready to install it. 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 repaired by the County Council from whom consent to erect any barrier would need to be obtained.

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. They would therefore remove the damaged "Slow" sign and add a pedestrian warning sign to the cyclist warning sign post. There was no update on speed checks carried out by police in the village but it was understood that some residents had received warnings regarding speeding.

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 and, if restoration work was necessary, to consider possible Parish Council contribution. The local landowner had agreed to cease the using the bridge to access their land with heavily loaded vehicles in order to prevent further deterioration and Councillor Clasby offered to monitor any further movements on the structure over time, subject to agreement with the necessary parties.

40. Authorisation for Payment

The following payments had been made since the last Meeting:-

DD SDC	salary recharge	£519.99
000997 SDC	gang mowing	£403.20

The following payments were authorised:-

000998 GWB Services	grass cutting	£618.00
000999 Parish Clerk	expenses and reimburse sundry payments	£338.01

Open Meeting 8.15 p.m.

No members of the public were in attendance.

Open Meeting closed at 8.16 p.m.

41. Planning Applications

The following new planning application was considered:-

011 – Erection of single storey rear extension, internal alterations and alterations to rear landscaping, The Cedars, Middle Road – C. Rigby – recommend permission.

Members also confirmed recommendations of refusal made since the last Meeting in respect of two planning applications in Woolavington which were in close proximity to the parish boundary namely 54/21/00008 – Retrospective application for two mobile home pitches and proposed creation of four mobile home pitches, Vardoes, Cossington Lane – Mr & Mrs W. Burton and 54/21/00012 – Change of use to residential caravan site with nine pitches each with three mobile homes and hardstanding, Green Paddocks, Cossington Lane – A. Smith.

There was no update on outstanding enforcement issues and it was agreed to send a letter to the Chief Executive of the District Council expressing the Parish Council's concern over their general approach and lack of action regarding traveller site provision in the district, and the subsequent repercussions locally. It was also noted that several residents had reported issues regarding possible unauthorised camping site activity to the east of the village to the Local Authority over a month ago and had yet to receive any form of acknowledgement or reply.

42. Playing Field

Councillor Stradling gave an update on recent progress on the plan for new play equipment. He hoped to be able to submit an application for grant aid by the end of the month. Councillors Stradling and Clasby had removed the roundabout on safety grounds as major defects had been highlighted in the annual safety inspection report. Copies of the full report would be circulated to all Members. It was felt that some new play equipment for younger children should be provided within the play area in the near future.

Sustrans had organised a successful event on 11th September and they now held a key for the playing field toilets. A further event may be held in 2022.

There had been no further contact from the party concerned regarding the wayleave issue discussed at the last meeting. It was generally recognised that inconclusive wayleave-related matters had consumed a disproportionate amount of Parish Council time and effort over the past 15 months, and it was thus agreed to reinforce the general policy that any further wayleave requests over and above the existing 1993 agreement would not generally be allowed. If further approaches were to occur, those involved would be directly referred to the current wayleave policy which is to be published on the Parish Council's website in due course.

43. Cossington in Bloom

The Chairman reported that the results of the various 2021 Garden Competition categories would be announced on 17th September and certificates would be delivered to the winners. Arrangements would be made for the trophies to be engraved.

44. Parish Council Newsletter

A list of topics for the autumn newsletter was agreed including publicity for E-Watch which might be a separate sheet. A draft newsletter would be considered at the next meeting.

45. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting held on Monday, 11th October 2021.

The Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman