

Cosgrove Parish Council

MINUTES OF COSGROVE ANNUAL OPEN MEETING

Held on 5th May 2017 at the Village Hall, Bridge Road commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs AG Hickie (in the chair), Mr A Bracey, Mrs F Childs, Mrs H Harbottle, Mr P Roberts, Mr D Smith, Mr W Smith &, Mr C Stokes
Also present were Mr D Everett (Clerk), Cllrs Mr I McCord (SNC), Mr A Walker (NCC) and 4 members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr Mrs L Welton (family commitments)

2. Minutes of the 2016 Annual Open Meeting (previously displayed n/b)

Previously circulated and signed as a correct record at the May 2016 meeting

3. Matter Arising

No matters arising

4. Petitioners or Questions from Electors (required in writing by 12 noon 5th May 2017)

None

5. Presentation of Accounts

The clerk (RFO) outlined budget controls and Precept levels that were agreed:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| (a) | To receive Audited Accounts 2015 / 2016 | } No comments |
| (b) | Accounts for Audit 2016 / 2017 | } No comments |
| (c) | Budget Proposals 2017 / 2018 | } No comments made |

* Accounts adopted - No Qs

6. Chairman's Report

Other than the on-going and general day-to-day activities undertaken by the Parish Council, of particular note were:

MK Don's development - the consideration to site 20 football fields in Cosgrove appears to have waned with indications that the Dons have re-opened discussions with MKDC about Newport Pagnell as a location.

Yardley Road turnings at A508 and Castlethorpe junctions. There have been further accidents at both junctions which have resulted in the visibility of the problem becoming higher profile.

Street Lighting - it is hoped that replacement will commence shortly. Particular thanks to Wayne Smith for his work in this regard.

Old Post Office - construction of the 3 new houses has been completed and all are sold. They are a great visual improvement.

Destruction of Cosgrove Hall by fire.

Buckingham Canal - under by-laws centuries old The Canal Trust has wide ranging powers to do as they want. However, wholesale chopping down of trees has been curtailed with the implementation of various controls and TPOs.

Drainage issues at The Green

Going-forward the Parish Council needs to be vigilant and active in relation to activities on about most of the above. Further to them the Chairman mentioned:

The broken roadside and listed walls at Cosgrove Hall and The Dower House which require repair. By-passes at Roade and Towcester which will have an impact on traffic on the A5 and A508. Improvements at the Old Stratford roundabout.

As always, the Parish Council were grateful to receive input from the villagers and pleased to see them at the monthly meetings. He thanked the District and County Councillors for the work done by them in regards to the village, ditto the Parish Councillors for their voluntary time and input, and gave particular thanks to the Clerk for the invaluable work he does.

AG Hickie / 07502 418155

7. Report by Northamptonshire Police

(With crime figures from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 forwarded in the Police absence Cosgrove figures were included in the Cosgrove and Grafton ward)

Previous Crime figures > and updated figures will be added when received

<i>Burglary Dwelling</i>	5 >	
<i>Burglary Other</i>	3 >	
<i>Criminal Damage</i>	2 >	
<i>Drugs</i>	0 >	
<i>Sexual Offences</i>	0 >	<i>Awaits data</i>
<i>Theft from M/V</i>	1 >	
<i>Theft of M/V</i>	0 >	
<i>Theft / Handling</i>	11 >	
<i>Other offences</i>	0 >	
<i>Violence</i>	10 >	

Total Crimes (previous years 33)

Northants Police : to report crime or for general enquiries call 101

E-mail: SCT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@northants.police.uk

Crime Stoppers (anonymous and free) 0800 555 111

8. Report from District Councillor

I need to commence with a word of thanks to you all for your help and support throughout the year. It makes the job of a district councillor so much easier knowing that there is an efficient parish council behind him quietly getting on with things.

I am grateful to Derek for his help and efficiency and to AG and Helen for their support.

I am sure I speak on behalf of many when I say thank you on behalf of the community for your service to the village. You have much to look back and be proud of, and much of that is not in what you can see by way of improved facilities, but what you cannot see are things that you help to prevent to keep the village special. For the past year I have continued to be the member for Cosgrove and Grafton and the Leader of South Northants Council. This takes a lot of time and I trust that the ward work does not suffer as I get dragged into council business.

South Northants A Great Place to Live and South Northants District continues to be ranked as one of the best places to live in the country. The Halifax survey rated SNC area as 13th; they have changed the methodology from previous years. Unemployment is one of the lowest in the country although SNC runs a job club to help anyone get back into work.

The waste and recycling record is one of which we remain proud having achieved 59.9% recycling rate. This put SNC in 11th position in the country.

