

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Cossington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Cossington on Monday, 10th March 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillor Ms G. Terry (Chairman), Councillors P. Blundell, J. Clasby and J. Stradling.

Apology for absence received from Councillors M.F. Dare, E. Ingram, Mrs L. Woodward and Somerset Councillor M. Healey.

88. Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

89. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th February 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

90. Reports of the Somerset Councillors

Neither Member was present.

91. Avalon and Poldens Local Community Network

The Chairman reported that a meeting of the Highways and Transport Working Group was held on 25th February. It was not well attended but a discussion ensued on gullies and sharing equipment such as SIDs. The next full meeting of the LCN would be at Cossington Village Hall on 23rd April.

92. Report from Organisations

In the absence of Councillor Dare there was no report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. Councillor Clasby had nothing to report in respect of Neighbourhood Watch but reference was made to a driver of a vehicle being apprehended after colliding with a speed limit sign in Manor Road. The damaged sign had been reported to County Highways.

93. Maintenance Items

A number of highway defects had been reported. It was agreed to report a further pothole at Landshire Lane. The monitoring of dog fouling was continuing. In respect of drainage, County Highways had now advised that the full highway surface water system at the triangle would be jetted. Once this work was completed, they would keep a check on the performance of the gullies to determine if additional cleansing was necessary. The planned jetting works at Millmoot Lane would include the piped system to the junction of Walnut Lane. Damage to the drainage system at north Bell Lane would also be inspected. Kier's free survey of Cossington gullies had taken place on 17th February and the promised feedback was awaited.

Bridge School had been reminded of the need to repair the external school clock. It was understood that their premises department were obtaining quotations for the work. County Highways had submitted a proposal for the provision of cattle warning signs at Bell Lane. It was agreed to accept the proposal subject to the signs being installed as close as possible to telegraph poles to reduce any impact on hedge cutting. The memorial bench near the bus stop at Brent Road had now been repaired.

94. Finance

The following payments were authorised

DD	EDF Energy	playing field electricity	£19.53
001087	Parish Clerk	payroll & sundry payment reimbursement	£245.30
001088	GWB Services	grass cutting	£90.00

Open Meeting 7.50 p.m.

A member of the public referred to extensive repairs recently carried out to the road to the north of the river at Gold Corner in the parish of East Huntspill. It was agreed to try and ascertain through the East Huntspill Clerk how such a large scheme was allowed in the current financial climate.

Open Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

95. Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications to consider.

Somerset Council had previously advised that a shortage of qualified staff in the planning section and illness in the enforcement section had resulted in a delay in dealing with issues including the report lodged over nine months ago relating to suspected contravention of Condition 4 of planning permission 54/23/00002 (Land at Green Paddock, Cossington Lane). It was again noted that the number of mobile homes in the area continued to increase without the necessary planning consents being sought. They were also not all being occupied by members of the travelling community. Recently the hedgerow and trees along the western side of the playing field had been cut back reducing the screening of the site and earth and debris had been piled along the boundary with litter falling into the playing field. A letter had been sent to the MP seeking his assistance in rectifying the situation and he would be meeting the Chairman and Vice-Chairman on 28th March. It was also agreed to write to the applicant's agent regarding clearance of the earth and debris from the works spilling into the playing field.

The Chairman reported upon a well-attended recent event marking the launch of work on a new unitary authority Local Plan (targeted for adoption in 2028). Further wider public consultation would follow.

96. Playing Field

It was agreed to request Gary Bickers to repaint the goal posts and youth shelter and also to empty the dog waste bin and litter bin near the main car park gate once a fortnight during 2025/26. It was also agreed to seek quotation(s) for the renewal of the wooden car park fence with a wider gate onto the field and restoration.

The local vets wished to use the field for a community event/dog show on 25th May. It was agreed to grant permission for the event for a fee of £100 and to temporarily allow dogs onto the field for the event,

The Cossington Community Wood Group had recently planted more trees and were planning a wildflower meadow.

97. Cossington in Bloom 2025

Following the lack of local interest in the 2024 events, it was agreed to reduce the 2025 competitions to the four main core categories only without a specific prizegiving event. Results would be announced on-line and on the noticeboard, and certificates, etc. would be delivered the winners. However, the possibility of linking a prizegiving ceremony to another suitable village event would be considered, if possible.

98. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting be held on Monday, 14th April 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Chairman