

Cosgrove Parish Council

MINUTES OF COSGROVE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 6th APRIL 2022 at the Village Hall Commencing at 7.30pm

(face coverings are optional)

Present:

Cllrs Mr D Smith (in the chair), Mr A Bracey, Mrs S Comerford, Mr D Little & Mr P Roberts
Also present were Mr D Everett (Clerk) and 5 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Mr W Smith (Holiday), Mr C Bird (Work), Mr M Draddy (delayed via Cllr Comerford)
Mr J Proctor (unable?), Cllr Mr I McCord (WNC)(apologies if commitments dictate)

2. Members Declaration of Interest (for items on the Agenda)

None

3. Minutes for approval of the Meeting dated Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Minutes of meeting Wednesday 2nd March 2022 were approved and signed as correct record
** Cllr Little raised the 'omission of the discussion re Microsoft 365 > as that conversation and exchange of views occurred after the meeting closed, at the start of the training session called by the Chairman. It was not an Agenda item and therefore did not form part of the minutes.*

4. Clerks Report (including Gigaclear issues County Wide & Dog Bins)

- Newspaper complaint re Gigaclear > Request for CosPC to register; As WNC Highways had defended issues as lawful permission no complaint made;
- Allotment Agreement completed > awaits Legal Transfer documents
- Guard rails > Main Street to Canal towpath - H&S concerns remains (site meeting?)
- {20mph request Bridge Road (No accident data to support request) > as WNC response next
- {Deer signs request Stratford Road (no data to justify) > WNC Highways response circulated
- 2 x Dog bins installed either end of Coffin Walk > Siting issues agreed after discussion
- Operation London Bridge > Flag protocol reminder remains

** Meeting closed to allow public speaking*

5. Public Speaking Time

Due to the refurbishment of Cosgrove Hall cottages and apparent charges for vehicle access, concerns about on street parking affecting the Church entrance. Request for 3 Disabled bays
* Action agreed

Resident thanked the council and left the meeting

** Meeting reopened after public speaking*

6. WNC Councillor Report

In Cllr McCord's absence Chairman read highlights of his report > attached at the end of the minutes

7. Correspondence received since last meeting (list at the meeting)

- N/CALC eUpdate (including change of clerks procedure) > circulated
- NJ Blackwell fuel costs rises > circulated for agreement and **RESOLVED** to continue contract with price rise (quarterly review discussed)

- NJ Blackwell amended quote noted
- Arnold Thomson (Christine Simkins solicitor for CosPC retires) > outstanding issue re LR to be completed
- Illegal dog walking issues (raised by Cllr Little) > trespass on Doctors Piece / dog fouling affecting cattle grazing > landowner issues > note for Old Mail)
- PSLCC/NCALC advice on agreed clerks pay rise back dated to Apr 21 * Clerk declined pay rise

8. Queens Jubilee Celebrations and RBL offers to confirm

RESOLVED after discussion for Jubilee flag and 10 lamppost plaques

* Village Hall were celebrating and had bunting

9. Clerks Successor for discussion > deferred to end of meeting

10. Planning

(a) Applications Received

WNS/2022/0480/TPO T26 (Turkey Oak) reduction and crown thin, T23 (Ash) removal
The Dairy, Priory Road

WNS/2022/0490-0491/COND (Roof slate and stone samples) 15 Yardley Road > noted

(b) Decision Notices

None

(c) Enforcement / Appeals

Enforcement 42 Bridge Road re Decking, fencing and tree work w/o planning permission

(d) Press Notices

None

11. Finance

(a) The Council to approve budgetary control to date

* **RESOLVED** to adopt

(b) To Note Current State of Finance

Treasurer's a/c:	£19,152.21
Business Inst a/c:	£32,667.53
Earmarked Reserves:	£39,812.39
Available Capital:	£12,007.35 carry over (Min 11(d))

(c) To Note Accounts for Payment (Proposed DS seconded SC and carried unanimously)

002085	Clerks Salary/Petty cash:	£440.00 (£384 + Petty cash £56) see Note*
002086	HMRC:	£96.00 (PAYE)
002087	DNH Contracts:	£340.80 (Environmental > Mar + 2 new bins)
002088	NJ Blackwell GS:	£713.26 (Mowing Mar)
002089	Scott Welding:	£175.00 (Play area fence post repair)
002090	The Cumbria Clock Co:	£198.00 (Church clock annual maintenance)
002091	ElanCity:	£2,382.60 (New Speed Device)
002092	Hickford Construction:	£9,012.00 (Cable / Street lighting connection)(Min:12)
002093	D M Everett;	£216.00 (Clerks Pension)(Budget allocation)
002094	OSPC:	£275.00 (Donation re use of equipm't)(Budget allocation)
002095	RBLI Ltd:	£70.06 (Jubilee Flag + 10 PL plaques)(Min:8)

* Note: Green Bin for Burial Ground required > by clerk @ £42

(d) Budget forecast

Due to rising fuel costs, the Carry over capital for 2022/23 (above) At Provisional Year End Balance has some scope for adjustment > next meeting including ‘assistant clerk’ when appropriate

12 Street Lighting and update

New Lamp Bridge Road connected > quote received and accepted

13. Highways

No further reports

14. Monthly roundup and issues from each councillor

- **Cllr Draddy** > x
- **Cllr Bird** > Trees (email re proposals > JP re allotment site Nov-Mar planting)
- **Cllr Bracey** > Causeway issues
- **Cllr Comerford** > WP posts (not yet 6m) * Members congrats re Old Mail for CosPC
- **Cllr Proctor** > x
- **Cllr Roberts** > No
- **Cllr Little** > Notice of intention to resign after 2.5 years (discussed and thanked)
- **Cllr Smith (D)** > Projector (clerks update > deferred) * PR to check available kit
- **Cllr Smith (W)** > x

15. Councillor Questions and Items for Next Agenda

Western Power outstanding issues

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting by the reason of its confidential nature.