SNC Financial Highlights Funding continues to be reduced from central government, we are getting less money from grant but with growing housing numbers, growing business rates we continue to balance the books. The government gave SNC a four year financial settlement and we have a little more certainty but there are still many levers that government can pull to control expenditure. SNC continue to be one of the best at collecting council tax with 99.1% of all tax collected. Only about a dozen councils consistently collect above 99% the national average is 98%. As of 1 April, the amount available for Cosgrove is £10,971 (as already had £11,382 allocated) meaning that £22,353 has been allocated to the parish since the NHB scheme started.

Council Tax The SNC part of the Council Tax bill was raised by £5 a year for a Band D property. The total now is £180.37 per year. Just in terms of your bin collections it is 87pence per bin per week to have it emptied. (Based on Blue, Black, Green, Food)

Chief Executive Sue Smith reached her 60th birthday in February and decided to take life at a slower pace. She was the first Joint Chief with Cherwell and has served SNC and CDC well since 2011. A replacement Joint Chief has been recruited and was confirmed by Council on 23 March. Yvonne Rees, currently the joint Director of Community at Surrey County Council and Chief Executive at Mole Valley District Council will be the new Joint Chief Executive at SNC and CDC. When Yvonne will actually start is not known as yet but we anticipate June.

Planning The Local Plan Part 2A is now being discussed. The draft of this is public and available. SNC request feedback on this draft before a formal consultation will begin in the summer. In particular there are maps showing the village confines which in large part have changed much but do take into account any changes where for example a development has been allowed on appeal. There is a general desire to have clearer confine lines that can be followed on the ground.

The next steps for the plan are:-

- • Summer 2017 – formal consultation
- • Autumn 2017 – analysis of the comments made and changes (if any) made to the draft
- • Early 2018 – Public Examination with the Planning Inspector
- • Publication of the Plan with the Inspector Comments
- • Autumn 2018 – Adoption of the Final Part 2 Plan.

There is a new Central Government White Paper that proposes changes to the planning system and the way that numbers of houses are assessed, until we know the details of these it is impossible to say if SNC plans are adequate or need revision. We continue to keep a watching brief.

One of the main areas of contention at planning appeals is the issue of the 5 year land supply.

Developers often argue that this development should or should not be included in the formula. The White paper suggests there will be a standard method of assessment that all can follow. This should bring welcome clarity and mean there is some comparability between local authorities.

SNC have a land supply sufficient for 8.2 years. The land supply is based on assessing the number of houses we plan to build per the Core Strategy document, versus the number of planning permissions granted. We must have a minimum of 5 with a buffer for under delivery. At 8 we are well outside the bounds of argument. However, within the Joint Core Strategy there is an area identified and known as the Northampton Related Development Area (NRDA) this has all of the Northampton Borough area and some parts of South Northants and Daventry districts. The land supply within the NRDA is well below the 5 year minimum required. Recently an appeal in Daventry area was won by a developer who successfully argued that although not in the NRDA it was sufficiently close to help and given the NRDA does not have the 5 year land supply the presumption in favour should apply. The inspector agreed.

The Local Plan Part 2a will also include two provisional sites on the edge of Northampton for 1000 and 1400 houses. These are reserve sites which have been identified as a defence mechanism to protect the district from unwanted development. We intend to bring these forward only if the land supply in the NRDA requires it, and should anyone try to run the same argument in South Northants we have a counter argument that we are attempting to help with this allocation.

From 1 April 2016 SNC introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy of which 15% of any proceeds goes to the Parish Council rising to 25% if they have a Neighbourhood Plan.

Elections There are elections planned to Northamptonshire County Council this year only. In the past year by elections were called in Old Stratford following the resignation of Stephen Mold who was elected Police and Crime Commissioner. A second by election was held in Grange Park following the resignation of Simon Clifford, who took up a politically restricted position in the Police and Crime Commissioner's office. There is currently a vacancy at Kings Sutton following the resignation of Ian Morris. The Kings Sutton by election will be on the same day as the county council elections Thursday 5th May.

The council political balance did not change following the by elections. Both seats were held by Conservatives and were held by the Conservative party in the by elections. The political composition is Conservative 34 Seats, Liberal Democrats, 4 Seats Independents 3 seats and 1 vacancy.

Towcester Town Expansion affecting this area. An outline planning permission for Persimmon Homes and Bloor Homes has been in place since 2014. The design code to cover the design of the houses has been agreed in the past twelve months and the detailed planning permissions for the first approx. 500 been granted. Work started on the new round about to give access to the land, opposite the racecourse entrance in March 2017. This will take a few months to build and have some overnight closures

Ian A McCord

Conservative Councillor for Cosgrove and Grafton Ward

Leader South Northamptonshire Council

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9. Report from County Councillor

Due to ‘Purdah’ restriction on canvassing prior to election, he gave a verbal update only on NCC news – there were no Questions

Allen Walker

Northamptonshire County Councillor – Deanshanger Ward

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10. Any Other Business

None

With no other business the meeting closed at 7.35pm