

Cosgrove Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Cosgrove Parish Council held on **Wednesday 4 February 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

Mrs J Evans (Clerk to the Council)

The meeting opened at 19.30 hours. Ward Cllrs Dabbs and McCord were in attendance. There were 3 members of the public present.

CPC/26/02/1 There were no absences.

CPC/26/02/2 There were no declarations of interest.

CPC/26/02/3 The Minutes of the meeting of 3 December 2025 were approved unanimously.

CPC/26/02/4 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the Agenda were the Strategic Planning Committee of West Northants Council (WNC) may have a separate meeting towards the end of March to review the proposed warehouse application (WNS/2022/1741/EIA). There will be a site visit the week before the committee meeting, once the Planning Officer's report has been released.

CPC/26/02/5 Public Speaking

Concerns were raised about the apparent infilling being carried out on Cosgrove Park and the resulting flooding to neighbouring properties. There was no understanding among those present why WNC, to whom this matter has been reported, have taken no action.

Inconsiderate parking on the small patch of mud adjacent to Solomon's Bridge was reported to be causing a hazard to other road users and pedestrians. It was suggested bollards would prevent parking in this area.

Action: Clerk to request bollards from WNC highways liaison officer, Helen Howard.

Cllr McCord briefed the meeting on the WNC budget setting exercise which has just finished. He noted there is a proposal to increase the cost of a green bin to £80. Parking charges will be extended to encompass Towcester (parking revenue currently stands at around £800,000). A rise of 4.99% in council tax is expected. Cllr McCord noted the rate of council tax collection has dropped and if payment was enforced more strictly this would net considerable sums.

The public consultation on the draft Local Plan has begun and will end on 15 March 2026. The large housing allocation at the junction of A5/A508 has been dropped from the draft. There are several allocations for the top two tiers of settlement hierarchies (including Deanshanger, Old Stratford, Potterspury and Yardley Gobion but not Cosgrove) in our area. Suggested sites will need to be proposed by those communities within two years or sites will be chosen by WNC. The allocation of AL5 (employment land at Furtho Pit, Old Cosgrove Road) remains in the Local Plan but the requirements have changed slightly. For example, the requirement to provide a roundabout has been dropped. The number of hectares required for logistics will need to be studied carefully as it would appear there is sufficient to meet requirements without AL5. Cllr McCord urged everyone to comment on the Local Plan and to support the housing allocations that are centred on urban areas such as Northampton in the hope of protecting the more rural second tier settlements.

CPC/26/02/6 The Clerk's report is appended to these Minutes at Appendix A. The meeting was disappointed that there had again been no response to the third approach to Cosgrove Park to start a dialogue between Cosgrove Park and the Parish Council.

CPC/26/02/7 Finance

- (a) The update on current finances in comparison to the budget is appended to these Minutes at Appendix B. It was noted as at 31 December 2025, there was a balance in the bank of £62,269.82
- (b) Payments made since the December meeting were reported and approved (Appendix C). The current payment schedule with payments totalling £7,969.73, circulated ahead of the meeting, was approved. It is appended to these Minutes at Appendix D.
- (c) It was **resolved** to place £15,000 into the 95 day notice account. It was noted the 9 month fixed deposit account had matured and attracted £287.05 interest.
- (d) It was **resolved** to cancel the FastHost email accounts as soon as possible.
- (e) Internal Audit on 16 April 2026 was noted.
- (f) It was **resolved** to pay 14.5 hours overtime to the Clerk for 2025-2026.

CPC/26/02/8 Councillor updates

Cllr Bracey reported the mattress dumped at the end of Old Cosgrove Road had been removed but the tyres below road level on Northampton Road were still there. A further report to Fix My Street (FMS) will be made. The state of the road surface on Station Road, near the Navigation public house, was noted to be very poor. Repairs to the causeway near Castlethorpe were expected to take four weeks and to start in June. It was believed there would be no repairs to the gas main at the same time.

Cllr Bird said he had identified a supplier of a (cherry) tree for Meadow View Cemetery and would be choosing and ordering one soon. The Cosgrove Wildlife page on FaceBook had been launched and met with a good response. There were some concerns about privacy – photographs of wildlife potentially including private property. A disclaimer might be needed.

Cllr Proctor noted there is a parcel of land for sale behind The Quarries.