9. Clerks Successor for discussion.

Further exchange of views (reference to NCALC advice) and agreed to continue advertising exercise (with clerks views) and with 3 Months notice of intention to resign serious advertising end of summer with Budget allocation for ‘deputy’ to be agreed (from End of Year surplus)

16. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 4th May 2022 commencing at 7.30pm

With no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

6. WNC Councillor Report

April PC Report

One Year On

The first day of April saw WNC celebrate its first year of operation. Whilst personally it was not the year I had thought it may be, the first year has been unexceptional. The process of integrating all the elements of the previous councils will continue for some time and we cannot expect this to happen overnight otherwise there is a risk to service continuity. The council financially has had as good a start as could be expected. The budget was balanced and the one set for this new financial year is more accurate and more based in the reality than the myriad of assumptions the first one had to be built on. The financial performance should be stronger going forward.

The biggest area for improvement, in my view is the culture and mindset from the administration and leadership. It is too Northampton focused and does not understand life beyond the 30mph sign in Northampton. The attitude that this is what the borough or NCC did and so we must emulate it pervades and needs addressing quickly. The decisions on the local plan and green waste charges were two glaring examples of this in my view. Two real opportunities pursue a different course and let residents know that this council would be different were thrown away because of the processes of 'Northamptonisation' of West Northants Council.

Green Waste Charges

The charging for green waste is now effective – any resident who wants to continue to have their green waste bin emptied will need to pay £42 for a sticker for the year. The council can be contacted on

<https://www.northampton.gov.uk/xfp/form/382>

or call 0300 126 7000 for those without internet access

Ukraine Scheme

I am aware of residents who are wanting to host people fleeing the situation in Ukraine. They have proved a bit of a bureaucratic nightmare with a lot of forms to be completed and what looks like over complicated checks and requirement to take up an offer of help for those seeking sanctuary from war. Having contacted the council they are equally as frustrated and it seems everyone is trying to follow the central government guidance that is changing and often incomplete. Thank you to all those who are willing to offer spare rooms to help out.

The WNC website has a dedicated page with advice

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/homes-ukraine>

Energy Rebate

The government has announced that it plans to give all those in properties council tax Band A to D only £150 rebate to help with the spiralling costs of fuel.

For those people currently paying their council tax by Direct Debit, the rebate will be paid directly back into their bank accounts as soon as possible following collection of their first direct debit payment for the Financial Year 2022-23. It is anticipated that the rebate payment will start to be paid into accounts in mid to late April.

All households who do not pay their council tax by direct debit, will receive a letter inviting them to apply via an online application form using a dedicated website. All applications will be subject to a series of validation checks before any payments are made.

In addition to the above rebates, there will be a discretionary scheme, through which the Council will assist vulnerable residents who live in properties in Council Tax bands E to H, or those who do not pay Council Tax. Further details on our local discretionary scheme will be on our website in the coming weeks.

This last point is important as there is not always a direct correlation between means and property size / value. Many, especially elderly, live in larger properties on low incomes, who may avail themselves of this opportunity.

Gigaclear Permitted Development

We have all had complaints and comments about the siting of green gigaclear boxes. These seem to cause a lot of angst in conservation areas. Ken has taken this up and in short there is not a lot we can do as they do have quite extensive permitted development rights to site their kit where they want, even in conservation areas. We have asked that there is some sensitivity to the siting of this but it seems difficult to get gigaclear to engage. I did try when I spotted them surveying in Yardley Gobion, but they did not contact me further.

All I can advise to those who have not had gigaclear in their village is to try to contact them if you see them surveying and ask to see the proposed layout before they start digging. Once these boxes are in place it is very clear that gigaclear will not move them willingly.

Road Closure Pury End

Sunbelt Rentals have applied for a road closure on the above road. The closure is to allow the safe installation of a new gas connection and it is expected that the road will be closed from the 3rd to 6th May 2022.

The closure and the diversion can be viewed here <https://one.network/?tm=128296307>

Bus Route 89

I have been working with many of you to get this a better service on the 89 Bus Route. It seems now that the issues are being resolved and I am hopeful we will get an improved service in the very near future. As parishes I think we need to try to help publicise this service and do what we can improve its uptake. I appreciate that it needs to be convenient and fit with how most people who use it want to travel. Fundamentally this needs to be a viable service for the operator, however, it strikes me that with fuel costs at an all time high, if this is not the time to consider taking the bus, when will be?

Consultations & Community Engagement

WNC is currently consulting on the future plans for the Market Square in Northampton. It is planning to have monthly electronic newsletter and an twice yearly printed one starting in the autumn.

Report from Ian McCord – Independent councillor for Deanshanger Ward

William and Ken may or may not agree with any of the views stated herein.

3 April 2022