

Cosgrove Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Cosgrove Parish Council held on **Wednesday 4 March** 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 Cllr Dabbs was absent, and Ward Cllr McCord arrived later from another PC meeting. There were 4 members of the public present.

CPC/26/03/1 There were no absences.

CPC/26/03/2 There were no declarations of interest.

CPC/26/03/3 The Minutes of the meeting of 4 February 2026 were approved unanimously.

CPC/26/03/4 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the Agenda were

- The Clerk passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification on 2 March. This means the Parish Council (PC) can now resolve at the annual meeting in May to adopt the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011 section 8(2)).
- Streetlights in Orchard Close have been repaired by the developer. WNC highway adoption have said there will be a further period of 12 months before Cosgrove PC are asked to take over the streetlights. The PC will attempt to recover from the developer money spent on streetlight repair (£700).
- The Planning Officer has now said he hopes WNS2022/1741/EIA proposed warehouse development will go before a dedicated Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) meeting towards the end of April, but this is not set in stone.

CPC/26/03/5 Public Speaking

- Considerable frustration was expressed again about the amount of infilling of lakes by Cosgrove Park. A report will be made to the Environment Agency in the hope they will take action.
- A decision on PLN/2025/2673 Proposed extension for the 34 approved static holiday caravans to remain on pitch throughout the year is awaiting decision.
- The Furtho Development Objection Group (FDOG) have produced a number of briefing papers in anticipation of WNS/2022/1741/EIA proposed warehouse development going before the Strategic Planning Committee. The Ecology Consultant has agreed he will speak, if he is able to secure a slot. Sarah Bool, MP, will send a letter but FDOG hope she will be able to record a message as the possible date has slipped by a further month.
- Parking inconsiderately at the junction of Lock Lane and Main Street was raised as a safety matter reducing visibility.
- Concerns were raised about the persistent dropping of litter around Stratford Road/Northampton Road. It was suggested CCTV might be a deterrent. ANPR has previously been considered by Cosgrove PC and discounted as it records number plates but not anti-social behaviour.

Cllr McCord reported that the West Northants Council (WNC) budget had now been set and the increase was 4.75% - slightly lower than in the draft. The cost of a green bin had gone up to £69 - again slightly lower than originally proposed.

A meeting has been arranged by Cllr McCord on 11 March with members of WNC Planning Policy Team and Parish Council Chairs and Clerks in the Deanshanger Ward to discuss the draft Local Plan. WNC lost a planning appeal in Brackley which has implications for housing proposals throughout the Ward until the WNC land bank is restored to 5 years.

The Pury End/Paulerspury quarry application rumbles on with concerning data on fatalities and serious injuries on 13 km of the A5 between the Old Stratford roundabout and the A43 junction.

A scoping opinion for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been submitted by the owners of Towcester Racecourse ahead of an application for mixed use development including 300 houses with a further 2880 on the other side of the A5 – all within Paulerspury Parish. There will be implications for traffic and other matters.

CPC/26/03/6 The Clerk's report is appended to these Minutes at Appendix A.

CPC/26/02/7 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 £4,781.78 are appended to these Minutes at Appendix C.

(c) The bank reconciliation proving the balance of £59,899.97 at 31 January 2026 was noted and is at Appendix D.

(d) The PC noted a spot check of 12 invoices was carried out by Cllr Roberts on 24 February 2026. The randomly selected transactions were followed through a series of checks including entry in ledger, on bank statement and VAT reclaim and all were found to be correct.

CPC/26/03/8 Councillor updates

Cllr Bracey noted the repairs to the bridge and carriageway on Station Road will be carried out by MK Council. This will result in it being closed for 3 weeks in May. It was reported there will be no repairs of the gas main as Councils do not have responsibility for work by utility companies. A member of the public had asked Cllr Bracey to raise the apparent late posting of a planning notice (2025/4578/PIP 58 Stratford Road) and if this meant there would be an extended period of consultation.

Action: Clerk to write to WNC highways alerting them to repair work on Station Road as it may be within Cosgrove boundary. Clerk to check the status of 2025/4578/PIP 58 Stratford Road

Cllr Bird noted there had been several repairs to potholes that he had reported on FixMyStreet. A flowering cherry tree had been planted – with the help of two volunteers – as a replacement for the Queen's Canopy tree in Meadow View Cemetery. The Cosgrove Wildlife page on Facebook continued to be well supported. Cllr Bird had visited Hackleton Parish in his capacity as Climate and Nature Champion. A number of projects undertaken there were of interest and Cllr Bird had made contact with a Wildlife Trust officer and her apprentice. It is hoped one of them might attend the Annual Assembly of the Parish (AAPM) to present on the several different initiatives.