Cllr Smith reported he and a volunteer had cleared the grips (drainage channel) on the Dogsmouth corner at the end of Stratford Road. He noted there appeared to be some damage to the drains crossing under the road which he would report on FMS. Another volunteer had spent some time refreshing the website which was looking a lot better. Grateful thanks to both volunteers.

Action: Cllr Bird to investigate the possibility of breaches of privacy on the Cosgrove Wildlife Facebook page and take action if necessary.

CPC/26/02/9 Planning

A letter of comment had been sent to MK Planning regarding Application Number: PLN/2025/2673 - Full planning permission Location: Cosgrove Park, Main Street, Cosgrove, MK19 7JP
Proposal: Proposed extension for the 34 approved static holiday caravans to remain on pitch throughout the year Consultation Expiry: 2026-01-15

CPC/26/02/10 Grant Application

It was **resolved** by a majority decision (5:1) to support the Community Speed Watch campaign and to grant £150 for the purchase of a speed detection radar device.

Action: Clerk to inform applicant and send letter of support to the Police

CPC/26/02/11 Cemeteries

(a) It was **resolved** to increase the Cemetery fees with effect from 1 March 2026. Revised fee table is appended to these Minutes at Appendix E.

(b) It was **resolved** to appoint Mr R Hawkins, or his son Mr J Hawkins, as the preferred grave diggers at Rectory Grounds and Meadow View Cemeteries.

(c) It was **resolved** to request the Environment Agency to give their view of the Tier 1 report compiled by TGMS. No decision was made whether a design and access quotation should be sought.

(d) It was **resolved** to instruct contractor 1 to cut back overhanging vegetation in Meadow View Cemetery at a cost of £1,400 plus VAT and for this contractor to apply for planning permission (cemetery inside the conservation area) at an additional cost of £25.

Action: Clerk to issue revised fee list, inform regular undertakers of preferred grave diggers, commission view of Environment Agency using TGMS as agent, instruct contractor 1 and inform unsuccessful contractors.

CPC/26/02/12 Playpark

(a) It was **resolved** to have the hedge cut back at a cost of £895 plus VAT.

(b) It was decided not to instruct a contractor to move the play equipment which is now outside the fence at this time. A working party will look to see if they can carry out the work.

(c) It was noted the biannual inspection of the playpark had taken place and the report will be circulated soon.

Action: Clerk to instruct contractor to cut back hedge as agreed, to inform other contractors about the working party and to circulate safety inspection once received.

CPC/26/02/13

The meeting dates for 2026 were agreed and are appended to these minutes at Appendix F.

CPC/26/02/14

The arrangements for the Annual Assembly of the Parish were reviewed. It was agreed to circulate a questionnaire with QR code and invitation to attend the meeting by hand by the end of March. Suggestions for speakers to be circulated and agreed ahead of March meeting.

Action: Clerk to liaise over QR code with volunteer from Elizabeth Woodville School and arrange for hard copies of questionnaire and invitation to be printed. Cllrs to deliver questionnaires by the end of March

CPC/26/02/15

It was agreed all councillors to review action points by 18 February. Amendments to be made by individual Councillors to the master document which will be uploaded to Teams .

Action: Councillors to review and amend action points by 18 February. Clerk to recirculate amended version ahead of next meeting.

CPC/26/02/16

The updated Fixed Asset Register and the Risk Management Register were reviewed and adopted.

Action: Clerk to circulate updated documents and Cllr Smith to post on website.

CPC/26/02/17

The Financial Regulations were reviewed but no amendments were made. The changes to the procurement thresholds that came into effect with the 2023 Procurement Act on 1 January 2026 do not require any immediate amendments.

CPC/26/02/18

Cllr Bird, Climate and Nature Champion, reported there will be consultation starting soon about the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This is looking for ways to increase biodiversity in communities and will be open to all residents. Cllr Bird has accepted an invitation from the Wildlife Trust to visit Hackleton to see what actions they have taken to contribute to enhancing local wildlife, biodiversity and the environment.

CPC/26/02/19

It was **resolved** to seek quotes to repair the two streetlights that are not working in Orchard Close.

CPC/26/02/20 The meeting appraisal noted the meeting had kept to time and was effective as ten resolutions had been made. It was agreed to trial screen sharing of supporting documents at the next meeting. This should reduce the duplication of work for the Clerk in producing a PowerPoint presentation of meeting documents.

CPC/256/02/21 The date of the next meeting will be **Wednesday 4 March 2026**

The meeting closed at 20.55 hours.