

# Cosgrove Parish Council

MINUTES OF COSGROVE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING  
Held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022 at the Village Hall Commencing at 7.30pm  
(face coverings remain optional)

**Present:**

Cllrs Mr D Smith (in the chair), Mr C Bird, Mr A Bracey (from Min:7), Mrs S Comerford, Mr M Draddy, Mr J Proctor & Mr P Roberts

Also present were Cllr Mr I McCord (WNC), Mr D Everett (Clerk) and 8 members of the public

**1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Cllr Mr D Smith (Vice Chair) opened the meeting in the absence of Cllr W Smith (Chairman)

Election of Chairman, proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Proctor that Cllr W Smith be elected Chairman and carried unanimously

Election of Vice Chairman, proposed by Cllr Bird, seconded by Cllr Roberts that Cllr D Smith be elected Vice Chairman and carried unanimously

**2. Declaration of Acceptance**

Declarations of Acceptance to be completed before the next meeting

**3. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Mr W Smith (Holiday)

**4. Casual Vacancy after Mr Digory Little resignation > Notices Posted**

WNC yet to confirm no election required and for Casual Vacancy to be filled

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

None

**6. Minutes for approval of the Meeting dated Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Minutes of meeting Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record

**7. Clerks Report (incl: Development Rumours & CosPC mail address use only)**

- Request for Disabled Bays o/s Church due to no off road parking Cosgrove Hall cottages

\* St Andrews X only (restricted use explained) But would have no enforcement > WP

- Operation London Bridge > Additional info to note re meeting suspensions if invoked

- Public Transport meeting attended by the clerk 11/4 @ DPC > Min: 12

- Furtho Pit promotion of Warehousing seeking local need > no application

- All members have CosPC mail addresses (raised by Cllr Comerford re use of personal mail ID)

*\* Meeting closed to allow public speaking*

**8. Public Speaking Time**

Cosgrove Hall cottages (use of inappropriate cement rendering LBs) > Cllr McCord plus no off street parking facilities; Caravan Park further tree removal and 8 wheeled HGVs importing?

Discussed > Cllr McCord to check MKC latest permission > Held?; AW pump station next to Little Orchard request for result on survey of Main Street > Pump station issues (Clerk to deal);

General discussion on influx of Caravan Park traffic and MKC vs WNC

*\* Meeting reopened after public speaking*

## 9. WNC Councillor Report

Apologies for missing last meeting; Head of Planning leaving and staffing levels issues and about pre-apps; Furtho Pit levelling up requirements - Highway issues need and highlighted new development at A5 Fenny Stratford + traffic application; Spoke on the other ALs; The Local Plan awaits final submission and would progress items outlined previously

## 10. Correspondence received since last meeting (list at the meeting)

- PLR Appointments (Annual registration) > circulated > Cllr Comerford
- WNC Housing Strategy – Consultation > circulated

## 11. Queens Jubilee Celebrations to confirm

Post Discs and flag > Cllr Proctor deals

## 12. Public Transport report and update

After recent meeting with Britannia bus the clerk outlined discussions and Frontier approach (and misleading promise of funding) Qs to be asked by Cllr William Bartlet on the Friday meeting with WNC Public Transport Officer (who also covers NNC) as concern had been expressed that Gov Monies for Rural Transport had been earmarked for Northampton bus electrification? Not confirmed

## 13. WNC Housing Strategy (previously circulated)

Deferred

## 14. Planning

### (a) Applications Received

**WNS/2022/0729/FUL** Demolition of existing detached garage and erection of a side and rear extension with rooflight /lowering window sill 1<sup>st</sup> floor bedroom Strathlene Main Street

\* No objection

**WNS/2022/0798/FUL** A manage Rear of 13 The Green

\* No observations

**WNS/2022/0802/TCA** T1 Poplar roadside of playing field to be reduced in height from 23m > approx 15m. T2 Common beech crown raise to above bus stop 1-2m. The Stocks

\*CosPC Application supported

### (b) Decision Notices

### (c) Enforcement / Appeals

### (d) Press Notices

None

## 15. Finance

(a) The Council to approve budgetary control to date

\* **RESOLVED** to adopt

Note: Last Meeting deferred Min: 9 (**Budget forecast** Due to rising fuel costs, the Carry over capital for 2022/23 at Provisional Year End Balance has scope for adjustment > next meeting including 'assistant clerk' when appropriate, suggest wait until Audit is completed > deferred

### (b) To Note Current State of Finance

Treasurer's a/c: £15,363.49

Business Inst a/c: £34,437.83 (+ ½ Precept)

Earmarked Reserves: £38,619.20  
**Available Capital: £11,182.22**

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

002096	Clerks Salary/Petty cash:	£398.00 (£384 + Petty cash £14)
002097	HMRC:	£96.00 (PAYE)
002098	DNH Contracts:	£90.00 (Environmental > Apr)
002099	NJ Blackwell GS:	£565.31 (Mowing Apr)
002100	Spoilt	
002101	NPower BS:	£646.84 (Unmetered supply (PLs))
002102	N/ACRE:	£35.00 (Annual donation)

