

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 11th November 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.

Apology for absence received from Somerset Councillors M. Healey and Suria Aujla.

58. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

59. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th October 2024 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

60. Reports of the Somerset Councillors

Neither Member was present.

61. Local Community Networks

The Chairman reported that she had attended a full meeting of the Avalon and Poldens LCN remotely on 16th October. It was an improved meeting which included presentations on flood prevention. The next full meeting of the LCN would be in January. Two meetings of the Highways and Transport Working Group had since taken place following the circulation of the new highways and traffic levels of service. Representatives of the highway contractor, Kier, were in attendance. Parish councils would be able to hire Kier (or any other qualified contractor) to carry out required additional work, such as gully clearance not covered by the new service levels for a specified fee. It was agreed to take up Kier's offer of a free survey of Cossington gullies. It was also agreed to clarify the intended frequency of planned gully clearance by Somerset Council around the triangle following the non-committal response initially questioning schedules stipulating only once every four years - and subsequent LCN statements that there may be some flexibility in areas at risk of flooding. but not on a recognised flood plain.

62. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare had nothing to report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee and Councillor Clasby had nothing to report in respect of Neighbourhood Watch.

63. Maintenance Items

It was agreed to report highway defects at Hirst Lane. The monitoring of dog fouling was continuing. In respect of drainage, a sudden heavy storm had caused water to collect around the triangle as fallen leaves prevented water from entering the gullies and watercourse. Clean Surroundings subsequently arranged for a road sweeper to clear the leaves, and it was agreed to request a further visit of the sweeper in December after the end of leaf fall. Two long-handled rakes had now been purchased to help clear gratings during heavy rain should the need arise and accessible locations where they could be kept would be finalised. County Highways had also agreed to cut further grips in the verges to allow surface water from land upstream in Cossington Lane to enter the roadside ditches in addition to the grips recently cut in the verges at Brent Road by a third party. There was no update or further reports regarding odours from the Brent Road ditches.

It was understood that the Bridge School premises department were looking into repairs and maintenance of the external school clock.

64. Finance

The following payments were authorised

DD	EDF Energy	playing field electricity	£18.95
001078	GWB Services	grass cutting	£497.40
001079	Parish Clerk	payroll & sundry payment reimbursement	£476.25

Members gave preliminary consideration to the Estimates for 2025/26. It was agreed to seek competitive quotations for grass cutting during the 2025 season and also agreed to assess the impact that any changes in the parish precept would have on village dwellings' council tax payments before finalisation of the 2025/26 Budget.

It was agreed to decline a request for a grant received on behalf of Catcott School.

Open Meeting 8.00 p.m.

The cost of grass cutting was raised.

Open Meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.

65. Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications to consider.

There had been no response to date in respect of the report lodged with Somerset Council relating to suspected contravention of Condition 4 of planning permission 54/23/00002 (Land at Green Paddock, Cossington Lane) and it was agreed to send a reminder to the planning enforcement section.

66. Playing Field

It was noted that further work had taken place to stop up gaps in the playing field fence and, at the time of the meeting, all recent repairs were reported as intact

The Cossington Community Wood Group held a volunteer day on 10th November and had a meeting scheduled for 12th November.

67. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 9th December 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Chairman