

Cosgrove Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Cosgrove Parish Council held on **Wednesday 6 March 2024** at 7.30pm.

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

Mrs J Evans (Clerk to the Council)

	Action
CPC24/03/1 Councillor Draddy was absent for personal reasons.	
CPC/24/03//2 There were no declarations of interest.	
CPC/24/03//3 The Minutes were approved unanimously.	
<p>CPC/24/03//4 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the Agenda were:</p> <p>A requested discount on the dog waste collection was not agreed by the contractor. The Parish Council (PC) resolved to continue to use DNH Contracts for a further 12 months with quotes sought from other contractors in January 2025.</p> <p>Title has been received for the village green area. An agreement with Cadent Gas for their gas governor can now be concluded. The outstanding issue of the Gigaclear box sited inappropriately can now be progressed. The PC would like the box moved to a less intrusive position or, failing, that compensation to be offered.</p>	<p>Clerk to seek quotes in January 2025</p>
<p>CPC/24/03/5 It was resolved to book the village hall for the Annual Assembly of the Parish on Wednesday 15 May 2024. A list of speakers was agreed.</p>	<p>Clerk to book village hall for 15/05/24</p> <p>Clerk to invite speakers</p>
<p>CPC/24/03/6 Public speaking: Concerns were raised, again, about parking just off the carriageway on the bend opposite the cottages next to the church. It was agreed to write to the homeowners in the cottages to ask them to refrain from parking there. Parking too close to the crossroads was also raised but it was recognised there is little the PC can do about this as it is a highways matter. The Police will not intervene unless the pavement is blocked and the response by the Police can be patchy. The possibility of installing traffic calming measures (such as inserting a chicane) was discussed but no conclusion reached.</p> <p>Ward Councillor McCord had tried, unsuccessfully, to obtain an update on the proposed warehouse development at Old Cosgrove Road (WNS/2022/1741/EIA) from the Planning Officer. Ward Councillor Pritchard continues to try to get more information about the protected species which has been identified but not named.</p> <p>Cllr McCord updated the meeting about the draft Local Plan which will be put out for consultation for eight weeks starting after Easter (1 April 2024). The proposals to build 6,000 homes in Deanshanger near the A5 roundabout and 4,000 homes at Towcester racecourse have been dropped in favour of siting them in or around of Northampton. It was important for feedback on the draft Local Plan to include an appreciation of the appropriatenes of this decision.</p> <p>The village confines will also be reviewed and anyone supporting changes to the confine should make representations now as a further review will probably not happen for 10 years.</p>	<p>Clerk to draft request not to park on the bend.</p>
<p>CPC/24/03/7 The Clerk's report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and is attached to these Minutes at Appendix A. Points arising from the report requiring action were:</p>	<p>Clerk to write to Heritage Team at WNC</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write to the Heritage Team at West Northants Council (WNC) asking them to review the state of the grade II listed building at Cosgrove Hall. Also raise with them the partially collapsed wall at Cosgrove Hall which is inside the Conservation Area and needs repairing. As does the one further along Stratford Road. Set up a working party to tidy up the bus shelter and surrounding area. New water butt to be donated by the Allotment Group. 	<p>Set up working party to tidy up bus shelter</p>																																																																																
<p>CPC/24/03/8 a). The PC received the update on the current finances in comparison to the budget which is attached to these minutes at Appendix B. Cllr Peacock to assist Clerk in allocation from earmarked reserves to minimise projected overspend on street lighting, allotments and playpark. It was noted the school trim trail contribution was unlikely to be needed this financial year (£2,000). The PC resolved to place £30,000 on 9 month fixed term deposit with Lloyds Bank at 3.55% interest.</p> <p>b). It was resolved to approve the quote for mowing for 2024-2025 at £7,051.</p> <p>c). It was resolved to award the Clerk a one point increment (as provided in the employment contract) to point 26 with effect from 1 April 2024.</p> <p>d). The payment schedule, circulated ahead of the meeting, was approved. Payments to be made by BACS transfer, debit card or direct debit.</p>	<p>Clerk to meet with Cllr Peacock to adjust earmarked reserves</p> <p>Clerk to open Fixed Term Deposit account with Lloyds</p>																																																																																
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<p>CPC/24/03/9 It was resolved to approve the repair of the matting below the two swings at a cost of £1,370 plus VAT.</p>	<p>Cllr Peacock to liaise with contractor re matting</p>																																																																																
<p>CPC2/24/03/10 Planning:</p> <p>a). There was discussion about the Settlement Hierarchy consultation from WNC which will feed into the emerging draft Local Plan. Settlement or village confines represent the extent of a settlement's main built-up area and where certain policies apply. They are used to direct development to the most sustainable locations whilst protecting the character of the countryside, villages and towns.</p>																																																																																	

