

Cosgrove Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Cosgrove Parish Council held on **Wednesday 2 October 2024** at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr D Smith (Chair), ~~Cllr C Bird~~, ~~Cllr A Bracey~~, Cllr S Comerford (Vice Chair), Cllr M Draddy, ~~Cllr J Proctor~~, Cllr P Roberts

Mrs J Evans (Clerk to the Council)

	Action
CPC/24/10/1 Cllrs Bird and Proctor sent apologies for absence due to work commitments. Cllr Bracey was also absent.	
CPC/24/10/2 There were no declarations of interest	
CPC/24/10/3 The Minutes of 4 September 2024 were approved unanimously.	
CPC/24/10/4 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the Agenda were: CPC/24/09/11 Gigaclear: reply received. Parish Council (PC) do not own the land where the green box is sited. Wayleave agreement offering one off payment of £214.50. Correspondence copied to Clerk shows a goodwill payment from Gigaclear was on the table in 2021. PC resolved to follow up with Gigaclear with a view to finalising matter at November meeting.	Clerk to follow up with Gigaclear and retable for decision at Nov mtg
CPC/24/09/16 Dot Gov Dot UK FastHosts (our current email provider) have been registered as official domain helpers and it was resolved to seek a quotation to assist with the transfer.	Clerk to obtain quote
CPC/24/10/5 Public speaking: Four members of the public were present. The following matters were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area behind the bus stop, where the rain butt is situated, is cluttered with a number of plastic items including two disused rain butts and broken pieces of goal posts – allotment society to be offered the rain butts. If not interested then they and the broken plastic will be disposed of (by volunteer who raised the matter). • There has been some subsidence in the grass near the bus stop – PC agreed to form a working party to fill and reseed. • A news update from West Northants Council (WNC) about flood management work led onto a request for the PC to raise again the matter of continued flooding at the bottom of The Green with the relevant authorities (Kier). Investigative work by Anglian Water a few years ago looking at drainage on Cosgrove Park, had concluded it was not contributing to the issues within the village. It was felt the drain beneath Main Street was inadequate with manhole covers lifting in the most recent downpour. • The Grand Union Canal Transfer scheme to bring water from the Midlands to the South East will have implications for Cosgrove with the proposal to build a 32 m long bypass at the locks. Consultation runs until 25 October. PC will be represented at the pop up display in Stoke Bruerne on 3 October by Cllr Bird. Ward Cllr McCord reported the application process for school places has started. WNC has purchased a property to expand available provision for children’s home., The DHL warehouse planning application (AL1) was refused by the Strategic Planning Committee on 10 September 2024. This may have implications for the proposed warehouse development at Furtho Pit, Old Cosgrove Road (AL5 WNS/2022/1741/EIA). The Minutes of the meeting have yet to be issued but once they are, an appeal by the developers is likely to follow. The car in the ditch near the junction of Northampton Road and the A508 will be removed. Cllr McCord noted the irony of the comment by his WNC interlocutor that	<p>Cllr Proctor to advise on rain butts</p> <p>Working Party to back fill and reseed</p> <p>Clerk to draft letter to Kier copied to WNC</p> <p>Cllr Bird to attend display and email comments to PC</p>

