

Cosgrove Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Cosgrove Parish Council held on **Wednesday 1 October 2025** at 7.30pm.

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

Mrs J Evans (Clerk to the Council)

The meeting opened at 19.30 hours. Ward Cllrs Dabbs and McCord were in attendance. There were 4 members of the public present.

CPC/25/10/1 Cllr Bird was absent owing to work commitments and Cllr Roberts was unable to attend.

CPC/25/10/2 There were no declarations of interest.

CPC/25/10/3 The Minutes of the meeting of 3 September 2025 were approved unanimously.

CPC/25/10/4 There were no matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

CPC/25/10/5 The Furtho Development Opposition Group (FDOG) updated the meeting about the proposed warehouse development:

- Several technical documents were uploaded to the Planning Portal in August and a further consultation period was now underway.
- The Environment Agency have withdrawn most of their objections to the application and suggested several conditions which the applicant would have to meet to reduce the risk of flooding downstream.
- The Local Lead Flood Authority have raised a number of questions about the flood mitigation measures. They have requested further information and set a number of conditions.
- FDOG have commissioned traffic and visual impact reports. The traffic report suggests that access to the site will be an issue. The visual impact report states the applicant has used images which have been enhanced to suggest a greater level of screening than there will be in reality.
- Loss of the Open Mosaic habitat will conflict with the Local Plan and the WNC environmental department have said the site is of county level importance and is a local wildlife site. In view of this the applicant needs to update their bio net gain report.
- There are now a few areas where the application conflicts with the Local Plan and FDOG remain committed to pointing these out whenever possible.

Cllr McCord stated he was encouraging WNC Planning Officers to make reports to the Strategic Planning Committee that are more balanced giving reasons for and against granting applications. There are several proposed developments under consideration, all of which will increase traffic feeding into the A5 roundabout at Old Stratford. If the proposed solar farm at Potterspury gets the go ahead, the construction traffic from that will exacerbate the situation. The proposed housing development below Paddock View, Old Stratford would increase drainage into the Ouse, and this added to the potential flooding from the proposed warehouse development could have a serious impact on local communities. The next consultation on the emerging Local Plan has been put back until the beginning of 2026.

Cllr Dabbs stated the MK Hotel in Deanshanger for migrants was a live issue for Councillors who were pushing ahead with stage 2 of the legal process. False assumptions made by residents in Deanshanger

CPC/25/10/6 The Clerk's report is appended to these Minutes at Appendix A.

Actions: Cllr Proctor to liaise with Youth Development Coordinator Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs about possible volunteering opportunities to include litter picking, clearing overhanging trees and shrubs in Meadow View Cemetery, clearing overgrown grass on pavements and repainting the inside of the bus shelter.

A volunteer agreed to attend the meeting of Whalley's Apprenticing Charity Trustees meeting on 15 October but the Clerk will advertise for a permanent trustee on Facebook and the village website.

Clerk to draft letter to Cosgrove Park asking them to reconsider their refusal to meet representatives of the PC.

Clerk to advise resident there is no objection to them contacting West Northants Council (WNC) over street cleaning.

Cllr Bird nominated to be the Climate and Nature Champion – Clerk to check he is willing to take on this role.

CPC/25/10/7 Finance

(a) The update on current finances in comparison to the budget is appended to these Minutes at Appendix B.

(b) The payment schedule, circulated ahead of the meeting, was approved and payments totalling £1,382.70 (Blackwells invoice for September to be added to the payment schedule) are appended to these Minutes at Appendix C

(c) The draft budget was reviewed and amendments requested. Councillors will email the Clerk any queries arising.

(d) It was **resolved** to commission a further flooding report in connection with the new documents uploaded to the planning portal (WNS/2022/1741/EIA) at a cost of £2,250. Any costs over this amount will be met from a donation to PC funds by the pressure group Stop3000Trucks (Furtho Development Opposition Group).

Actions: Clerk to update draft budget and recirculate to Cllrs. Clerk to commission flooding report.

CPC/25/09/8 Councillor updates

Cllr Bracey highlighted the continuing road closures of Station Road. Cllr McCord stated he had asked WNC Highways again for an update on the repair of the causeway from WNC.

Cllr Comerford reported the tree overhanging the path down to the canal on the left side of Solomon's bridge is due to be cut back by CRT.

It was **resolved** to authorise expenditure of up to £60 for the purchase of 6 bags of compost to refill the village planters and additional flowering bulbs.

Cllr Proctor reported the loose grating either end of the horse tunnel will be reinstalled. The horse tunnel will be closed to allow the work to be carried out.

It was agreed to ask Blackwells for the dates when the verges are mown to be passed to the volunteer litter picker to allow more effective litter picking.

Cllr Smith reported most PC email accounts had now been transferred to dot gov dot UK and he will endeavour to complete the final transfers soon.

He had completed the removal of ivy from Rectory Grounds Cemetery wall.

Action: Cllr Comerford to purchase compost and flowering bulbs. Clerk to liaise with Blackwells over verge cutting dates. Cllr Smith to complete transfer of Clerk's email to dot gov dot UK

CPC/25/10/9 Planning

a). It was **resolved** to make further objections to WNS/2022/1741/EIA (proposed warehouse development) once the flooding report is received.

b). It was **resolved** to draft a letter of objection to 2025/3477/MAO Land South Of Paddock View, Old Stratford and submit before 16 October deadline.

Action: Clerk to draft and circulate letters for approval and then submit on WNC Planning Portal

CPC/25/10/10 Playpark

a). It was **resolved** to purchase picnic table at £432.00 plus £20 concrete fixing kit for playpark as agreed in 2025-2026 budget. Site for picnic table to be on the grass beyond slide.

b). The PC had received a request from a resident to consider changing the axis of the playpark and level the adjacent grassed area to allow a greater variety of usage. A detailed, costed proposal had been submitted to the PC in advance of the meeting and the proposer attended to answer questions. A preliminary discussion took place and the implications of the covenants placed on the land when it came into ownership of the PC in 1959 and the restrictions in the easements granted to Cadent Gas were considered briefly. It was agreed that, while the proposal was an interesting concept, the PC first needed to decide if they wanted to pursue changing the axis of the playpark. It was not felt to be appropriate to take a major decision without the full cohort of the PC being present. It was **resolved**, therefore, to debate the matter of changing the axis of the playpark at the November meeting and to vote on the decision. Anyone not able to attend the November meeting would be invited to make their views known by email and for these to be read out at the meeting.

Actions: Clerk to order picnic table. Clerk to table formal discussion of changing the axis of the playpark at November meeting.

CPC/25/10/11 The Streetlighting Policy was adopted.

Action: Cllr Smith to post policy on the website.

CPC/25/10/12 It was resolved to send two representatives to the WNC Annual Parish Conference – Parishes in Partnership.

Action: Clerk to reply to invitation

CPC/25/10/13 The meeting appraisal noted the meeting had over run the suggested timings by 36 minutes. This was felt to be due to the lengthy discussion about the playpark proposal.

CPC/25/10/14 The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 5 November 2025 at which time the final budget for 2026-2027 will be laid before members for approval.

The meeting closed at 21.30 hours.

Appendix A

Clerk's report

October 2025

We received an enquiry from the Youth Development Coordinator Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs. As part of the Emerging Leaders programme, there will be a group of 10 to 12 teenagers staying at The Quarries in Cosgrove from 31 October to 2 November 2025 for an activity weekend. They are looking for a volunteering opportunity within walking distance of the centre for part of Saturday 1 November. Councillor Smith has sent a holding reply suggesting a litter pick. Any other suggestions?

West Northamptonshire Council have announced nominations are officially open for the 2025 Male Role Model Awards to celebrate local men and boys who have positively impacted our community. Closing date for nominations Sunday 26 October. Any suggestions?

Whalley's Apprenticing Charity have approached us to ask if we can provide a representative to serve as a Trustee. The person appointed does not need to be a Parish Councillor but can represent the Parish Council. The trustees normally meet up to four times a year on a Wednesday at the meeting room at Stony Stratford Library at 9.30 a.m. The next meeting of the trustees is due to be held on the 15th October. Any suggestions?

Matt Taylor, PCSO wrote to Cosgrove Park on our behalf requesting a meeting. The answer was basically no as they are too busy. I will draft a more detailed letter as one of their reasons was they did not know what the PC want to discuss.

A resident has asked if he can request information about the street cleaning schedule from WNC as then he can advertise the date the truck will be in the village and people can then move their vehicles.

NCALC have asked you to nominate a Climate and Nature Champion. Details have been circulated separately. Is anyone able to take on this role?

JM Evans

24 September 2025

Appendix B

Cosgrove Parish Council

Summary of Financial Records to 18 September 2025

Revenues	YTD	Projected income to end of year	Forecast	Budget	Variance
Precept	(14,140.00)	(14,139.00)	(28,279.00)	(28,278.00)	1.00
Interest	(289.91)	(651.00)	(940.91)	(1,118.00)	(226.92)
Burial Ground	(500.00)	(476.00)	(1,333.00)	(1,424.00)	(376.00)
VAT Reclaim	(1,440.33)	-	(1,440.33)		1,440.33
Misc Income	(5,650.00)	-	(5,650.00)		5,650.00
Mowing Grant	(999.42)	-	(999.42)	(999.00)	0.42
Total Revenue	(23,019.66)	(15,266.00)	(38,642.66)	(31,819.00)	6,488.83

Regular Costs	YTD	Projected Costs to end of Year	Forecast	Budget	Variance
Clerk Salary	4,253.85	4,134.00	8,387.85	9,118.80	730.95
Grass Mowing	4,798.00	1,046.00	5,844.00	7,322.00	1,478.00
Clerk Sundries	180.41	281.00	461.41	526.00	64.59
Church Clock	195.00	-	195.00	195.00	-
Street Lighting	883.52	948.00	1,831.52	2,580.45	748.93
Allotments	-	-	-	100.00	100.00
NCALC	394.29	-	394.29	696.79	302.48
Burial Ground	1,920.00	-	1,920.00	1,850.00	(70.00)
Dog Waste Bins	454.98	454.98	909.96	1,170.00	260.04
Village Hall	-	360.00	360.00	360.00	-
Insurance	603.00	-	603.00	644.78	41.78
Training	-	200.00	200.00	400.00	200.00
IT Costs	192.55	735.85	928.40	1,096.20	167.80
Play Park	38.84	-	38.84	1,000.00	961.16
Admin	332.31	103.94	436.25	441.00	4.75
Election Expenses	2.00	189.20	191.20	988.00	796.80
Audit	210.00	-	210.00	210.00	-
ICO	-	40.00	40.00	40.00	-
Speed Indicator Devices	-	392.00	392.00	392.00	-
Green bin	60.00	-	60.00	58.00	(2.00)
Other unforeseen	64.17	-	64.17	960.00	895.83
Total Costs	14,582.92	8,884.97	23,467.89	30,149.02	6,681.11

Section 137 Costs (Max of £9.93 per electorate)	YTD	Projected Costs to end of Year	Forecast	Budget	Variance
NACRE	-	35.00	35.00	35.00	-
CPRE	-	36.00	36.00	36.00	-
SNAST	-	25.00	25.00	25.00	-
Old Mail	-	494.00	494.00	494.00	-
Christmas Lights	-	250.00	250.00	250.00	-
Village project	-	500.00	500.00	500.00	-
Flags	-	-	-	-	-
Total Costs	-	1,340.00	1,340.00	1,340.00	-

Discretionary Spend	YTD	Projected Costs to end of Year		Forecast	Budget	Variance
Royal British Legion		50.00		50.00	50.00	-
Donation to Village Hall		200.00		200.00	200.00	-
Donation to History Soc		60.00		60.00	60.00	-
Donation to WI		20.00		20.00	20.00	-
Total Costs	-	330.00		330.00	330.00	-

Movement	YTD	Projected Net (Revenue) / Costs to end of Year		Forecast Net (Revenue)/ Cost	Budget	Variance
Net (Revenue) / Cost	(8,436.74)	(4,711.03)		(13,147.77)	31,819.00	13,147.77
VAT paid to date incl b/fwd £267.31	1,681.66					
VAT received back	1,440.33					
VAT outstanding	241.33					

Current and savings	24,737.82
Fixed Deposit accounts	30,720.49
Total bank balance as at 18 ASeptember 2025	£ 55,458.31

Earmarked Reserves 2025-2026		
Item	Amount	Notes
Contingencies	£ 14,139.00	Six months of 2025-2026 precept
Trees and hedges	£ 1,750.00	maintaining trees and hedges
street lamps	£ 1,200.00	Unforeseen repairs of 4 units £1,200
Playpark refurbishment	£ 10,000.00	Replace equipment
	£ 5,000.00	realign fencing, resite equipment
Meadow View Cemetery	£ 2,250.00	Cut back overgrown trees
Community project	£ 4,000.00	Inauguration of Meadow View Cemetery
Total earmarked reserves @ 1 April 2025	£ 38,339.00	

Cosgrove Parish Council

Appendix C: BACS Payments Schedule 06.25

Date of Invoice	Amount	Payee	Description	Email date	BACS reference	minute reference	Notes
To be set up and authorised by DS and JP							
03.10.2025	£ 548.20	J Evans	September Pay		BACS06.25		
total	£ 548.20						
For set up by JE and authorisation by DS or JP							
03.10.2025	£ 166.73	HMRC	September PAYE and NI		BACS06.25		
30.09.2025	£ 73.50	B Osborne	payroll services july to September 2025		BACS06.25		
12.09.2025	£ 300.00	B Hewetson	urgent tree work Rectory Grounds Cemetery		BACS06.25		Financial Regs RFO delegated authority 6.9ii
		Blackwells Garden Services	September mowing				
	£ 540.23						
Direct debits and debit card charges							
10.09.2025	£ 4.25	Lloyds	bank account service charge to 09/09/2025		debit by bank		Standing Order, direct debit and debit card expenditure and deduction by bank
15.09.2025	£ 6.96	FastHosts	email hosting charge September invoice number 82165947		debit card		
17.09.2025	£ 11.99	HugoFox	website hosting - September inv no 18172		Direct Debit		
	£ 20.99	HugoFox	email hosting dot gov dot uk July inv 16840		Direct Debit		
16.09.2025	£ 91.00	Shield Group	dog waste collection September invoice 9319		Standing Order		
30.09.2025	£ 153.87	YU energy	1 to 30 September 2025 unmetered supply		Direct Debit		
25.09.2025	£ 5.21	YU energy	Amalgamation of MPAN		Direct Debit		
02.10.2025	£ 47.00	ICO	annual GDPR registration fee		Direct Debit		
Total DD and card	£ 294.27						

total £ 1,382.70