Action: Cllr Bird to follow up guest invitation to AAPM

Cllr Comerford said she had completed the WNC consultation on the proposed new housing allocation policy. She had reminded Kier of their promise to resurface part of Bridge Road. Cllr Comerford suggested the pooling of photographs of work undertaken or resourced by the PC. These could then be converted into a short film (by a volunteer) and shown at the AAPM to highlight the role of the PC in village life. Cllr

Comerford noted the inside of the bus stop need repainting. The speed of the refuse trucks travelling through the village was noted to be inappropriate and it was suggested a complaint should be made to the refuse collectors.

Action: Cllr Comerford to write to Biffa to raise the issue of the speed of their vehicles travelling through the narrow roads of the village.

Cllr Proctor reported all plots in the allotment were now rented and holders were looking forward to the growing season. Follow up on the offer from WNC of woodchip to go on the footpath that divides the allotments from the compost bins and green house had been delayed while liability in the event of an accident to a pedestrian was explored with the Rights of Way Officer. The allotment society were waiting for a quote to place fencing along the footpath. Contractor to be asked to install a gate closer on the new gate between the footpath and the bridlepath.

Action: Cllr Proctor to investigate the cost of installing a gate closer and report back as this will be an expense for the PC.

Cllr Roberts was happy to join the playpark working party and help move the equipment inside the fence

Cllr Smith had heard from WNC highways that remedial work will be carried out (within 26 weeks) on the drainage channel adjacent to Stratford Road at the Dogsmouth bend. A blocked drain opposite the school on Yardley Road will be cleared by WNC in due course (within 26 weeks). Cllr Smith had approached a stone mason in the village for a quote to repair and repaint Rectory Grounds cemetery wall.

Action: Clerk to list repair of Rectory Grounds cemetery wall in April Agenda

CPC/26/03/9 Planning

All items under planning on the Agenda were noted and it was agreed there was no action or observations required.

CPC/26/03/10 WNS/2022/1741/EIA

- (a) It was agreed Cllr Bird will act as spokesman on behalf of Cosgrove PC at the forthcoming SPC meeting. Cllr Smith will be in reserve.
- (b) It was resolved to prepare a five minute presentation to the SPC on visual impact, landscape, heritage and access to the existing warehouse.

There was discussion on the format of the SPC meeting and which parties might be able to speak. It was agreed it made sense for speakers to address different aspects of the development application. Cosgrove PC were content to liaise with Old Stratford PC, Ward Councillors McCord and Dabbs and FDOG to ensure time at the SPC was spent as effectively as possible.

Action: Clerk to draft script for presentation at SPC and identify possible follow up questions

CPC/26/03/11 Draft Local Plan Consultation

- (a) It was resolved to highlight the PC response to the village confines consultation in February 2024 had not been taken into account.
- (b) It was agreed to check the limitations placed on local green spaces. If acceptable it was resolved to ask for the Rectory Grounds and Meadow View Cemeteries to be added to the local green spaces for Cosgrove. Consideration by WNC also to be given to the Scout camp on Stratford Road.
- (c) It was resolved to ask how and why the proposed green space near The Quarries had been added to the plan.

- (d) It was agreed councillors will scrutinise the section in the draft Local Plan regarding Canalside Development to make sure the potential implications for Cosgrove are understood.
- (e) It was agreed councillors will scrutinise EC8 (formerly known as AL5) to identify the changes to AL5 and so they can be highlighted.

Action: Clerk to prepare consultation response and Cllrs to feed into this. Clerk to check on limitations on use of local green spaces. Clerk to attend meeting on 11 March and submit questions regarding designation of local wildlife site near The Quarries and implications of canalside development for Cosgrove.

CPC/26/03/12 It was resolved to respond to the **Grand Union Water Transfer Scheme**. It was noted the Clerk had reached out to the boating community to ask for their input as, living on the water, they will be directly affected by the scheme.

Action: Clerk to attend one of the consultation or pop-up events to gather information. This and any feedback from boating community to be used to complete consultation response.

CPC/26/03/13 It was resolved to purchase updated Office 365 software for the Clerk's laptop within a budget of £250.

Action: Clerk to arrange purchase and installation.

CPC/26/03/14 Climate and Nature

- (a) It was agreed quotes would be obtained for the purchase and installation of bird boxes on PC owned land around the village.
- (b) It was resolved to install a tree guard around the newly purchased tree in Meadow View Cemetery.

Action: Cllr Bird to source bird boxes and report back to April meeting. Cllrs Bird and Bracey to liaise over delivery and installation of tree guard (stored by Cllr Bracey).

The date of the next meeting will be **Wednesday 1 April 2026**

The meeting closed at 21.07 hours.