

Cosgrove Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Cosgrove Parish Council held on **Wednesday 5 November 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)

The meeting opened at 19.30 hours. Ward Cllrs Dabbs and McCord were in attendance. There were 2 members of the public present.

CPC/25/11/1 There were no absences.

CPC/25/11/2 There were no declarations of interest.

CPC/25/11/3 The Minutes of the meeting of 1 October 2025 were approved unanimously.

CPC/25/11/4 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the Agenda:

- Volunteer needed to represent Cosgrove Parish Council (PC) at Whalley's Charity on 28 January 2026 with view to becoming a Trustee of that Charity
- Cllr Bird has agreed to become the Climate and Nature Champion for PC
- Flood report (CPC25/10/7(d) received in draft and final version will be circulated in due course
- **Resolved** to buy adult size multicoloured picnic table at cost of £550

Action: Volunteer to attend Whalley's meeting. Clerk to circulate Flood report once received. Clerk to order picnic table.

CPC/25/11/5 Public Session

It was reported by a representative of the Furtho Development Opposition Group (FDOG) that the traffic consultant employed by them had noted the ghost lane from A508 into the Yardley Road was not the legally required width. An email had gone to West Northants Highways alerting them to this and asking for comments. Old Stratford Parish Council had sponsored the traffic report and were not happy with the impact of the proposed warehouse development (WNS/2022/1741/EIA) on the public right of way at Oxfield Park and had objected accordingly. The recent refusal of planning permission for AL4 Shacks Barn had shown that only two or three key points are needed for refusal rather than a raft of minor issues.

Cllr McCord reported AL4 Shacks Barn had unresolved footpath and cycle path issues which the Planning Officer proposed to settle by imposing a condition once slab level was reached (foundations up to floor level). As seen by the outstanding conditions at the Persimmon Homes development in Towcester, this is not always a guaranteed way to ensure issues are dealt with. The developers, Gallagher, are still pushing for development of 3000 houses between Deanshanger and Old Stratford along the A422 and A5. It was to be hoped there would be no allocation in the new local plan (currently in draft). The new draft Strategic Planning Document was out for consultation.

The litter pick by young people from Northants Association of Youth Clubs (NAYC) on 1 November had been very productive with around 10 bags of litter collected.

Cllr Dabbs reported he had visited the proposed warehouse site with members of FDOG and now had a much clearer understanding of the application.

Action: Letter of thanks to be emailed to NAYC

CPC/25/11/6 The Clerk's report is appended to these Minutes at Appendix A.

CPC/25/11/7 Finance

- (a) The update on current finances in comparison to the budget was noted and is appended to these Minutes at Appendix B.
- (b) It was **resolved** to authorise payment of invoices totalling £3,023.36. Details are shown in payment schedule at Appendix C.
- (c) Following scrutiny, it was **resolved** to accept the 2026-2027 Budget as presented in version 3. Total income estimated to be £3,159 (excluding WNC Precept which will be set at December meeting) and total expenditure budgeted to be £28,956.49. The PC noted earmarked reserves were £41,259. Predicted expenditure from earmarked reserves during 2026-2027 was shown as £25,370 leaving a balance at the end of the financial year of £15,889. Details of the agreed budget are shown at Appendix D.

Actions: Clerk to investigate rules on Community Infrastructure Levy and circulate information including expenditure

CPC/25/10/8 Councillor updates

Cllr Bird thanked the volunteer who continues to maintain the young trees in Meadow View Cemetery. As part of his new role of Climate and Nature Champion, Cllr Bird suggested installing a bee and insect hotel to increase biodiversity in the village.

Cllr Comerford reported the tree overhanging the path down to the canal on the left side of Solomon's Bridge had been severely cut back by the Canal and River Trust. This pruning would encourage healthier more upright growth. Bulbs and compost (CPC/25/10/8) had been purchased at a cost of £40.79 (without VAT) leaving a balance of £19.21 for summer flowering bulbs. She had met with Kier on Monday 3 November to discuss the state of the road surface of Bridge Road from the village hall turn to the corner of Main Street. Kier will add resurfacing before 31 March to their schedule. Cllr Comerford had suggested Kier inform the Clerk in advance of work being carried out so residents could be asked to move vehicles parked on the road.

Cllr Proctor reported there had been applications to take over vacant allotments. Renewal of tenancies is underway and it is hoped there will only be half a plot vacant for 2025-2026. Tenants are now asked to cover plots if they are not going to work them to help with reducing weeds. A delivery of horse manure had been very well received by allotment holders.

