

Cosgrove Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish

15 April 2026

1. The meeting opened at 19.30. Cllr Tony Bracey welcomed everyone to the Annual Assembly of the Parish meeting (AAPM). There were 40 attendees.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Ward Cllr Dabbs, Cllr Roberts and Mr B Hewetson.
3. The Minutes of the AAPM of 19 March 2025, posted on the village website immediately after that meeting, were adopted unamended.
4. Cllr Smith, Cosgrove Parish Council Chair, gave the annual report of the Parish Council which is appended to these Minutes at Appendix A.
5. Parish Clerk Evans gave the annual financial report of the Parish Council which is appended to these Minutes at Appendix B.
6. Ward Councillor McCord gave his annual report which is appended to these Minutes at Appendix C.
7. Cllr Bird, Climate and Nature Champion, gave a short visual presentation featuring birds and mammals filmed locally.
8. A short video featuring the work of the Parish Council over the last year was shown. The compilation was made by a volunteer and can be seen on the village website – www.cosgroveparishcouncil.gov.uk
9. Ms Lesley Harper, Northants Action with Communities in Rural England (NACRE) presented the findings of the housing survey, sent to every property in the village in July 2025. The aim was to gather information regarding the local housing requirements. Of those contacted, 80 responses were received, which represents an overall response rate of 30%. Following a thorough assessment of these responses, it has been determined that seven new homes are necessary to fulfil the requirements of those who participated in the survey. The full survey can be found at Appendix D.
10. Short reports were made by Cosgrove History Society, Cosgrove Social Table Tennis, Community Speed Watch and Cosgrove Bell Ringers. The common theme for all these groups was they would all welcome more participation by residents. The History Society was formed in 2022 and meets second Wednesday of the month between March and June and September and November. Speakers give talks on a variety of matters. Thanks were given to volunteers who help run the sessions. It was noted Cosgrove Village History website is waiting for MK Heritage Association to make the pages relating to Cosgrove live. Cosgrove Social Table Tennis, set up in 2019, paused during COVID and relaunched in January 2022, meets on Thursdays between 19.00 and 21.00/21.30. It caters for all abilities and costs £5 for the evening. There are four tables and recently there have been 12 to 14 players, including two from MK premier league who are seeking a regular venue for practising. Community Speed Watch are all about education, rather than punishment. A new scheme has been launched, and Cosgrove Parish Council has funded the purchase of equipment through its Community Grant Scheme. Volunteers are sought as for each 30 minute session the speed gun is deployed, two to three people are needed to note registration numbers as well as speeds. Information can be found on the village website, with anyone interested in finding out more encouraged to contact the administrator via the Parish Clerk (clerk@cosgroveparishcouncil.gov.uk) in the first instance. Cosgrove Bell Ringers practice at St Peter and St Paul Church, Cosgrove the first two Mondays each month, and in Calverton and Stony Stratford on the third and fourth Mondays. There is a monthly service at Cosgrove which is announced by bells ringing. Sadly, there are insufficient ringers from Cosgrove now, so forces have had to be joined with Stony Stratford. There are 6 bells at Cosgrove with the oldest dated 1580 and two others are dated 1630. Bell ringing is a very sociable activity as well as being a good workout. Anyone interested in learning is welcome to come along and watch. Practice is between 19.30 and 21.00.

11. There were several matters raised during the Open Forum.

- It was suggested West Northants Road Sweepers publish their schedule so residents can move vehicles parked on the street
- It was noted that some pavements in the village are damaged as they are not designed to be parked on. There was discussion about the need to park on street for residents without off street parking
- It was suggested any residual amount of Community Infrastructure Levy (paid following the completion of the housing development on Bridge Road) might be channelled towards pavement repairs
- Using the WNC App and FixMyStreet was recommended to report problems with pavements and potholes
- Anti-social parking on Yardley Road too near the crossroads was raised as a health and safety issue for other drivers and for pupils crossing the road to get into the school. There was a suggestion that double yellow lines be requested from WNC Highways – although it was acknowledged enforcement would present issues
- Overhanging vegetation, particularly on the bend opposite the Church, was causing issues for several road users. It was noted the Parish Council no longer write to residents about vegetation. Instead, reporting on FixMyStreet was recommended
- The iron grates either end of the horse tunnel have received a temporary repair by Canal and River Trust (CRT). The Parish Council continues to monitor this work in progress
- It was noted issues with the tow path need to be reported directly to CRT. The issue of multiple trips by heavy goods vehicles carrying hardcore to Cosgrove Park, particularly early in the morning, was raised. There is concern infilling of lakes is being carried out without permission which is likely to increase local flooding

12. The pressure group Stop3000Trucks displayed their scale model of the proposed warehouse development which was well received. They also delivered an informative presentation to update the meeting about events over the past twelve months:

- In April, the Environment Agency withdrew their objection but have raised several concerns,
- WNC lead flood authority have also raised similar concerns,
- Cosgrove Parish Council commissioned a further review of the flood mitigation proposals,
- Old Stratford Parish Council engaged a transport consultant who raised several concerns about inaccurate assumptions,
- An independent ecology consultant raised issues in March and October about the use of incomplete and unreliable information,
- in July an independent Landscape and Visual Impact (LVI) consultant raised serious concerns over the reliability of the applicant's LVI assessment report

Stop3000Trucks paid tribute to their supporters who have raised funds and responded to calls to lodge objections on the Planning Portal. It is still not known when the application will go before the Strategic Planning Committee.

13. A vote of thanks to all attendees and those presenting was given by Cllr Proctor.

14. The meeting closed at 21.50.