

Cosgrove Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Cosgrove Parish Council held on **Wednesday 3 December 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. There was 1 member of the public present.

CPC/25/12/1 Cllr Roberts was absent owing to work commitments. Cllrs McCord and Dabbs were absent due to holiday and work commitments respectively.

CPC/25/12/2 Cllr Smith declared an interest in CPC/25/12/9 as the applicant in 2025/4578/PIP was a friend but confirmed he had had no discussions about the planning application.

CPC/25/12/3 The Minutes of the meeting of 5 November 2025 were approved unanimously.

CPC/25/12/4 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the Agenda were

- lights on the Christmas Tree were switched on by a volunteer on Sunday 30 November.
- Meeting with the author of the flooding report had resulted in revisions being made.

CPC/25/12/5 Public Session

The Furtho Development Opposition Group member expanded on the second matter arising above. The assessment of the reservoir expert, who contributed to the flooding report, was the reservoir would have to be built to stringent standards and maintained in perpetuity. It was not, therefore, an issue on which to base an objection. Sequential and exception tests might be a more fruitful area. These are essential tools in flood risk management, ensuring that new developments are located in areas with the lowest flood risk and that any necessary developments in higher-risk areas are justified and safe.

Cllr McCord circulated his report by email in advance of the meeting. The Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee has agreed to conduct a review on the operation of S106 agreements. Feedback comments to Cllr McCord. West Northants Council (WNC) budget for 2026-2027 will be published on 19 December 2025

CPC/25/12/6 The Clerk's report is appended to these Minutes at Appendix A.

Action: Clerk to table overtime, designated grave digger and Orchard Close lighting on the Agenda of the next meeting.

CPC/25/12/7 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 £4881.76 is appended to these Minutes at Appendix C

(c) The Precept calculations for 2026-2027 were scrutinised and it was resolved to request £25,958. It was noted there is a reduction in the Precept required from that of the current financial year as it is anticipated drawing down on earmarked reserves. The Precept required will be £25,958. The Precept calculations and final budget are appended to these Minutes at Appendix D.

- (d) Purchase of a gate closer was not approved as WNC Rights of Way have been asked to supply one.
- (e) It was **resolved** to make the budgeted donations to Old Mail, History Society, Women's Institute, Royal British Legion and the Village Hall.
- (f) It was **resolved** to purchase of an Exclusive Right of Burial book at a cost of £128 plus VAT.

Actions: Clerk to submit PR1 Estimated Precept Form by 14 January. Clerk to make agreed payments.

CPC/25/12/8 Councillor updates

Cllr Bracey nothing to report

Cllr Bird attended a meeting in his new role as Climate and Nature Champion. A speaker from the Wildlife Trust had lots of ideas about what could be done from hedgehog and bat boxes, recording species to the Churchyard Award Scheme. It was agreed Cllr Bird would invite the speaker to visit the village to give further guidance and see if she would be able to attend the Annual Assembly of the Parish. Cllr Bird will also investigate setting up a Cosgrove village wildlife page on the village website.

Cllr Comerford has received complaints from residents in Bridge Road about vehicles belonging to visitors being parked for prolonged periods making it difficult for residents to park near their homes. Vehicles were also seen to be blocking the pavement on Bridge Road making it necessary for pedestrians to go into the road to pass. Although neither of these issues is a matter for the PC, as it falls under highways, it was agreed to contact Canal and River Trust about overstaying boats as vehicles from these seemed to be having an impact on the parking. Cllr Comerford confirmed the refurbishment of the village planters had been carried out with the help of a volunteer and Cllr Bird.

Cllr Proctor had chased the repair to the grates either side of the horse tunnel – still on the list.

Cllr Smith confirmed all councillors who use email are now on dot gov dot uk. He reported a conversation with a member of the public who agreed to look at the website and provide feedback on accessibility and content.

Action: Cllr Bird to invite Wildlife Trust to visit the village. Clerk to draft letter to Canal and River Trust

CPC/25/12/9 Planning

There were some concerns about access in 2025/4578/PIP 58 Stratford Road Cosgrove MK19 7BD Permission in principle for up to four dwellings and it was resolved to respond to the consultation with these observations.

2025/4795/TCA Proposal to reduce height of Lombardy Poplar tree to approximately 7m at 44B Bridge Road Cosgrove MK19 7JH was noted.

Action: Clerk to draft response to 2025/4578/PIP

CPC/25/12/10 It was agreed to adjust the Minutes to make them shorter to meet the requirements for the contribution to the Old Mail.

Action: Clerk to adapt Minutes

CPC/25/12/11 It was **resolved** to purchase a replacement Queen's Canopy tree for Meadow View Cemetery up to £200.

Action: Cllr Bird to source tree and liaise with Cllr Bracey about metal cage.

CPC/25/12/12 It was **resolved** the date for the Annual Assembly of the Parish will be Wednesday 15 April 2026.

Action: Clerk to make village hall booking

CPC/25/12/13 After discussion, it was **resolved** to appoint Scott Welding and Fabrication to realign the playpark fence. Heras fencing to be used for health and safety reasons, pedestrian gate to remain on side facing Stratford Road, vehicle gate to be moved to adjacent to the hedge, playpark fence to be extended to the edge of the grass (beyond the memorial bench) and brought in to 2 m from the double swings.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Scott Welding and Fabrication and inform other contractors who quoted of the decision. Clerk to inform owner of the memorial bench

CPC/25/10/14 The date of the next meeting will be **Wednesday 4 February 2026**. Any business needing to be conducted in the interim to be carried out using Teams chat and email and brought to the February meeting for ratification.

The meeting closed at 21.00 hours.