Cllr Roberts reported he had made a playpark inspection checklist which will help with the ad hoc inspections of equipment.

Cllr Smith had circulated statistics on visitors to the village website averaged 610 per month between May and October. This was felt to be a steady improvement. As part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, the website will need to be accessible. Councillors were invited to visit the website and report back on the ease of finding their way around.

CPC/25/11/9 Planning

- (a) The Milton Keynes planning application PLN/2025/1784 Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed use of land for the siting and use of static caravans instead of touring caravans was noted. The PC reluctantly accepted the advice from WNC planning department that there was no obligation for

Milton Keynes to have consulted the PC on this largely procedural matter. It was agreed it is fortunate the Clerk monitors the MK planning list as well as the one covering West Northants.

(b) PLN/2025/2159 household waste recycling centre at Colts Holm Road, Old Wolverton was noted.

CPC/25/11/10 The purpose of the WNC Annual Parish Conference, attended by Cllrs Bird and Comerford, was to improve communication and relationships between WNC and PCs. The Assistant Director of Planning spoke and has offered herself to be a direct contact for PCs over planning queries. The Community Highways Warden scheme was outlined. Use of FixMyStreet was encouraged. The Local Transport Plan was discussed and it was suggested a survey of residents be carried out to assess the interest in demand based transport.

CPC/25/11/11 Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

A report of the data from the speed indicator devices was provided by the volunteer who downloads the SIDs data for the PC. It was noted 489,843 vehicles entered the village in the 12 months ending 31 October 2025. The highest number of vehicles entering the village was 51,640 in August 2025 and the lowest was 19,896 in December 2024. It was noted that an average of 58% of all vehicles pass over the bridge to leave the village. The statistics for the Cosgrove Park Firework Night were illuminating: between 8 and 9.30 pm on 18 October 386 vehicles passed over the bridge. The Saturday before, 11 October, during the same timeframe 28 vehicles passed over the bridge.

CPC/25/11/12 Cosgrove Park

- (a) It was noted there had been no reply to the second request, dated 20 October, to the management of Cosgrove Park to meet with members of the PC with a view to establishing lines of communication. The PC instructed a further request should be sent.
- (b) A resident had used his contacts to establish the location map accompanying PLN/2025/1298 showing an extended boundary for Cosgrove Park was wrong. It was noted the agents would be asked to amend the documentation accompanying the application. The PC have obtained the Land Registry registration details including a plan of the meadow adjoining The Green and agreed to sign up to the free Land Registry property alert service to receive notifications of any activity.

Action: Clerk to draft letter to Cosgrove Park. Clerk to sign up for property alert service.

CPC/25/11/13 It was **resolved** to realign the playpark subject to receiving quotes covering the cost of moving both the fence and the equipment.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Proctor to meet with original contractor who installed fence and seek quotes to move both the fence and the equipment.

CPC/25/11/14 It was noted the Christmas Lights Switch On event was unlikely to go ahead this year due to lack of volunteers. It was felt it was too short notice for the PC to take over the running of a full-scale event this year. It was agreed the lights would be switched on without notice. Following guidance in the Standing Orders, the PC will review a motion to take over the event from 2026 if councillors could be found to propose and second it.

CPC/25/11/15 The PC decided not to alter the name of Meadow View Cemetery.

Action: Clerk to inform Clerk of Potterspury Parish Council of decision

CPC/25/11/16 It was **resolved** to send Christmas cards to volunteers in the village. A list was compiled of recipients.

Action: Clerk to buy charity Christmas cards and write and deliver to recipients

CPC/25/11/17 It was **resolved** to adopt the 2025/2026 Parish Action Plan attached to these Minutes at Appendix E.

CPC/25/11/18 It was **resolved** to permit a memorial bench to be placed in Rectory Grounds Cemetery.

Action: Clerk to write to the family

CPC/25/11/19 Meeting Appraisal

The meeting appraisal noted the meeting had over run the suggested timings by 20 minutes. Consideration to be given to reducing the number of items requiring discussion at the meeting by circulating some documents for decision ahead. At present documents are circulated for information and then discussed.

CPC/25/10/14 The date of the next meeting will be **Wednesday 3 December 2025** at which time the precept for 2026-2027 will be laid before members for approval.

The meeting closed at 21.20 hours.