

Cosgrove Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Cosgrove Parish Council held on **Wednesday 4 June 2025** 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)

	Action
CPC/25/06/1 Cllr Proctor was absent due to a prior engagement.	
CPC/25/06/2 There were no declarations of interest	
CPC/25/06/3 The Minutes of the meeting of 7 May 2025 were approved unanimously.	
CPC/25/06/4 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the Agenda were: There was a fire at Cosgrove Hall on Saturday 17 May 2025. The advice received from Northamptonshire Talking was posted on the village FaceBook page on Monday 19 May. NCALC advice: "Cosgrove Parish Council's role is limited to disseminating accurate and timely information and liaising with the various other agencies that have responsibilities, notably Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue, Northamptonshire Police, and West Northamptonshire Council (WNC). Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue has a role in advising what is safe and what isn't, WNC has powers under the Building Act 1984 to contact the owner of an unsafe building or to take action to make a building safe and then recharge the cost to the owner, and Northamptonshire Police has a role in dealing with any unauthorised access to the building or premises."	
CPC/25/06/5 Public speaking: The number and speed of trucks travelling through the village continues to cause concern. It was agreed a letter should go to one of the regular culprits. A complaint was also received about a large, tracked vehicle being driven through the village and down Bridge Road at 18.26 on Monday 2 June 2025. It is believed this was the second occasion this had happened, the first being at 20.08 on Saturday 24 May. The weight of the vehicle caused the Bridge Road cottages to shake and damaged the road surface on the corner of Bridge Road and Main Street. It was agreed West Northants Highways should be informed and video and photographic evidence supplied. The owner of the vehicle should also be asked for comments. A general reduction in the standard of driving was also noted and it was agreed to post on the website, FaceBook and send a letter to Cosgrove Park for dissemination to their visitors. Ward Councillor McCord reported induction and start up meetings were being held for the incoming Councillors. The first full council meeting had taken place and the chairs and appointments to committees made. Cllr McCord will continue as chair of the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee The new chair of the Strategic Planning Committee is Cllr Scott Packer with Cllr Nigel Berrill as his deputy.	
CPC/25/06/6 The Clerk's report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and is attached to these Minutes at Appendix A.	

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<p>CPC/25/06/7 Finance: 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 to be made by BACS transfer, debit card or direct debit totalling £4,288.95 were approved (Appendix C). c). It was resolved to pay for the cutting down of trees and shrubs in Rectory View Cemetery at a cost of £1,920 plus VAT (approved at February 2025 meeting but not minuted).</p>	
<p>CPC/25/06/8 Councillor Updates:</p> <p>Cllr Bracey raised the issue of Milton Keynes expansion and the so called 15 Minute City which will be constructed between Newport Pagnell, the M1 and up to Milton Malsor. It will necessitate two bridges being put over the M1 and has not been well publicised considering the size of the development. Castlethorpe Parish Council are concerned the fields between Little Linford Road and Stoke Goldington are also ripe for development and that there will be little or no consultation. The pressure on infrastructure and services if Milton Keynes continues to expand in this area will be intolerable.</p> <p>Cllr Comerford raised the issue of littering, highlighting the number of cigarette butts in her front garden. Although this offence can attract a fixed penalty notice, it was recognised this is difficult to implement.</p> <p>Cllr Smith had the misfortune to come across human excrement on the bridle path near the Navigation Public House. He had reported this and WNC will deal with it. This is not the first incident of public defecation in Cosgrove as it is a regular occurrence along the canal side and Cllrs were disappointed at this anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Cllr Smith noted the Canal and River Trust had finally repaired the breach in the canalside which caused the right of way to be cut. The canal boat residents opposite who had been adversely affected by the water running through their site and the farmer had waited a long time for this to be resolved. There are still three breaches in the canal on the offside between this repair and the Navigation Pub.</p>	
<p>CPC/25/06/9 Planning: It was resolved to object to 2025/1601/MAO outline proposal for 67 dwellings on land at Stratford Road, Deanshanger using notes provided by</p>	

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Deanshanger Parish Council. There are a number of other housing proposals in the area, and it was suggested reviving the A5 Alliance might be worth pursuing.	
CPC/25/06/10 The proposal to replace the plastic goal posts with semi-permanent ones was rejected due to concerns about liability and encouraging children to play football in this unsafe location.	
CPC/25/06/11 It was resolved to buy a 17" wreath for £20 and to donate £30 to the Royal British Legion.	
CPC/25/06/12 It was resolved to discontinue providing an article for the Old Mail in favour of submitting the Minutes. The Minutes are published on the website and posted in the bus stop and writing an article was felt to be a duplication of effort.	
CPC/25/06/13 It was resolved to adopt the Playpark Inspection Policy. Cllr Roberts volunteered to conduct a monthly, visual inspection to identify obvious hazards using a check list compiled by the Clerk.	
CPC/25/06/14 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 2 July 2025 (Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 Part II para 8.1)	
Meeting closed at 20.30	