**(d) To Receive and Approve End of Year Accounts for Audit**

\* End of Year Accounts for Audit submitted for signature > to be posted website as soon as approved at Internal Audit

**16 Street Lighting and update**

\* No reports

**17. Highways**

X Road drain Fixed vs Not fixed > awaits serious rain

**18. Monthly roundup and issues from each councillor**

- **Cllr Draddy** > To remove Xlight prior to arboreal work on Common Beech by bus stop
- **Cllr Bird** > Nothing further (tree planting later) to consider New BG perimeter
- **Cllr Bracey** > Castlethorpe causeway issues improved
- **Cllr Comerford** > Planter Damage > Cllr Draddy
- **Cllr Proctor** > Allotments discussed (and confusing emails) > to deal
- **Cllr Roberts** > x
- **Cllr Smith (D)** > Buses and website maintenance
- **Cllr Smith (W)** > Chairman's Annual Report circulated and attached to minutes

**19. Councillor Questions and Items for Next Agenda**

None

**20. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 commencing at 7.30pm

With no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

**Chairman's Report**

2021 was a considerable challenge for the small parish of Cosgrove, our village seemed to be under attack from all angles associated with planning, development and infrastructure.

In summary, several items that seem to stay on the agenda year on year are the flooding issues in Main Street and the green, a formal record of these reports is now gaining information that may have been previously lost or forgotten together with infrastructure records, a local parishioner that lives on the green is very much heading the charge to gain some ground on getting a person responsible to engage.

The change from SNC to WNC has meant that many requests from Cosgrove have been lost and we have needed to raise the issues again, these include litter bins that need replacing.

Highways have been a little more helpful this year with white lining in the village particular attention has been given to white lining the Yardley junction which appeared to be an action just before a site meeting that was due to take place with them, its still not completely resolved and it is only a matter of time before there is a major accident.

The village has been requested to have some allotments and after considerable hard work and commitment from Councillor Proctor taking the lead, we are now seeing the early signs of the project bearing fruit if you pardon the pun.

Councillor Digory Little has decided to dedicate his time to Home and his career and has left the PC, our thanks for his hard work and support for change and in particular focus on planning, I hope he finds the time to return to duties in the future.

The gas governor on the green had a lick of paint which has helped it blend into its environment, however, this area was not helped by the siting of the Gigaclear communications box On parish land although it was since established that this land was not registered as owned by the parish which we now seek to rectify.

A new Speed indication device has been purchased for Bridge road as a permanent structure powered by solar, this complements the one in Yardley road which currently runs on battery power and is maintained by Councillor W Smith, plans to supply permanent power to this is being investigated.

20MPH speed limits remain on the agenda for the PC and although we had some good news in 2020 with a scheme that was taking place in west Haddon, we are still needing to follow this up with Northants Highways.

Bus services remain a challenge for the Village as the service is not making money and the provider is seeking more and more support to maintain the route.

Traffic volumes and speeds continue to be an issue in the village, particularly during the open season for the caravan park, which continues to apply for planning permission to expand their site residential areas and opening times, the PC continues to object, to an entrance to the park from MK land would be supported. It should be noted by the reader that planning permission for development in the park is through MK council and not Northants as the Park sits in both counties and MK do not feel the impact of the traffic.

Office 365 is now keeping records of actions and developments in the village, this is particularly important now that the Clerk has made it clear that he intends to step down in April may 2023 and we have until then to seek a replacement and to transfer the knowledge for the successor.

Vandalism to the fence surrounding the play equipment was required to be rectified at a cost to the village.

Western power changed some posts in the village as they discovered some were defective and could not be used when replacing older cables.

It came to the attention of the Pc that it had been agreed by WNC that the land known as Furtho pit had been allocated to commercial development the surprise was that it included land along Stratford road and we then took time to investigate the lack of or poor communication from WNC, the scale and size of the units are a shock to all and an approach to out mp Andrea Leadsom was undertaken along with local parishioners.

My thanks to all the councillors that have taken the time to attend the meetings and play a part in making Cosgrove a great place to live, other than those already mentioned above, Councillor Comerford has provided the Old Mail with a monthly write-up that has been quite dynamic and engaging and Councillor D Smith maintains the Website for the village as well as being the more well known Smith in the team.

Thanks also to those that continue to maintain a community spirit in the village with Christmas events where the PC paid for the Brass band in 2021 as a donation.

With 2022 continuing to be a challenge and a vacancy for a councillor as well as a Clerk, if you are interested please get in contact, having system knowledge is essential to the roles.

Wayne Smith

Cosgrove PC Chairman

Sent from my iPad