

# Cosgrove Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Cosgrove Parish Council held on **Wednesday 5 April 2023** at 7.30pm.

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

Mrs J Evans (Clerk to the Council)

	Action
<p><b>CPC/23/4/1 To receive and approve apologies for absence</b> Cllr Bird – work commitments, Cllrs Peacock and Roberts – holiday. Ward Councillor McCord – meeting elsewhere</p>	
<p><b>CPC/23/4/2 Declarations of interest</b> none</p>	
<p><b>CPC/23/4/3 Approval of Minutes of 1 March 2023</b> Approved unanimously</p>	
<p><b>CPC/23/4/4 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the agenda</b></p> <p>Open Reach transfer of wiring to Western Power poles remains outstanding at the corner of Bridge Road and Main Street. Monitor.</p> <p>To improve access for cyclists via steps to towpath by horse tunnel by obtaining quote to relocate handrail to opposite side</p>	Clerk
	Clerk
<p><b>CPC/23/4/5 Public Session</b></p> <p>1. Issues raised by the public</p> <p>MK Planning meeting to decide 21/03346/FUL - Cosgrove Park Proposed siting of 24 static holiday caravans in lieu of 40 touring caravans on the eastern section of Cosgrove Park. Hearing on 11 April 2023. Speed Indicator Device data shows striking increases in traffic movements between in the closed season and when the Park is open. For example 2,289 in five days in March 2022 compared with 5,728 over five days a month later when the Park was open.</p> <p>Request for improved road safety at Castlethorpe turn – covered at CPC/23/4/6a</p> <p>The pressure group FDOG continue to work on objections to the proposed warehouse development. Letters in draft to National Highways, West Northants Highways and to environment agency about the risk of flooding including reference to the parapet of the Dogsmouth Brook culvert being washed away (April 1998) and highlighting discrepancy in culvert width (four arches one side and two the other). Observation that developers are showing Dogsmouth Brook straightened out, presumably to aid flow. Request to find out implications on the Parish boundary.</p> <p>Excessive speed of vehicles on Stratford Road past the Scout Camp and round the corner by Old Cosgrove Road is causing a safety issue for residents pulling out of their drives. Request to consider what can be done to slow traffic up. Advised to report to the police with number plates where possible. PC would also raise the issue with the Police Road Safety team.</p>	Clerk
	Clerk
	Cllr Comerford

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<p>Issue with vehicles being parked on pavements and across drives causing inconvenience to pedestrians and homeowners. Advised to report to Police. PC will reference in Old Mail roundup article.</p>	<p>Cllr Smith Clerk</p>						
<p>2. Report from Ward Councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AL5 Furtho pit development – appears to be a lot of pressure from the applicant to get this to Planning Committee as they believe all the information requested has been provided. No date set.</li> <li>• Changes to Home School transport – proposals to increase cost for children not entitled to a free bus pass (eg 6<sup>th</sup> form students). There is a consultation – have your say before 30.05.2023</li> <li>• WNC consulting on a unified taxi policy. Have your say before 23.04.2023</li> <li>• Planning Committee changes – consideration being given to reducing three local planning committees (reflecting three local plans) down to two. Risk of not reflecting residents views properly. Discussion at Cabinet on 11.04.2023 to take effect from Annual Meeting in May.</li> <li>• Litter picking kits obtained for upcoming community Litter pick on Friday 7 April 2023</li> </ul>							
<b>CPC/23/4/6 To receive Parish Clerk’s report</b>							
<p>a. Castlethorpe turn – Helen Howard, Community Liaison Officer, West Northants Highways has been unable to find out why the upgrade to give way signage to the junction at Yardley Road has not happened. She will attend the site with Highways engineers to review the best way forward. Clerk has offered to attend meeting and suggested rumble strips. If that happens, Clerk will also mention speeding as an issue.</p>	Clerk						
<p>b. Acknowledgement still awaited from Parish Council bankers of change to mandate. Clerk will monitor</p>	Clerk						
<p>c. West Northants Highways will be repairing broken drainage pipe under Bridge Road and there may be traffic light control</p>							
<b>CPC/23/4/7 Finance Report</b>							
<p>a. Outgoing Clerk will produce end of year accounts at May meeting and prepare for annual audit. Available balance as at 31 March 2023 £6,635.14 with earmarked reserves at £60,760.94</p>							
<p>b. Unanimous approval to make two cheque payments</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; padding: 5px;">£90.00</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">DNH Contracts</td> <td style="width: 25%; padding: 5px;">Dog bin emptying</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">£915.96</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">N J Blackwell Garden Services</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Grass cutting</td> </tr> </table>		£90.00	DNH Contracts	Dog bin emptying	£915.96	N J Blackwell Garden Services	Grass cutting
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<p>c. <b>Resolved</b> to make payments by bank transfer and occasionally by cheque or other instructions to the council’s bankers</p>							
<p>d. Approved amendment to include BACS, CHAPS and Debit Card controls to Financial Regulations 2013 – full revision of Regulations to take place using NCALC template once the new one for 2023-24 is available</p>							
<p>e. <b>Resolved</b> request by Furtho Pit Opposition Group to contribute up to £1,000 towards professional expenses: a clear explanation of what the contribution would cover to be provided; an itemised bill (in name of council if VAT charged) would also be needed.</p>							

