

Cosgrove Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Cosgrove Parish Council held on **Wednesday 7 October 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. There were 4 members of the public present.

CPC/26/10/1 Ward Cllr McCord had a prior meeting to attend. Ward Cllr Dabbs was absent

CPC/26/10/2 There were no declarations of interest.

CPC/26/10/3 The Minutes of the meeting of 2 September 2026 were approved unanimously.

CPC/26/10/4 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere:

Dumping of McDonalds wrappers near Dogsmouth corner and Northampton Road - action can only be taken by Environmental Crime if there is evidence to prove the identity of the offender (registration number of the vehicle involved, along with the date, time and location of the offence. Photographs or video footage showing the litter being thrown from the vehicle would also assist). Even with all this information it would only enable them to consider whether further investigation or enforcement action is appropriate.

Query over number of year round caravans on Cosgrove Park - planning permission for use of three caravans year round for warden/security staff was granted under 19/01424/FUL and 23/01222/FUL (Milton Keynes) and S/2018/2906/FUL (West Northants).

CPC/26/10/5 Public Speaking

Concerns were raised about

- continued infilling of water courses on Cosgrove Park.
- Overhanging vegetation opposite the church making traffic entering the village move over onto the opposite side of the road (report on FixMyStreet).
- Heavy plant delivering unknown items to the land to the right of Northampton Road when leaving the village – monitor.

The new owners of Cosgrove Marina have received permission to site ANPR cameras near the service area to help control parking and fly tipping. There has been an application by the Buckingham Canal Society to take over the toilets (for use by volunteers and some marina residents). If granted the power supply could be used for the ANPR cameras.

The Buckingham Canal Society representative briefed the meeting on their response to the Regulation 19 draft Local Plan consultation and requested the Parish Council (PC) to consider adding the points raised to the PC response.

CPC/26/10/6 The Clerk's report is appended to these Minutes at Appendix A.

CPC/26/10/7 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 £3,496.77 are appended to these Minutes at Appendix C.
- (c) The External Auditors' report was received and the comments were noted.
- (d) The draft 2027-2028 budget v2 was scrutinised. Cllr Roberts reported he had made an in-depth examination of the draft and made recommendations to the PC for where some savings could be made. The PC agreed the Speed Indicator Device warranties should not be extended further (saving £563). Subject to advice of IT volunteer, emails will be provided through Microsoft (saving £230). Suggestions of residents to be carried forward into the budget are installation of planters at the village gates on Yardley Road. It is hoped draft budget v3 can be approved at November meeting to allow for Precept to be set in December 2026.
- (e) The reduction in interest rate on the 95 day notice account was noted.
- (f) The Clerk's national pay award of 3.3% was approved and should be back dated to 1 April 2026.

Action: Clerk to make budget amendments. Clerk to inform payroll provider of backdated pay increase

CPC/26/10/8 Councillor updates

Cllr Bird asked if the local MP could be asked, again, to act as an interlocutor with Cosgrove Park as she had offered to do so at a meeting in summer 2025. (Previous request was rebuffed by her private secretary).

Cllr Comerford will report incidents of antisocial behaviour to the PCSO. Items of interest being carried out by South Northants Police can be included on village website and FaceBook page. A noisy motorbike – apparently without a silencer – was causing a nuisance to councillors and residents alike. It was agreed to contact the PCSO as the licence number of the rider had been captured by a councillor.

Cllr Proctor noted tyres and a barbecue had been dumped on the towpath by a boater and he will report to Canal and River Trust. A resident had complained about the incidence of car horns being sounded on the bridge. It was agreed to ask West Northants Council (WNC) Highways for a sign discouraging use of horns. Complaints had also been received about the lack of white lines at the entrance to Lock Lane and the missing slow markings either side of the bridge. These matters had previously been reported to WNC Highways and it was agreed a follow up should be made.

Cllr Roberts had reported antisocial behaviour on the towpath adjacent to the bridge.

Cllr Smith noted the pallets and bins causing an obstruction on the pavement outside a property on Stratford Road had been removed. Residents overlooking the bridge had raised concerns about spalling brickwork on the south side of the bridge. Another resident had complained about the level of cannabis smoking on the towpath, particularly near the bridge. Reporting to the police was recommended but the resident felt this should be a PC responsibility.

Action: Clerk to approach MP. Cllr Comerford to liaise with PCSO about antisocial behaviour. Clerk to follow up with WNC Highways about outstanding work and request no horn sign

Cllr McCord entered the meeting. He briefed the PC on the need to comment on the Local Plan Regulation 19 paying particular emphasis on the removal of EC8 (a good thing) and supporting housing allocations elsewhere in the ward. He will prepare a newsletter raising the profile of the consultation. Three long standing housing applications in Deanshanger will be heard by the Planning Committee on 8 October. The applications will almost double the number of houses in the village with suggestions of a new roundabout on the A422 but no plans to increase the capacity of the primary school.