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<p>The PC felt Cosgrove fell between the categories of Small Village and Secondary Service Village B. It was agreed all Councillors will complete the Settlement Hierarchy questionnaire and the Clerk will collate the response to the consultation (by 2 April 2024).</p> <p>b). 47 Bridge Road planning application: an observation had been made by the PC on the planning portal that there had been no formal consultation with the owner of 49 Bridge Road who would be directly affected by the proposed extension. The PC were pleased to see the design took into account the heritage of the existing property which is within the Canal Conservation Area.</p> <p>c). Tree work Buckingham Canal Arm: the application had been brought to the attention of Cosgrove Boaters Facebook group but no responses had been received. The PC acknowledged there were some trees along the Canal Arm that were old and decayed and for Health and Safety reasons needed attention. The PC hoped the works would be overseen by the WNC Arboriculturist.</p>	<p>All Cllrs to complete Settlement Hierarchy consultation and return to Clerk</p> <p>Clerk to respond to consultation and ask for works to be overseen by Arboriculturist</p>
<p>CPC24/03/11 Councillor updates:</p> <p><u>Cllr Bird</u> reported the trees and hedging plants from the Woodland Trust had arrived and a decision was need about planting location. It was agreed to await feedback on measures needed to protect the existing saplings in the New Burial Ground before any further trees were planted there. The possibility of using the hedging plants to mark out the central aisle in the New Burial Ground was considered and setting up a Burial Ground Working Group was suggested.</p> <p><u>Cllr Proctor</u> supported the earlier suggestion to remind residents in the Old Mail of the need to park appropriately. The fence between the allotment and the burial ground has been completed and is a big improvement. Cllr Proctor will liaise with the contractor over advice to protect the existing saplings in the New Burial Ground.</p> <p><u>Cllr Peacock</u> reported he had met with the member of the public (MOP) who had expressed an interest in the refurbishment of the children’s play park. The MOP had experience of applying for funding and was enthusiastic about supporting the PC to upgrade the play park. Cllr Roberts – who had spearheaded the last refurbishment agreed to join the working group.</p> <p>The concrete beneath the old metal climbing frame, removed last year, was still a cause for concern. It was agreed Cllr Peacock would call a site meeting with other Cllrs to assess if a working party could break up and remove the concrete. If it is too much for a working party, then quotes would be needed for it to be dug up by a contractor.</p> <p><u>Cllr Bracey</u> reported collecting rubbish and remarked on the quantity of McDonalds’ wrappers regularly found in the same location. There was discussion about this anti-social behaviour with all bemoaning the difficulty of catching the culprit(s).</p> <p><u>Cllr Roberts</u> advised the meeting that a sold board had gone up at the property on Bridge Road adjacent to the bridge. Planning had been agreed for several houses to be built on the site and concerns were expressed about the issues caused by contractors parking on Bridge Road during construction.</p> <p><u>Cllr Comerford</u> reported the Canal and River Trust (CRT) had given permission for a donated bench to be installed next to Solomon’s Bridge replacing the one that was removed last year. The oak bench will now be constructed, and CRT will install once it is ready. Cllr Comerford drew the meeting’s attention to how nice the planters were looking now the bulbs, paid for by the PC, were coming out.</p> <p>Cllr Smith was grateful for the assistance provided by the Cosgrove editor of the Old Mail to try to reinstate the ability of users to find the village website on Google. The volunteer had spent a lot of time on this issue and was hopeful there would be an improvement soon. The ongoing issue of the software for the Clerk’s laptop was discussed. It was agreed the Clerk needed to have the full suite of Microsoft products on the laptop as the functionality of the cloud version was limited. The PC resolved to purchase a licence for the Clerk’s laptop up to the value of £250.</p>	<p>Clerk to invite Cllrs to form Burial Ground working group</p> <p>Cllr Proctor to brief PC at April mtg on protecting trees from cattle.</p> <p>Cllr Peacock to call site meeting to review work needed to remove concrete</p> <p>Clerk to liaise with Cllr Smith</p>

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	over purchase of Microsoft licence for laptop
CPC/24/03/12 It was agreed to postpone consideration of the suggested move to dot gov dot uk to the April meeting.	Clerk to relist at April mtg
CPC/24/03/13 It was resolved to accept the revised Parish Burial Ground rules and regulations as circulated earlier. The PC did not agree with the proposal to decline an application for kerbing round a new grave. There are existing graves in the Burial Ground with kerbing and there is no appetite to change this practice. For the New Burial Ground – once it is brought into service – further consideration will be given.	
CPC2/24/03/14 The use of a folder on Teams for all documents relating to the meeting was agreed to be a positive innovation. The PC would like to have the ability to project the documents on a screen and will review this at the next meeting.	Clerk to research projectors and report back to April mtg
CPC24/03/15 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 3 April 2024 (Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 Part II para 8.1)	
Meeting closed at 21.06	