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<p><b>CPC23/4/8 Planning</b></p> <p>a. Agreed written response to latest consultation on WNS/2022/1741/EIA – warehouse development alongside Stratford Road. <b>Resolved</b> to submit amended response before deadline of 20.04.2023.</p> <p>b. i. Subject to agreement by email of three absent councillors a Planning sub-committee with the specific remit of monitoring WNS/2022/1741/EIA will be set up to make recommendations to the Full Council action to be taken as further changes are made by the developers  ii. Assuming agreement is received as in b, Councillors will volunteer to be on the subcommittee, decide who will chair, appoint a clerk to record minutes, approach members of the community to join the subcommittee as non-voting members  iii. Criteria to be used to select which community members to invite will only be needed if it is necessary to ask for volunteers</p> <p>c. No new planning applications since March meeting</p>	Clerk
<p><b>CPC23/4/9 Resolved</b> to hold the <b>Annual Parish Assembly</b> on Wednesday 24 May 2023 (date subsequently changed to Wednesday 17 May). Invitations to speak to be extended to Police, Ward Councillor, Village Primary School, Anglian Water, Cosgrove Park, Cosgrove Hall owner, Neighbourhood Watch, Allotments and Village Hall.</p>	Clerk Cllr Comerford
<p><b>CPC23/4/10 Resolved</b> to obtain a <b>website security certificate</b> at a cost of £35. Decided not to purchase an external hard drive for the Clerk</p>	Cllr Smith
<p><b>CPC23/4/11 Resolved</b> to pay £55 for the <b>green bin</b> at the Burial Ground annually. <b>Resolved</b> to set up a direct debit to be reviewed every two years in accordance with Financial Regulations. New bin sticker received but with wrong name – <b>Resolved</b> Clerk to obtain replacement. Additional volunteers required to move and return the bins weekly.</p>	Clerk Cllr Proctor
<p><b>CPC23/4/12</b> The <b>new lamp post</b> on the corner of The Stocks has been installed. <b>Resolved</b> to amend asset register accordingly</p>	Clerk
<p><b>CPC23/4/13 Allotments</b></p> <p>30.03.2021 quotation from M&amp;S water services (valid for 90 days) £4,335  01.09.2022 revised quotation from M&amp;S water services £5,390  08.12.2022 invoice from M&amp;S water services for £5,390 (plus £1,078 VAT)  13.02.2023 transfer to CPC by our solicitors of £1,899 balance of £4,335 (transferred by Grand Union Homes) less our solicitors fees (£2,735)  <b>Resolved</b> to establish if the work was agreed within the initial 90 days and if not if the revised quotation was received prior to the work being carried out.</p>	Cllr Proctor
<p><b>CPC23/4/14 Councillor areas of Responsibility</b></p> <p>Working parties reviewed:</p> <p>Planning: subcommittee  Finance: Cllrs Smith, Peacock, Roberts  General Purpose: Cllrs Smith, Bracey, Draddy, Comerford, Proctor, Bird  Transport representatives: Cllr Smith, Clerk  Police Liaison: Cllr Comerford  Allotments: Cllr Proctor  Website: Cllr Smith  Playground: vacant  Burial Ground: Cllrs Bird and Comerford  Staffing and HR: Cllr Comerford  Parish Path Warden: Cllr Smith  Whalleys Charity: Clerk  Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Smith</p>	

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<p><b>CPC23/4/15 Councillor updates:</b></p> <p>Cllr Bracey has reported various potholes on Fix My Street. Also been collecting litter along Station Road to the Navigation Pub. Has been working with the pressure group FDOG. Trees are to be cut back to give visibility to an anti-warehouse banner to be placed on a trailer (loaned by resident Keith Emmett) in the field next to the A5 roundabout.</p> <p>Cllr Draddy volunteered to make a display about the warehouse development. He will ask the village hall if they are agreeable to such a display and research the possibility of supplying an additional noticeboard for council and community use</p> <p>Cllr Comerford to liaise with Cllr Draddy over the replacement of the water butt behind the bus stop as this will be needed for watering the village planters.</p> <p>Cllr Smith reminded the meeting of the Community Litter Pick on Friday 7 April at 10 am at the crossroads.</p>	<p>Cllr Draddy</p> <p>Cllr Comerford Cllr Draddy</p>
<p><b>CPC23/4/16 Playground</b></p> <p>a) An update on the Wicksteed safety report on the playground to be relisted at subsequent meeting</p> <p>b) To consider sending one or two councillors on the <a href="#">NCALC Outdoor Play and Gym Workshop and Exhibition</a> on 11 July 2023 at a cost of £88 plus VAT (or £150 plus VAT for two places) to be relisted at subsequent meeting</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>CPC23/4/16 Boundary review</b> <b>Resolved</b> to seek views of Ward Councillor about the on proposals for ward boundaries and respond to consultation by 15 May 2023.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>CPC23/4/18 Cosgrove Park</b></p> <p>Following observations and one report that Cosgrove Park was open on 31 March 2023 rather than 1 April 2023 Ward Councillor Ian McCord wrote to West Northants Council to let them know of the breach in planning.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b> to make a written submission by 12.00 noon on Wednesday 12 April 2023 to Milton Keynes Planning Panel regarding 21/03346/FUL - Cosgrove Park Proposed siting of 24 static holiday caravans in lieu of 40 touring caravans.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>CPC23/4/19 Date of next meeting</b> will be on Wednesday 3 May 2023 at 19.30. It will be the Annual Meeting at which statutory business will be conducted.</p>	
<p><b>CPC23/4/20 Meeting closed</b> at 21.40 hours</p>	