Cllr McCord reported he had met with Hanslope Ward Cllr Alison Andrews and Cosgrove Park was discussed. Cllr Andrews serves on the Milton Keynes Planning Committee and might be a useful ally.

Cllr McCord noted Station Road, Castlethorpe will be closed for 4 weeks from Monday 12 October.

CPC/26/10/9 Planning

- (a) The PC resolved to respond to the WNC draft Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation.
- (b) The draft letter of objection to PLN/2026/1789 to site 3 static caravans on Cosgrove Park was approved. It was resolved to follow up on Cllr McCord's contact with Ward Cllr Andrews.
- (c) Planning approval at 8 Park Close was noted.

Action: Clerk to draft response to Regulation 19. Clerk to submit letter of objection to PLN/2026/1789. Clerk to contact Ward Cllr Andrews

CPC/26/10/10 Street lights

The PC resolved to repair 4 streetlights identified in the 5 year safety check at a cost of £4629.60. It was also resolved to replace the daylight burning light in Main Street at a cost of £77 unless the repair was covered by warranty.

Action: Clerk to commission work and check on the status of the Main Street light

CPC/26/10/11a Speed Indicator Devices

- (a) The PC gratefully received the annual Speed Indicator Device (SID) report compiled and delivered by the regular volunteer. The report to be uploaded to the website and speed information to be posted on the village FaceBook page. A second volunteer offered to interrogate the data in order to produce a more detailed breakdown of speeds.
- (b) Moving the Bridge Road SID to Lock Lane was not considered at this meeting.

Action: Volunteer to liaise over more detailed breakdown of speeds

CPC/26/10/11b Christmas Lights

- (a) It was decided not to arrange a Christmas Light Switch on event as there is no satisfactory power supply on the recreation ground. It was not felt to be acceptable on safety grounds to hook up to a neighbouring property and have wires trailing across the recreation ground or shallowly buried. The PC resolved to announce the Christmas Tree lights would be switched on and anyone wishing to witness this would be welcome.
- (b) It was **resolved** to switch on the tree lights on Sunday 29 November.
- (c) No decision was made about installing a feeder pillar at an approximate cost of £2,000 but it was **resolved** to investigate solar powered Christmas lights to be purchased in the early part of 2027.

Action: Cllrs Smith and Proctor to check the Christmas Tree lights are working. Cllr Smith to publicise the switch on of the tree light

CPC/26/10/12 Village Project

- (a) Cllr Comerford put forward her proposal to revamp the bus shelter with a mural. The aim would be to transform it in the style of a Cosy Cottage. A meeting had been held with a mural artist who gave an approximate estimate of £2,000 for the work. Preparatory work – painting the ceiling and floor, sanding the seat and moving the notice board – would be needed before the transformation could take place and could be carried out by the PC. The artist would need to complete the work before November, after that it would have to wait until the spring.
- (b) It was felt the reserves could be used to finance the project from the 2026-2027 budget.
- (c) The PC agreed to the project in principle.

Action: Cllr Comerford to drive project forward. Cllrs Smith and Proctor to investigate resiting of PC noticeboard

CPC/26/10/13 Grant Award

The PC agreed in principle with the application for £159 for a book swop cupboard. It was decided more information about the location of the cupboard was needed before a grant was awarded. A central location was felt to be desirable.

Action: Clerk to inform applicants and ask for further information on siting of cupboard

CPC/26/10/14 Freedom of Cosgrove

- (a) The PC will continue to decide to whom to award Freedom of Cosgrove but it was felt criteria for awarding the Freedom should be drawn up. Ideas to be shared over the course of the month with a view to drawing up an appropriate policy.
- (b) No resolution was made around having a stock of certificates printed.
- (c) No resolution was made about commissioning a plaque to record the names of recipients

Action: Cllrs to share ideas for criteria needed for Freedom to be awarded

CPC/26/10/15 Canal and River Trust Bridge Inspection report

The PC did not decide if any action was needed on the Inspection report other than to post the Executive summary on the website.

Action: Cllr Smith to post the Executive summary on the website

CPC/26/10/16 Review and adoption of policies

The PC were not in a position to adopt the revised Grant Awards Policy or the Flag Policy and asked for them to be retabled in November to allow for a period of reflection.

Action: Clerk to retable revised Grant Awards Policy and Flag Policy in November

Meeting Appraisal

Some Councillors had not accessed the documents posted in the meetings folder by the Clerk. This made it difficult to progress some agenda items effectively. Clerk will continue to place documents in a monthly folder but will no longer spend time renaming documents to align with the Agenda.

The date of the next meeting will be **Wednesday 4 November 2026**.

The meeting closed at 21.25 hours.