

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 10th June 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors Ms G. Terry (Chairman), Councillors P. Blundell, J. Clasby, M.F. Dare, E. Ingram, J. Stradling and Mrs L. Woodward.

14. Interests

Councillor Stradling disclosed an interest in planning application 22/24/00005 as owner of the land

15. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th May 2024 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

16. Reports of the Somerset Councillors

Neither Member was present.

17. Local Community Networks

The Chairman reported that the promised update from Somerset Council from the on-line Meeting to explore the possibility of changes taking place to the Local Community Network areas had not yet been forthcoming. The meeting proposed that consideration should be given to a new LCN based on the catchment area of the Polden Hills Medical Practice where the parishes would have greater social and functional connections. It had been announced, again at short notice, that another meeting of the Avalon and Poldens LCN Highways Working Group would be held in Street on Tuesday 18th June, unfortunately without Cossington Parish Council representation, due to timing. It was agreed that the Chairman should express concern in writing at the way the Working Groups were being run by this LCN – which has seemed to ignore all recognised working group good practice. The LCN's AGM had been scheduled for 10th July in West Pennard.

18. Report from Organisations

Councillor Dare reported that the Village Hall Committee were holding their AGM on 26th June 2024 and he was reappointed as the representative of the Parish Council to serve on that Committee. Councillor Clasby had nothing to report with regard to Neighbourhood Watch.

19. Maintenance Items

There were no new road defects to report. It was agreed to report fly-tipping at Hurst Lane. In respect of the Flood Group, a property owner would be requested to remove a large fallen branch from the main watercourse. The monitoring of dog fouling was continuing. With regard to Brent Road, an Environmental Health Officer had investigated the issue of odours and discoloured water which had been noticed along the drainage channels on the southern side of Brent Road but had found no evidence of sewage. The work in the vicinity of Footpath BW 37/14 had been completed. A pedestrian metal gate had been installed at its junction with Combe Lane and a fingerpost sign had been restored. Councillor Dare reported that the sleepers around the flower bed at the Manor Road/A39 junction had been replaced and it was agreed to thank the Bell family for their assistance with this matter. It was also agreed to request County Highways to clean the reflective bollards at that junction with the A39.

20. Finance

The following payments were authorised

001068 J. Keen	community wood expenses	£46.00
001069 GWB Services	grass cutting (2 months)	£1,749.60
001070 Parish Clerk	payroll & sundry payment reimbursement	£889.59
DD EDF Energy	playing field electricity	£32.20

Open Meeting 8.15 p.m.

A member of the public raised issues relating to bus timetables and thanked Councillor Dare for planting the floral tub adjacent to the bus shelter. Residents also made comments in connection with planning application 22/24/00002.

Open Meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

21. Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered.

22/24/00002 – Change of use of land from agriculture to car parking including construction of a new access track and erection of a workshop/storage building south of Cossington Park (revised plans) – G. Wason – recommend permission subject to the highway authority having no objections in relation to highway safety at the access onto Manor Road and also to the number of parking spaces proposed in compliance with the County Parking Strategy. It was also requested that a tree preservation order be made to protect the line of trees along the Manor Road frontage as they are an important amenity feature along the southern approach to the village.

22/24/00004 – Erection of single storey rear extension, 9 Manor Close – M. Herniman – recommend permission – no adverse impact upon any neighbouring property.

22/24/00005 – Fell four ash trees within 1m of disused railway structure, Bell Lane – Amco Giffen – no objection.

A report had also been lodged with Somerset Council relating to contravention of Condition 4 of planning permission 54/23/00002 (Land at Green Paddock, Cossington Lane) in that land which was to be a wildflower meadow and play area had recently been hard surfaced. The stationing of around 27 mobile homes on land to the south without known planning permission had also been brought to Local Authority attention.

22. Playing Field

Members had visited the playing field prior to the Meeting. The following issues had been identified as requiring attention

- Gaps in the fences/hedges to be stopped up
- Fencing along the boundary with the car park to require attention or replacement in the near future
- The roadside hedge to be lowered and the footpath between the car park and play area to be treated with weedkiller and quotations be obtained for the surface and edging boards to be repaired.

An update on the work of the Cossington Community Wood Group was received. It was noted that a further volunteer's day would take place on Sunday 23rd June and it was agreed that the Group be allowed access to the toilets by means of a combination lock.

23. Cossington in Bloom 2024

It was agreed that Councillors Clasby and Ingram would compile a shortlist for each of the main categories by 30th June with a view to the independent judges visiting the village in July. The criteria for the separately judged "Hidden Gem" award were clarified. A Presentation Event has been booked for 21st September in the Village Hall and it was agreed that ideas for the on-the-day competitions would be considered at the next Meeting.

24. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 8th July 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman