Cosgrove Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Cosgrove Parish Council held on **Wednesday 4 November 2026** 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, ~~Cllr Williamson~~

Mrs J Evans (Clerk to the Council)

The meeting opened at 19.30 hours and was chaired by Cllr Comerford. There were 2 members of the public present.

CPC/26/11/1 Cllr Smith was on holiday. Cllr Williamson had a work commitment. Cllr Dabbs was absent

CPC/26/11/2 There were no declarations of interest.

CPC/26/11/3 The Minutes of the meeting of 7 October 2026 were approved unanimously.

CPC/26/11/4 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the Agenda were three long standing housing applications in Deanshanger were considered by the Planning Committee on 8 October: one was granted (190 homes), two were refused with appeal rights.

CPC/26/11/5 Public Speaking

Concerns were raised about the overflowing bins on Lock Lane and the lack of signage showing who was eligible to use them – Marina owner, who was present, explained a collection (recycling Mondays, landfill bins Tuesdays and Thursdays) had been missed and new signage was expected.

Cllr McCord entered the meeting, having been delayed arriving by attending a PC meeting elsewhere.

Cllr McCord thanked all those who had helped with the delivery of his Local Plan leaflet. He reminded everyone to make sure comments on the Regulation 19 Local Plan were submitted by 16 November 2026 and to make clear that there is a difference between AL5/EC8 from Regulation 18 and EC8 in Regulation 19. Cllr McCord also mentioned the Deanshanger housing applications.

CPC/26/11/6 The Clerk's report is appended to these Minutes at Appendix A.

CPC/26/11/7 Finance

(a) The update on current finances compared 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 £2,594.43 is appended to these Minutes at Appendix C.
(c) The PC requested draft budget V3 be amended to include £800 for purchase of a new laptop for the Clerk. The total expenditure budget of £32,328.83 was then approved.
(d) In view of concerns about communication difficulties, it was decided to delay accepting the quotation for contract for the unmetered supply for streetlights with YU Energy (estimated annual cost of £2,143.46) until access to the account had been re-established.

Action: Clerk to redouble efforts to get access to the YU Energy account and to accept quote if achieved. Clerk to arrange BACS transfers. Clerk to amend Budget V3 and issue Final Budget

CPC/26/11/8 Councillor updates

Cllr Bracey reported the repairs to Station Road were already 2 weeks behind schedule with completion date not expected until around 19 November.

Cllr Bird had taken delivery of the free trees from Woodland Trust and would be planting in Meadow View Cemetery with the help of a volunteer.

Cllr Comerford had spent time at the Beat Bus and raised the issue of anti-social tow path behaviour (cannabis and alcohol) adjacent to the bridge with the Police Community Support Officers. PCSOs took the time to visit the area and speak to owners. In her capacity as Police Liaison Representative, Cllr Comerford will attend a webinar on 19 November. The session will provide an overview of HGV legislation, police powers, enforcement options, and what action Northamptonshire Police can realistically take to address concerns raised by residents and local councils. Cllr Comerford noted suspicious emails from an organisation called NPL asking for action had been received by several councillors (all will delete).

Cllr Proctor had a meeting with police, arranged following complaints from a variety of villagers about a motorbike without an adequate silencer travelling at excess speeds. The Officer had identified the culprit with the assistance of staff at a local caravan park and had left a note warning to desist or enforcement action would be taken. Cllr Proctor was pleased to see repairs to the pavement at the crossroads had been carried out following his report on FixMyStreet. The gate closer (see CPC/26/11/12(c)) will be installed around 13 November. Cllr Proctor confirmed arrangements were in hand for the annual wreath laying for Remembrance Sunday on 8 November.

Cllr Roberts confirmed he had set up the Silent Soldier at the crossroads.

CPC/26/11/9 Planning

(a) The representative of the Buckingham Canal Society thanked the PC for agreeing to include the Society's concerns in the PC response to the Pre-Submission Local Plan draft (regulation 19). The response was agreed.
(b) The draft letter to MKCC Planning by Ward Cllr Andrew had not been received.
(c) WNS/2022/2351/LBC refusal was noted.
(d) 2025/1601/MAO refusal was noted.
(e) It was also noted there is an application to build 8 houses at Galleon Wharf – no comment.

Action: Clerk to submit response to Pre-Submission Local Plan draft (Regulation 19)

CPC/26/11/10 Bus Stop Mural

(a) It was **resolved** to accept the quotation of £2,127 for the Crossroads Cottage mural. There was discussion about the timing of the installation as there will be an impact on school children using the bus stop for 2 to 3 days. Unfortunately, the artist was not available during Spring half term. It was noted the work will need to be completed in time for payment in this financial year.
(b) Advice from the artist that planning permission was probably not needed but to check with Planning Department.
(c) It was agreed to delay the painting of the mural until March to allow time for preparation of the bus stop (paint ceiling, bench and floor). A budget for these works and the re-siting of the PC noticeboard will be decided in due course.

Action: Clerk to issue purchase order. Clerk to liaise with Cllr McCord over (b). Cllr Comerford to submit budget for additional work for resolution at December meeting.

CPC/26/11/11 Christmas Cards

A budget of up to £20 was agreed for the purchase of Christmas cards. The distribution list was agreed. Cards to be signed at the December meeting.

Action: Clerk to buy cards and write and address cards for signature by Councillors at December meeting.

CPC/26/11/12 Village Maintenance

(a) Resolved
(b) Resolved
(c) Resolved

Action: Clerk to issue purchase orders

CPC/25/11/13 Grant Application

A grant of £159 was awarded for the book swap cupboard to be sited at or near the Barley Mow.

It was noted there has been no feedback to date from the grant to purchase speed monitoring equipment awarded in April.

Action: Clerk to inform applicant. Clerk to ask for report on use of the speed monitoring equipment.

CPC/26/11/14 Policies

(a) It was **resolved** to adopt the Freedom of Cosgrove Policy. Formatting to be adjusted prior to publishing on website.
(b) It was **resolved** to adopt the revised Grant Awards Policy.
(c) It was **resolved** to adopt the Flag Policy

Action: Cllr Proctor to reformat Freedom of Cosgrove Policy. Cllr Smith to post policies on website.

The date of the next meeting will be **Wednesday 2 December 2026**

The meeting closed at 20.34 hours.