

Cosgrove Parish Council

MINUTES OF COSGROVE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 5th January 2022 at the Village Hall Commencing at 7.30pm
(held under strict Covid-19 Protocol conditions)

Present:

Cllrs Mr D Smith (in the chair), Mr C Bird, Mr A Bracey, Mrs S Comerford, Mr D Little,
Mr J Proctor & Mr P Roberts

Also present were Mr D Everett (Clerk) and 4 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Mr W Smith & Mr M Draddy (Other); Mr I McCord (WNC)(report sent)

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

None

3. Minutes for approval of the Meeting dated Wednesday 1st December 2021

Minutes of meeting Wednesday 1st December 2021 were approved and signed as correct record

4. Clerks Report

- Furtho Pit fall out continues
- A5 Alliance update
- The Green flooding issue is ongoing (resident vs WNC)

** Meeting closed to allow public speaking*

5. Public Speaking Time

Furtho Pit and Cosgrove issues further discussed with a frank exchange of views and the consideration of a review/challenge to the current planning re 'due' process'

** Meeting reopened after lengthy public speaking*

6. WNC Councillor Report (in his absence and read out by the Chairman)

'Happy New Year – I wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2022. As the Covid Plan B restrictions are in place with a work from home where possible I feel it only responsible to attend those council meetings for which I am a member. As the government has not renewed the remote meetings rules that were in place until May past I feel I have no option but to give this as a written report.

I think the PC is aware of the Frampton / Frontier community engagement exercise that is now underway. The advice that the PC has given I agree with and we need to remind all residents that a response to this exercise is not a response to WNC on the planning application. To date no application has been received by WNC for this site. Ken, William and myself had a meeting with Framptons just before Christmas where they outlined the proposal we expressed our concerns at the density of the proposals and especially the largest unit 1 being approx. 350,000 sq ft. They were reminded that the previous indicative layout for the site had the roundabout and entrance pass through what would be the middle of that proposed warehouse and preventing a unit of that size. The developers have stated that there will be a comprehensive traffic assessment and it will also link into the AL1, AL2, AL3 and AL4 allocations in the Towcester area along the A43. To date

none of these proposals have satisfied National Highways they can successfully mitigate their impact. We all agreed that the traffic modelling was a major concern along with impact on the village, and the design. The current thinking on design was a curved roof not a pitch.

Members will be aware that WNC have proposed to introduce a new £42 per year, per green bin, annual charge for collection and disposal of green waste. Working with other councillors I have used the council's "call in" procedure to refer this decision to a scrutiny committee prior to implementation. The committee met on 14 December and did agree to refer the decision back to cabinet to in effect ask them to think again along with a number of points to consider. These included a lower charge than the £42 per year, using the revenue to fund additional opening at the household waste and recycling centres, allowing for staged payments and reductions to those in receipt of local council tax reduction scheme benefits. This will go back to cabinet later this month however I do not expect them to reverse their decision although as I will mention in the next point on the budget they do not need to raise this additional money.

WNC published its budget before Christmas and had the rather pleasant surprise of getting £3.8m more than they had assumed when the draft budget was written. Having balanced the books with a 2.99% rise in the council tax which includes and additional 1% for adult social care, a couple of days after publication they have a £3.8m surplus. Given that the green waste charges raise £2.2m from Daventry and Northampton Borough former areas, and it was assumed that another £800k will be raised in the South Northants area, it is clear to me that the council can remove all charges from all across WNC area and provide the service paid from the council tax alone. It will be interesting to see if the administration decides to burry this cash somewhere and insists on charging for green waste, the reason will be clear, not equality of charging, not because of financial pressure but simply because they can and want to sting the residents of the district for £3m a year.

I would urge all residents to respond to the WNC Budget consultation making this point that with an extra £3.8m there is no need to have a £42 per year (per bin) extra charge, the loss of revenue from not charging is more than covered by the increased funding from central funding and the associated saving on the administration for collecting the charges.

The Police, Fire, Crime Commission has also published the draft budgets for Police and Fire which are available online for comment'.

