



# COSBY PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Cosby Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in the Heritage Room, Cosby Village Hall, Park Road, Cosby.

**Present:** Cllr: V Rye (Chair) Cllr: S Wegerif (Vice Chair) Cllr: C Pharaoh  
Cllr: M Howkins Cllr: J Chapman Cllr: M Hillmann  
Cllr: S Boocock Cllr: H Stevenson (Left @8.37pm) Cllr: G Lee

**Also present** Mrs S Chapman (Assistant Parish Manager)

**Members of the Public:** 2 members of public present with requests to speak under agenda item 10 (b) – Public Participation - items not on the agenda.

### 23.827 Chairmans welcome

Cllr: Rye welcomed those present and thanked Cllr: S Wegerif for his report regarding the Carbon Footprint training.

Cllr: Rye advised that the meeting is recorded and confirmed with the members of the public that they were content.

Cllr: Rye reminded Members that newer Councillors will not always understand the active history of decision making and background to works in progress and encourages newer Members to ask if they need to know more about any points of discussion.

### 23.828 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr: J Wolfe (Approved)

### 23.829 To receive disclosures of members' interests (i.e. the existence and the nature of those interests in respect of items on this agenda

Cllr: M Howkins – Non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9 (a) as Treasurer of Cosby Heritage Society

**RESOLVED: @ 7.06pm,** That the meeting be suspended and agenda item 10 (b) Public Participation be moved up the agenda to allow members of the public to make representations about items that are not on the agenda.

**a)** Mrs D Cooper spoke regarding her concerns over a number of areas adjacent to the highway being in need of attention including: -

- (1) Faded white lines on the Narborough Road pedestrian crossing
- (2) Cambridge Road - overgrown hedges impacting on the footway
- (3) Tree roots emerging out of the rock wall adjacent to Pretty Corner
- (4) Beech hedge within the Village Hall car park / Park Road footway

**The Parish Manager will investigate and action accordingly**

**b)** Mr C Snowball spoke regarding concerns over the loss of sports teams from Cosby Victory Park following commentary on Spotted Cosby and would like to understand what the vision is for the future of sports provision in Cosby.

- i) Chair and Parish Manager provided clarity that there had been no resistance to supporting the junior football club or any sports clubs in the village. Architect's drawings were commissioned and planning permission granted for the re-modelling of the changing rooms to include private under 16's changing rooms and the provision of a disabled toilet facility.
- ii) The loss of the senior football and senior rugby clubs are as a result of a lack of players only.
- iii) An annual peppercorn lease charge to the Village Hall Committee was established by legal agreement in 1974.

**The Parish Council will provide a written response to Mr C Snowball on behalf of the Recreation Ground Charity and Cosby Parish Council but may require permission from other stakeholders in order to provide the fullest and most informative written response.**

Meeting returns public session @7.23pm

**23.830 To receive and sign the minutes of the meeting of Cosby Parish Council held on Thursday 19th October 2023.**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of Cosby Parish Council held on Thursday 19th October 2023 be signed as an accurate record with the amendment to "hours and days". (Minute 23.821 (a))

**23.831 To receive and approve the financial reports for the month ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 including income and expenditure, budget year to date, balance sheet and to record the signing of the bank reconciliation for the same period.**

**RESOLVED:** That the financial reports for the month ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 including income and expenditure, budget year to date and balance sheet be signed as an accurate record and it be noted: -

- a) That the Santander Bond account is now closed and that a closing statement has not yet been provided so no banking reconciliation can be tabled for this account.
- b) Cllr: Hillmann enquired about the underspend on staff salaries at the October meeting – this has been identified as a budgeting error vs employers' tax and National Insurance and will be recalculated from the December 2023 payroll for the 2024/25 budget.
- c) Cllr V Rye queried 180-4990 (Sundries). Parish Manager confirmed that this relates to the purchase of the MVAS units with the corresponding grant income at 100-1100

**23.832 Agenda item 6 – Report from the Village Hall Committee – to be re-scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023 meeting**

**23.833 Clerks Report**

- a) **Settlement lighting** - observation indicates that all street lights have been upgraded to LED so electricity consumption charges should reduce significantly.
- b) **Santander** – Parish Manager advises that due to errors and upheld complaints with Santander, 2 lots of £200 compensation were paid into the Parish Managers personal accounts which have been transferred to the Parish Councils General Reserves account.
- c) £100,000 has now been invested in the Charity Bank.
- d) A second investment bond account is being opened with Redwood Bank but will not require Cllr: J Chapman as a signatory.