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<p>the A508 would need to be closed during the recovery due to the volume and speed of traffic using the A508. The dumped tyres on Northampton Road and the road to Castlethorpe will be reported by Cllr McCord on FixMyStreet.</p> <p>Cllr McCord left the meeting at 20.00</p>																																																									
<p>CPC/24/10/6 The Clerk’s report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and is attached to these Minutes at Appendix A.</p> <p>The PC decided to consider at another meeting the suggestion future donations intended for memorial purposes be directed towards enhancing and maintaining playpark with a permanent structure to which plaques with donors’ inscription can be fixed.</p> <p>The PC considered the request by the local MP to help direct her letter to pensioners who might qualify for Pension Credit but are not claiming it. (eligibility for Pension Credit = winter fuel payment) It was decided to ask for advice from the Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils (NCALC) as the letter may fall under the Local Government Act 1986 Part II paragraph 2(1) and (2) which prohibits a local authority from publishing “any material which ...appears to be designed to affect public support for a political party.”</p> <p>No further action around food poverty among boaters moored in Cosgrove as most have jobs or are retired.</p>	<p>Clerk to draft discussion paper</p> <p>Clerk to seek advice</p> <p>Clerk to reply to Towcester Food Bank</p>																																																								
<p>CPC/24/10/7 a). The PC received the update on the current finances in comparison to the budget (attached at Appendix B). It was noted 2024-2025 earmarked reserves will be drawn down as follows: trim trail £1,999; replacement streetlamps £3,750; repair to streetlamps £270; repairs to playpark matting £1,368 and emergency tree work £370.</p> <p>b). The payment schedule, circulated ahead of the meeting, was approved. All payments to be made by BACS transfer, debit card or direct debit.</p>																																																									
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02.10.2024	£142.72	YU energy	1 to 31 September 2024 unmetered supply	
Total DD and card	£174.83			
<p>c). The PC scrutinised the draft 2025-2026 budget (circulated in advance Appendix C). Queries were raised about the budget amounts for unmetered supply and dog waste collection, and these will be checked. The PC agreed to the suggestion to provide a picnic bench from Section 137 expenditure and for donations to be made from discretionary spending to the history society and the Womens' Institute in recognition of the regular use of the projector and screen. The PC decided quotes for the grass mowing contract should be sought. The possibility of splitting the contract into work covered by the WNC mowing grant and the smaller, fiddly work such as the playpark and Rectory View Cemetery was discussed as it might result in savings. The proposed earmarked reserves (£36,700) were reviewed. The earmarked reserves for the inauguration of Meadow View Cemetery stand at £4,000 and it was felt this figure might need to be increased once the complexities of the project were better understood.</p> <p>d). The PC resolved to pay the Clerk for 10 hours overtime associated with the compilation of the budget. Other overtime that the Clerk has accrued to be taken as Time Off in Lieu.</p>				<p>Clerk to amend draft budget as necessary</p> <p>Cllr Roberts to obtain quotes for grass contract</p>
<p>CPC/24/10/8 Councillor Updates: Cllr Smith has reported on FixMyStreet leaking from the canal in three places making it difficult to walk the right of way safely and blocked gully at the bend of Stratford Road. The response to the latter will result in the work being carried out within 6 months. It was agreed to form a work party to clear the gully. Cllr Proctor provided a written update on the playpark working group some of whom had met with Sovereign Play Equipment on site. Initial design suggestions will be supplied by Sovereign. Matting can be replaced by a wet pour resin which is more durable than matting (if the PC remove of the old matting it will help keep the costs down, but disposal is problematic). Another suggestion is a rubber mulch which can be laid directly onto the ground and does not require a concrete base. WNC have declined to supply another rubbish bin for the playpark as there are two in the vicinity. Woodchip has been put down in the dip by the entrance gate to help with the muddy puddle.</p>				
20.40 hrs Cllr Proctor entered the meeting.				
CPC/24/10/9 Planning: Application - 2024/4422/LBC Replacement of 4 rear windows at The Old Dower House, 16 Stratford Road, Cosgrove, MK19 7JA was reviewed and it was agreed to make no comment.				
<p>CPC24/10/10 Policies: The PC adopted the following: Standing Orders 2024 Grievance Policy, Disciplinary Policy which were circulated ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>The following Aims and Objectives were adopted: Aims: To provide effective, efficient and accountable local government for the parish, enabling residents to be involved in decisions affecting the community and to be a strong voice for residents and local business. Objectives: To understand and communicate the views, needs and aspirations of residents to outside bodies.</p>				

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<p>To increase public servant involvement in the community by ensuring the Parish Council and its activities are open, transparent and accountable to residents.</p>	
<p>CPC24/10/11 Christmas Lights: A draft risk assessment was discussed. Some refinements were suggested and risks associated with setting up the event (putting up gazebos and lights) and electrical cables need to be added. Final version to be circulated in good time for approval at November meeting. b). Public Liability insurance outstanding.</p>	<p>Cllrs Comerford/ Draddy to resubmit revised risk assessment and PL quotation by 30 October</p>
<p>CPC24/10/12 Cemetery Update a). The draft layout of Meadow View Cemetery (MVC) was viewed. Initial research suggests planning permission and an environmental survey (potential groundwater contamination) will be needed before the Cemetery can be inaugurated. A design statement for the project to be drawn up to cover all aspects of work to be carried out ahead of the inauguration. b). It was resolved to have the fence of MVC repaired at a cost of £75. Clarification on repainting the weld to be sought c). It was resolved to give permission for the oversize memorial headstone to be installed. Dimension limits to be sent out with permit application forms going forward. d). It was resolved to meet the cost of removal of the fallen tree in Rectory Ground Cemetery (£370). It was noted there are several trees overhanging the fence into Medlar House, one of which looks very precarious. It was agreed to obtain quotes for remedial tree work.</p>	<p>Clerk to draft design statement</p> <p>Clerk to organise repair</p> <p>Clerk to inform family re memorial</p> <p>Clerk to seek quotes</p>
<p>CPC24/10/13 Meeting Appraisal - It was agreed the meeting had been effective but had overrun slightly.</p>	
<p>CPC24/07/14 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6 November 2024 (Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 Part II para 8.1)</p>	
<p>Meeting closed at 21.02</p>	