

## **COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillor J. Stradling (Vice -Chairman in the Chair), Councillors P. Blundell, J. Clasby, M.F. Dare, E. Ingram and Mrs L. Woodward with Somerset Councillor M. Healey.

Apology for absence received from Councillor Ms G. Terry and Somerset Councillor Suria Aujla.

### **36. Interests**

Councillor Stradling disclosed an interest in planning application no 22/24/00009 & 10 as an adjoining landowner.

### **37. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were confirmed and signed by the Presiding Chairman as a correct record.

### **38. Reports of the Somerset Councillors**

Somerset Councillor Healey reported upon the sale of assets and issues surrounding delays within the current planning system. Somerset Council's approach to the control of ragwort was also discussed with Councillor Healey suggesting that the matter be taken up with the local MP, Ashley Fox.

### **39. Local Community Networks**

Somerset Council had now appointed a number of full time Link Officers each dedicated to just two LCNs with a view to improving the way LCNs were run overall. The Avalon and Poldens and the Burnham and Highbridge Link Officer was Emmaline Kay and she had met with the Chairman to discuss the concerns including the way the Working Groups (Highways/Transport and Health) were being run by the Avalon and Poldens LCN. She had agreed to take the points on board and hoped to attend a future Meeting of this Council.

### **40. Report from Organisations**

Councillor Dare reported that the Village Hall Committee were endeavouring to recruit additional trustees. With regard to Neighbourhood Watch, Councillor Clasby reported upon a recent burglary in the village,

### **41. Maintenance Items**

There were no new road defects to report. It was agreed to report some tyres fly-tipped at Combe Lane. In respect of the Flood Group, property owners had removed more debris from the main watercourse. The monitoring of dog fouling was continuing. County Highways had indicated that the road surface at Brent Road near the entrance to the Wessex Water premises did not require remedial work at the current time. It was reported that odours were still being noticed in Brent Road and Councillor Dare undertook to check a section of the ditch.

It was noted that Somerset Council had declined the request for a tree preservation order on the one remaining maple tree at Maple Tree Close principally as it was under their management and not under threat. It was agreed to endeavour to seek the repair of the clock on the Bridge School and the Chairman would be in touch with the school regarding this. It was noted that the gate at the Combe Lane entrance of footpath BW37/14 was self closing and no further action was required. It was also agreed to record appreciation of the work of Councillor Dare in planting and maintaining the floral tubs in the village.

### **42. Finance**

The following payments were authorised

001073 SALC	affiliation fee	£199.72
001074 GWB Services	grass cutting	£1,402.20
001075 Parish Clerk	payroll & sundry payment reimbursement	£671.47

Open Meeting 7.55 p.m.

No issues were raised during the open session.

Open Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

### **32. Planning Applications**

The following new planning applications were considered.

22/24/00006 – Erection of extension, The Pollards, Middle Road – Mr & Mrs J. Hadley – confirm recommendation of permission;

22/24/00009 & 10 – Erection of agricultural buildings, Brookhayes Farm, Bell Lane – IJ & SA Bell & Son – recommend permission subject to the planning authority being satisfied that satisfactory provision had been made for surface water run-off;

SDC/4107/2024 – Retention of inert material used to level field to the north of Combe Lane – M. Bell – confirm recommendation of refusal pending correction of material errors and omissions in the application and assurances that all necessary approvals had been granted.

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).

### **33. Playing Field**

Councillor Stradling reported that he had lowered the outside of roadside hedge to the playing field and hoped to trim the inside of the hedge in the near future. Councillor Clasby had stopped up gaps in the fences/hedges. A new lid for the dog waste bin was awaited. No urgent maintenance issues had been identified in the annual inspection of the play equipment but arrangements would be made for GB Sport & Leisure to check the swing chains.

The Archery Club had held their beginner's course and it was agreed to seek the agreed payment. They were continuing with refurbishment work in the hut and it was agreed to allow them to erect signs on the fence and hut.

An update on the work of the Cossington Community Wood Group was received. A meeting had been held with relevant parties to explore possibilities of extra grant funding being available at a future date. Following concerns, water usage had been investigated with meter readings taken and it was found not to have been excessive.

### **34. Cossington in Bloom 2024**

Final arrangements were agreed for the Presentation Event to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> October. It was agreed that people could vote for the Village Hero Award by means of a ballot paper on the final flyer.

### **35. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Chairman