

Cosgrove Parish Council

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

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

Mrs J Evans (Clerk to the Council)

	Action
CPC/24/11/1 Cllr Roberts sent apologies for being absent (away).	
CPC/24/11/2 There were no declarations of interest	
CPC/24/11/3 The Minutes of 2 October were approved unanimously.	
<p>CPC/24/11/4 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the Agenda were: Amended letter from Ms Sarah Bool, MP about claiming pension credit to be posted on website.</p> <p>The self set holly in Rectory Grounds Cemetery will be removed before 16 November.</p> <p>The Parish Council (PC) agreed unanimously the car below the carriageway at the junction of Northampton Road and A508 needs to be removed by West Northants Council (WNC) and the PC are not minded to contribute to the cost. There was concern about the environmental impact as well as the precedent of leaving the vehicle in place.</p>	<p>Clerk to provide text for website</p> <p>MD to remove holly</p> <p>IM to email WNC</p>
<p>CPC/24/11/5 Public speaking:</p> <p>Remembrance Sunday was raised as, once again, there will be two separate events - the Royal British Legion (RBL) one at the crossroads and the one at the Church. It was felt this was divisive in a small village. Those gathering for the RBL commemoration would be welcome to attend the event in the Church and anyone not wishing to stay for the religious service was not obliged to do so. Earlier in the year, there had been a suggestion of RBL attendees meeting at the crossroads and walking up to the Church where wreaths could be left at the memorial. This had not been progressed. Although not a PC matter, it was agreed one event had merits as it would provide an opportunity for all to come together to pay respect to those who served and those who lost their lives.</p> <p>A representative of the Furtho Development Objection Group (FDOG) reported on a meeting with a representative of Save Towcester Now (STN) – the DHL development at Bell Plantation (AL1) was refused by the strategic planning committee (SPC) in September. There were several parallels between AL1 and the proposed warehouse development at Furtho Pit (AL5) and similar arguments could be deployed. STN were happy to share information and the meeting was useful.</p> <p>Cllr McCord reported that an appeal had now been lodged against the decision by the SPC but no further information available at this time. AL2 (land at Woolgrowers Field, Towcester) would be going before the SPC before long and the outcome would be interesting. No information on AL4 Shacks Barn.</p> <p>No sign of the ecological survey carried out over 12 months by the AL5 developers. The MK Hotel on the Buckingham Road will once again be used to house up to 70 asylum seekers despite there being no amenities in the area.</p> <p>WNC budgeting exercise was underway.</p>	

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<p>CPC/24/11/6 The Clerk's report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and is attached to these Minutes at Appendix A. The PC decided there was no scope for a Forest School on the land opposite the cultivated allotments as this formed an integral part of the allotments.</p> <p>Cadent Gas had been asked for the paperwork by the PC's solicitors, Meadow View Cemetery (MVC) is registered at the Land Registry in the name of the PC.</p>	<p>Clerk to relay decision about Forest School</p> <p>Clerk to find out if planning permission needed</p>																																																																
<p>CPC/24/11/7 a). The PC received the update on the current finances in comparison to the budget (Appendix B). b). The payment schedule, circulated ahead of the meeting, was approved. The payments were approved to be made by BACS transfer, debit card or direct debit and are listed below:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Date of Invoice</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Amount</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Payee</th> <th style="width: 45%;">Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="4">Authorised between meetings; brought to meeting for full approval</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17.10.24</td> <td>£75.00</td> <td>G Scott</td> <td>Repair to MVC fence</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">For payment by BACS transfer 9.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>02.10.24</td> <td>£50.00</td> <td>RBL</td> <td>Wreath and donation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>06.11.24</td> <td>£647.00</td> <td>J Evans</td> <td>November salary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27.10.24</td> <td>£7.99</td> <td>J Proctor</td> <td>Refund of cable ties for on street poppies</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31.10.24</td> <td>£108.00</td> <td>DNH Contracts</td> <td>October dog waste collection</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31.10.24</td> <td>£875.40</td> <td>NJ Blackwell</td> <td>October mowing</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Direct debit and debit card payments</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16.10.2023</td> <td>6.05</td> <td>FastHost</td> <td>email monthly charge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13.10.2023</td> <td>£11.99</td> <td>HugoFox</td> <td>website hosting - November</td> </tr> <tr> <td>02.11.24</td> <td>14.75</td> <td>Yu Energy</td> <td>1 to 31 October standing charge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>02.11.24</td> <td>153.40</td> <td>Yu Energy</td> <td>1 to 31 October unmetered supply</td> </tr> <tr> <td>05.11.24</td> <td>10.00</td> <td>Tesco Mobile</td> <td>Top up of PC mobile</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>c). The final version of the Budget was approved (Appendix D). Overall expenditure has risen to £31,310.42. The overall income, not including the Precept, is £3,096. The draft Earmarked Reserves were also approved at £36,700 (Appendix E). The Precept will be set at the December meeting.</p> <p>d). The nationally agreed pay award for the Clerk was noted and will be backdated to 1 April 2024.</p> <p>e). It was resolved to go ahead with the electrical safety inspection and to accept the quote of £1,020 plus VAT. Next inspection will be due in 2030.</p>	Date of Invoice	Amount	Payee	Description	Authorised between meetings; brought to meeting for full approval				17.10.24	£75.00	G Scott	Repair to MVC fence					For payment by BACS transfer 9.24				02.10.24	£50.00	RBL	Wreath and donation	06.11.24	£647.00	J Evans	November salary	27.10.24	£7.99	J Proctor	Refund of cable ties for on street poppies	31.10.24	£108.00	DNH Contracts	October dog waste collection	31.10.24	£875.40	NJ Blackwell	October mowing	Direct debit and debit card payments				16.10.2023	6.05	FastHost	email monthly charge	13.10.2023	£11.99	HugoFox	website hosting - November	02.11.24	14.75	Yu Energy	1 to 31 October standing charge	02.11.24	153.40	Yu Energy	1 to 31 October unmetered supply	05.11.24	10.00	Tesco Mobile	Top up of PC mobile	<p>Clerk to inform payroll provider</p> <p>Clerk to raise purchase order</p>
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<p>CPC/24/11/8 Councillor Updates;</p> <p>Cllr Draddy reported the 30 mph speed limit sign in the vicinity of the Church is obscured by overgrowth which needs cutting back</p> <p>Cllr Bracey attended a meeting of Milton Keynes Council in Hanslope detailing proposed development – the causeway between Castlethorpe and the Navigation is too narrow and further development will exacerbate the problem.</p> <p>Cllr Bird attended the Grand Union Canal Transfer information session. There is a plan for a gravity bypass of the lock at Cosgrove but the proposal is at a very early stage. (Clerk</p>																																																																	