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

- WNC (Northants Highways) Urban Highways Grass Mowing 2022 > Approved
- WNC Parish Precept 2022-2023 request > see Min:10(d)
- Old Mail request for donation towards printing costs **RESOLVED** to approve £250 as per budget
- Fence damage Church boundary with Cosgrove Hall > report by Cllr D Smith) circulated > WNC?
- The Queens Canopy (Jubilee tree planting) > Min:8

8. Queens Green Canopy (Co-ordinated by WNC)

* Discussed along with the previous email exchanges - Clerk to re-circulate original corres

9. Planning

(a) Applications Received

WNS/2021/2107/TCA Various worksto trees and hedgerows adjacent to tghe canal, including coppicing, crown work and removal. Bridge 1 to Cosgrove Lock

* Noted

Update on **WNS/2021/1985/SCC** Land at Furtho Pit; To include Highway Conditions (previously circulated) and a MKC Response with the proposal for the Country Park to form an extension of the Stony Stratford Linear Park managed by MKPT?

* Framptons virtual exhibition event 5th Jan (previously advised) re Furtho Pit proposals viewed by the clerk (artist impressions? + CosPC website advice discussed and approved. (This was an attempt at public engagement not for a planning response to WNC)

(b) Decision Notices

None

10. Finance

(a) The Council to approve budgetary control to date

* **RESOLVED** to adopt

(b) To Note Current State of Finance

Treasurer's a/c:	£22,714.83
Business Inst a/c:	£31,764.36
Earmarked Reserves:	£39,757.39
Available Capital:	£14,721.80

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

002068	Clerks Salary/Petty cash:	£398.00 (£384 + Petty cash £14)
002069	HMRC:	£96.00 (PAYE)
002070	DNH Contracts:	£84.00 (Environmental > Dec)
002071	E.ON:	£296.61 (PL Unmetered supply)
002072	Cllr Smith D:	£235.50 (Website costs managed by Cllr Smith D)
002073	Old Mail:	£250.00 (Donation Min:7)

(d) To consider Precept Proposal for 2022/23 (WNC request decision by 18 Jan 2022).

Discussed: As Local Government costs said to rise by 6.8% and current inflation is 3.6%; WNC Budget rise of 2.99% + 1% Social Care; The clerk suggested given current healthy financial position and projected end of year accounts, that just under 2.5% = raising the precept by £500 to £23,500.00 and the clerk to draw up a budget for approval next meeting.

* **RESOLVED:** That the precept be issued for the sum of £23,500.00

11. Street Lighting and update

Some power poles to remain for a further 6/7 months? (info from Cllr Comerford)

12. Highways

Safety issues remain > review awaits (Castlethorpe Turn/Yardley Road and Xroads drainage)
Flooding at the Xroads and Main Street/The Green

13. Station Road > Castlethorpe Causeway Bridges issues (Raised by Cllr Bracey)

Narrows over causeway without footpaths > Yardley Roaf > Q to WNC Highways

14. Monthly roundup and issues from each councillor

- **Cllr Draddy** > x
- **Cllr Bird** > Bridge Road issues (20mph/Humps) > HH WNC Highways re Speed of CCPark traffic
- **Cllr Bracey** > as Min:13 nothing more
- **Cllr Comerford** > Update on Openreach –vs- WP re posts and Liaison

- **Cllr Proctor** > Allotments > agreed to proceed with/without water if GUH renege on offer
- **Cllr Roberts** > No additional issues
- **Cllr Little** > Tracker response to RoW challenge discussed
- **Cllr Smith (D)** > FPW report (attached to the Minutes) and with JP had dug out grips at the Dogsmouth bend; Plus dogs mess > for Old Mail & Fix my Street responses
- **Cllr Smith (W)** > In absence via smart connection would email the clerk for history of Furtho Pit for onward consultation/consideration

15. Councillor Questions and Items for Next Agenda

Clerks budget recommendations for approval

Possible action group re planning issues

Cosgrove Caravan Park issues

16. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 2nd February 2022 commencing at 7.30pm

With no other business the official meeting closed at 09.10pm