

Cosgrove Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Cosgrove Parish Council held on **Wednesday 5 February 2025** at 7.30pm.

Present: ~~Cllr D Smith (Chair)~~, Cllr C Bird, Cllr A Bracey, Cllr S Comerford (Vice Chair),
Cllr M Draddy, Cllr J Proctor, Cllr P Roberts

Mrs J Evans (Clerk to the Council)

Meeting opened at 19.30	Action
CPC/25/02/1 There were two absences: Cllr Smith, Chair, was unwell and Cllr Draddy had requested compassionate absence. Cllr Comerford acted as Chair.	
CPC/25/02/2 Cllrs Comerford and Proctor declared interest in item CPC/25/02/15 Christmas Lights.	
CPC/25/02/3 The Minutes of the meeting of 4 December 2024 were approved unanimously.	
CPC/25/02/4 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the Agenda were: NJ Blackwell Garden Services' estimate for grass cutting for 2025-2026 is now £7,262.10 (an increase of £123.19 over last year's prices). The amount in the budget is £7,322. Two other contractors were invited to quote for the contract. One did not reply and the other was not sufficiently competitive to warrant changing contractor. Resolved to remain with NJ Blackwell for further twelve months (review October 2025).	
CPC/25/02/5 Public speaking. There were ten members of public present. Furtho Development Opposition Group (FDOG) reminded the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">there is an appeal hearing in relation to AL2 (DHL development, Towcester) starting on 18 February 2025. It may possibly run into two weeks; anyone able to attend the hearing requested to liaise with FDOG to make sure attendance is spread out to cover as many days as possible.FDOG have written to the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) asking for the proposed warehouse development application at Furtho Pit, Cosgrove and Old Stratford (WNS/2022/1741/EIA) be closed as there have been no developments since August 2023. The SPC passed the letter on to the Planning Officer but it has yet to appear on the planning portal.The Oxford to Cambridge Arc (area between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge) project may be resurrected under the new government. This can only be unhelpful in terms of objecting to planning applications for major projects. Flooding in Cosgrove was mentioned by Ward Cllr McCord at meeting of West Northants Council (WNC) in December but the focus of that meeting was more on the events at Billing Aquadrome. It was suggested Cosgrove Parish Council (CPC) should invite one of the two Flood Officers at WNC to attend the next meeting of the PC. Several trees had been cut down near where the car had been recovered late last year. Concerns were expressed in case the land belonged to Highways but historical knowledge at the meeting said the land was in private ownership. The issue of overhanging trees and hedges along Stratford Road was raised, again. There was some discussion about the PC funding removal of the trees growing on the roadside, but it was acknowledged it was not the responsibility of the PC and it would be prohibitively expensive. FixMyStreet could be used to report this. Ward Councillor McCord was not present.	
CPC/25/02/6 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/25/02/7</p> <p>a). The PC received the update on the current finances in comparison to the budget and is attached at Appendix B.</p> <p>b). The payment schedule, circulated ahead of the meeting, was approved and is attached at Appendix C. The payments to be made by BACS transfer, debit card or direct debit.</p> <p>c). An inspection of the accounts was carried out on Tuesday 28 January. Systems and processes were checked for the first three quarters of Financial Year 2024-2025 and nine invoices were scrutinised. There was one anomaly which was corrected. Next inspection will be in April 2025.</p> <p>d) Resolved to pay a donation of £200 to the village hall as agreed in the budget for 2024-2025.</p> <p>e). Resolved to pay £150 annual membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks.</p> <p>f). Resolved to meet the cost of £42 plus VAT for Planning for Elections training for the Clerk.</p> <p>g). Resolved to set up a standing order for the payment of monthly dog waste collection by Shield Group of £91.00 per month for twelve months.</p> <p>h). Resolved to increase burial fees for Rectory Grounds Cemetery (new fees attached at Appendix D).</p> <p>i). Resolved to reinvest £15,000 in a Lloyds nine month fixed deposit account.</p>	<p>Clerk to set up BACS payments and pass to Cllr Smith or Proctor for authorisation</p> <p>Clerk to set up Standing Order</p> <p>Clerk to reinvest £15,000</p>
<p>CPC/25/02/8 Councillor Updates</p> <p>Cllr Proctor requested help to map the village assets on the Parish Online Mapping software.</p> <p>Cllr Bird noted it had been reported to him trees had been planted the length of the new fence which it is believed to be marking the revised boundary of Cosgrove Park.</p> <p>Cllr Bracey reported he had removed a fly tipped article on Yardley Road. No progress on the dumped tyres below the level of Northampton Road (reported to FixMyStreet in December 2024). An accident at the junction of Yardley Road and Station Road – Castlethorpe turn - had occurred on 15 January 2025. Police were in attendance but it should be reported to West Northants Highways. There are three deep potholes near the Spinney on Stratford Road that need to be reported on FixMyStreet.</p>	<p>Cllr Roberts to liaise with Cllr Proctor over mapping</p> <p>Clerk to report accident</p> <p>Cllr Bracey to report potholes on FMS</p>
<p>CPC/25/02/9 Planning: Application No. 2025/0100/FULL Proposal Garden landscaping works including levels changes and terracing along with retaining features (retrospective) Location 56 Stratford Road Cosgrove MK19 7BD Noted. No comment.</p> <p>Application Number: PLN/2024/2686 - Listed building consent (Alt/Ext)</p> <p>Location: 6 South Street, Castlethorpe, Milton Keynes, MK19 7EL</p> <p>Proposal: Listed building consent for the proposed new ground mounted solar array of up to 54 panels located in the paddock adjacent to the railway line in the South-East corner of the property. For information only. No comment. Unlikely to be visible from Cosgrove.</p>	
<p>CPC/25/02/10 Playpark:</p> <p>A newly established group, Friends of Cosgrove (FOC), provided an update on their work to refurbish the children's playpark. They had gone into Cosgrove Primary School and pupils had responded well to the request to give ideas about what they would like to see in</p>	