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<p>completed the consultation noting there is already a gravity bypass at the lock, the need to preserve access for residents of Lock Cottages and the marina and the need to reinforce the canal bank, which is leaking in several places between Cosgrove and Thrupp Wharf. The trees in MVC had been planted and were doing well.</p> <p>Cllr Proctor reported he had attended a site meeting between Wicksteed Park (WP) and the Cosgrove Playpark Refurbishment Team (CPRT). Different options were presented by WP and CPRT has asked for costings. WP recommended consulting children about what they would like to see in the playpark and CPRT will contact the school to arrange this. The dip by the playpark gate needs filling. CPRT would like a bin in the playpark (see CPC24/11/15). An attempt to replace the tyres beneath the seesaw had revealed rubber matting beneath the grass – this will need to be removed before new tyres can be installed. Overhanging bushes on Stratford Road causing problems for pedestrians (no footway – FixMyStreet)</p>	
<p>CPC/24/11/9 Planning: No comments required.</p>	
<p>CPC24/11/10 Parish Council Online. The PC were impressed with the potential of this online mapping software which has been supplied free of charge for 12 months (benefit of the new insurance policy). It was agreed to check the cost of an annual subscription once the free trial is ended to make sure it is affordable.</p>	<p>JP to check cost</p>
<p>CPC24/11/11 <u>Christmas Lights are not a PC event but are held on PC land.</u> The risk assessment was approved and is attached to these minutes at Appendix F. After considered debate, it was resolved to meet the cost of the Public Liability Insurance for the event up to £120 as this is a PC requirement.</p>	
<p>CPC24/11/12 It was resolved dog waste collection will be undertaken by Shield Group from 16 December for twelve months. (7 collections per week @ £2.50 per collection).</p>	<p>Clerk to check quote and agree contract</p>
<p>CPC24/11/13 Gigaclear – it was resolved to ask Gigaclear to make a site visit to hear how noisy the green box is and see its proximity to the Frances Childs Memorial Bench.</p>	<p>Clerk to ask Gigaclear to visit</p>
<p>CPC24/11/14 Dot Gov Dot UK It was resolved to use Hugo Fox as the approved domain registrar and to apply for 7 emails. Cosgrove Village website will remain as dot co dot uk</p>	<p>Clerk to liaise with Hugo Fox and check storage capacity</p>
<p>CPC24/11/15 It was resolved to agree to WNC suggestion of a bin at the end of Manor Close between April and October (Cosgrove Park opening times). The PC resolved to provide a bin in the playpark which WNC will empty.</p>	<p>Clerk to liaise with WNC and seek bin quote</p>
<p>CPC24/11/16 The draft Reserves Policy was adopted.</p>	<p>DS to post on website</p>
<p>CPC24/11/17 Meeting appraisal – the meeting had over run its timings due to protracted discussion about the Christmas Lights.</p>	
<p>CPC24/11/18 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 4 December 2024 (Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 Part II para 8.1)</p>	
<p>Meeting closed at 21.21</p>	