**23.834 To consider any Memorial applications not in compliance with the published cemetery Rules & Regulations. None to consider**

**23.835 Correspondence received.**

- a) **Email – Cosby Heritage Society** – request to pay for repairs to Heritage Notice Board – The Nook.

**RESOLVED:** That Cosby Parish Council seeks to commission the repairs to rotting posts. (Addendum – the Heritage Notice Board is listed as a Parish Council asset @ £1,861)

- b) **Email – Request for grant for Christmas lights Cherry Picker**

**RESOLVED:** That a sum of £715 be approved from the Parish Councils grant provision

- c) **Email (Late correspondence) Mr C Snowball** – query regarding £83,438 cost of playground equipment.

Parish Manager has provided a written email response (read out) which sets-out the complex nature of the equipment selection, procurement requirements and procedure followed which did not involve a competitive tender in preference to a direct research, formal design, public presentations and competitive quotations being sourced.

**23.836 To consider any planning applications listed and any notices received after the publication of the agenda.**

- a) Parish Manager advised that the Construction Traffic Management Plan for The Mount (22/0062/FUL) was not yet listed on the planning portal at Blaby District Council.

**23.837 To consider and approve the meeting dates for the calendar year 2024**

**RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council meeting dates for 2024 be approved with a meeting in August to be held if required and Working Party meetings timed as required to suit attendees.

**23.838 To receive any updates from Working Parties to include: -**

- a) **Finance and Staffing Working Party – updated 2024/25 budget**

- i) Members provided with latest budget revision indicating 6.76% increase to include £7,500 investment interest and a Precept of £157,752.

(1) The Parish Manager urges caution in setting a budget and Precept based on un-earned income (bank interest) due to the variable nature of investment interest and future budgetary impacts.

(2) A finalised budget will be presented in January to support the Precept setting

(3) Members advised that reserves highlighted in red are recalculated after the year-end transfers and recovery of VAT.

- b) **Cemetery Working Party**

**RESOLVED:** That the recommendations for fee increases (c:10%) from the Cemetery Working Party are approved to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and minor adjustments to the future income be budgeted.

- i) Cemetery Working Party to continue to explore ideas and options for the setting-out of new cremation and burial plots, a new memorial area in the top left corner for scattering ashes and memorial wall. (Spring 2024) (Any Member to contribute with ideas)

**23.839 To receive any updates on Village Projects to include**

- a) **Remembrance Day Parade – review**

- i) Some concerns raised over last minute (on-the-day) amendments to the running order leaving bewildered attendees on Main Street. Chair and Parish Manager to liaise with churches and firm up plans for the future

- b) **Christmas Market and Christmas Light switch on**

- i) All progressing well but still some market stall places available.

ii) Horse Chestnut on corner of Croft Rd / Broughton Rd is being fully re-wrapped with all other electrics tested and lights repaired.

**c) Cosby LRALC / BDC Carbon Literacy project (Volunteer Members report)**

i) Cllr: S Wegerif provided an email summary report of the training with hand-outs provided for Members to take-away.

**23.840 To receive any reports from External meetings**

a) None attended with concern raised over the LRALC AGM meeting time during the working day.

**23.841 To receive any reports from County / District Councillors**

a) No reports tabled due to time

**23.842 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM:** In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 and (Exempt information at Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 Act) the press and the public will be excluded from the following item by reason of the confidential nature of the business (**Personal, Financial**) to be discussed and Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual/s and will be requested to withdraw.

a) To note and approve the Local Government Pay Awards for the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

**RESOLVED:** That the local government pay awards for the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and spinal point increases be approved.

**23.843 To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Meeting closed at 8.59pm**