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the playpark. Consultation of parents and carers had so far been less productive. It is hoped to open a bank account and for grant applications to be made.	
CPC/25/02/11 The PC noted the government's consultation on Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England. There does not seem to be a problem with the conduct of councillors in Cosgrove, but it was acknowledged raising standards across councils in England was a laudable objective. It was agreed as many Councillors as possible would aim to complete the consultation which closes on 26 February 2025.	All Cllrs to complete consultation before 26.02.2025
CPC/25/02/12 Meetings: dates of the meetings for the forthcoming year were agreed and are attached at Appendix E.	
CPC/25/02/13 Policies: Grant Awarding Policy and Procedure adopted.	Cllr Smith to post on website
CPC/25/02/14 Christmas Lights a). The report and accounts were noted. b). It was resolved , by the councillors with no interest in the item, to pay the balance of the Public Liability Insurance premium (£35) and the contribution to the cost of electricity (£50). c). it was agreed to table "taking over the Christmas Lights Event by the Parish Council" at the March meeting.	Payment to be made by Clerk and List Lights on March Agenda
CPC/25/02/16 Dot Gov Dot UK. a). It was noted the PC now has ownership of cosgroveparishcouncil.gov.uk. b). It was noted the government funding towards the cost of this process was no longer available. c). Resolved to purchase 7 email addresses from Hugo fox at a cost of £17.49 per month plus VAT.	Clerk to arrange purchase of emails
CPC/25/02/17 Speed Indicator Devices (SID) The PC were grateful to the volunteer for the considerable amount of time devoted to downloading and collating the data from the three SIDs. It was noted there had been 364,367 vehicle movements in Cosgrove in 2024. Of those movements, 219,597 had crossed over the bridge when leaving the village. In August 2024, 77% of all movements (39,254) had crossed over the bridge whereas in February 2024 the percentage dropped to 39% of 22,636 movements. The average speeds captured by the SIDs were between 20 and 25 mph. The highest recorded speeds for all three SIDS were worrying. Of note were 65 mph recorded on the Yardley Road SID in April and 62 mph achieved by someone going out over the bridge in January 2024.	
CPC25/02/18 Housing Needs Survey. It was resolved to take up the free survey from NACRE although there were some reservations about the effectiveness of affordable housing.	Clerk to liaise with NACRE
CPC/25/02/19 Meeting Appraisal: It was felt the timings had been adhered to well and the meeting had been effective.	
CPC/25/02/14 Date of next meeting: Wednesday5 March 2025 (Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 Part II para 8.1)	
Meeting closed at 20.51	