

Costock Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of Costock Parish Council held on Wednesday 15 November 2023, in the Village Hall, Costock at 7.00pm

Parishioners were welcome to attend in person - no members of the public attended

In Attendance: Cllr Kath Owen, Cllr Peter Gordon, Cllr Mike Mears, Cllr John Finney, Cllr Lindsay McGowan and Cllr Victoria McCourt

Attendees: County Cllr Cottee and Lucy Brazendale, Clerk

1. To receive and approve apologies for Absence

Borough Cllr Edyvean and the Cllr Angela Hoyle sent their apologies which were approved

2. To record Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest

3. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2023

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by the Council as a correct record.

4. Clerk's Report

Nothing to report.

5. Verbal report from the County Councillor, Cllr Cottee

Cllr Cottee following up on the issues raised at the last meeting, following Laura Trussler's comprehensive response:-

Flooding

Main Street - we have received emails from the Council to say the flooding here does not cause a threat to public safety and so there will be no intervention made.

Cllr Gordon did add that the pavement which had been damaged by the flooding as already been repaired.

Algar Close - nothing heard regarding this flooding and it is still a serious issue every time it rains. The manhole cover lifts off each time which is clearly dangerous. Cllr Cottee will look into this further. It should be for the developer of Algar Close to resolve and Cllr Cottee is to investigate how / whether they can be compelled to do this.

A-Boards and Seating on the pavement

It is mainly the A-Boards which are causing a problem for pedestrians trying to use the pavement outside the pub. The Parish Council will keep this issue under review to see if further action needs to be taken.

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HGV's and double decker buses coming through the village

There is a 7.5 T weight limit on Main Street "except for access" and the Council felt that all the vehicles using Main Street would probably be able to argue that they were using the road for access. The vehicles have not been seen to speed or drive dangerously and so it was felt that there is little that can be done to prevent these vehicles using Main Street.

Action: Clerk to report back to villager who had raised this issue.

Additional Lamp Post on Main Street

Action: Cllr Cottee will look into the progress on this.

Speed Camera

Cllr Cottee explained that these cameras are set up not to show the speed of vehicles travelling at high speed to discourage people using them in a competitive manner to record fast speeds. The data should still be being recorded by the machines but Cllr Cottee was not sure if the Council retain this information. He will ask whether the Parish Council can be sent the data recorded if it is retained.

Action: Cllr Cottee to ask if speed monitoring data can be provided to the Parish Council

Cllr Cottee left the meeting at 7.25pm**6. Correspondence**

Nottinghamshire County Council Education Appeals committee is asking for more volunteers to sit on Appeals panels and have asked if the Council would we be prepared to advertise this on our website or in our newsletter. The Parish Council agreed to add this to our website.

Action: Clerk to advertise this on the Parish Council website.

David Dixon our Internal Auditor and accountant has said that a new rule has come in which means he can no longer carry out our payroll services and internal audit. It was agreed that the Clerk will take over the payroll services.

Clerk informing the Cllrs that there is a webinar tomorrow on the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund at 5.30.

7. Planning Matters

No planning applications received this month

8. Solar Farm - Old Wood Energy Park Proposal

No application has yet been received but it is believed it may be made during November.

When an application is received the Parish Council propose holding a meeting to provide villagers with information about the plans and also to canvas village opinion about the plan. If necessary, the Council will then perhaps call an emergency meeting in December to prepare a response to any planning application made.

9. Playing Field and Equipment

Risk assessment - No problems to report other than two dead rabbits were found on the field which Cllr Mears kindly disposed of.

It is clear that people are still walking their dogs on the field as poo bags have been found in the playground bins. The Council expressed concerns about how dangerous this is to users of the playing field, particularly children and want to ensure it is clear dogs are not allowed on the playing field.

Action: Clerk to order 3 new A4 signs to remind the village that no dogs are allowed on the playing field.

10. Environment

(a) See HGV point raised in County Cllr's report section

(b) Village Gateway signs The Council have decided that the cost of the 4 village gateway signs that they would have liked to provide for the village are deemed too expensive. The Council will keep researching other providers and options, including other sources of funding.

(c) Flags Cllr Owen had researched when the Union Jack flag can / should be flown. It was decided that because the Ukrainian flag has become rather shredded this will be taken down for now, although the Council are keen to still show their support for Ukraine and so will perhaps buy another flag in future. There will be no flags put up for a time.

(d) Flooding - see County Cllr's report section

Action: Clerk to invite our MP to one of our next meetings to discuss flooding\\

Barrs Hill - the hedge which had been very overgrown has now been pruned.

Action: Clerk to establish whose responsibility this hedge is for future reference.

11. Nature Reserve

Thank you to Cllr McGowan for her persistence and hard work in getting a contractor to complete the work on the hibernaculum at the Nature Reserve.

The Risk Assessment has very kindly been completed for the nature reserve. The only action necessary to apply more chippings to the paths and this is being organized.

12. Village Hall

Council agreed that it will start looking into whether work should be carried out to renew the ceiling in the Hall which would include improving the insulation and repairs.

Action: This to be considered for the budget for next financial year and possible

funding sources researched.

13. Finance

(a) Payments sheet, accounts sheet circulated by Clerk. Payments were approved by the Council

November 2023	Date	Chq. / BACS	Payee / service	Net	VAT	Total
	15.7.23		Aart de Groot - tree dismantling at Nature Reserve	£650.00	£130.00	£780.00
	18.10.23		RCAN subscription	£95.00	£19.00	£114.00
	27.10.23		Microsoft 365 subscription	£49.99	£10.00	£59.99
	31.10.23		Christmas tree stand - Amazon	£124.99	£25.00	£149.99
	2.11.23		Norton Anti virus protection	£29.16	£5.83	£34.99
	20.10.23		Specialised Groundcare Ltd - Work on hibernaculum at nature Reserve	£595.00	£119.00	£714.00
	15.11.23		Clerk's salary			
	15.11.23		Tax on Clerk's salary			
	15.11.23		Clerk's mobile phone	£4.00	£0.00	£4.00
Total expenditure for meeting				£1,869.44	£308.83	£2,178.27
Total expenditure to date in current financial year				£9,427.80	£865.67	£10,028.38

- (b) Natwest bank update - no response has been received from NatWest.
Action: Clerk to chase and if nothing heard the Council agreed to change the Council Bank account to Unity Bank
- (c) Budget initial consideration - the Council had nothing at this time to add to the budget, except what had been discussed in this meeting and agreed that membership of the SLCC could be paid for to ensure the Council is kept up to date with legal and policy changes and have access to more training.
- (d) The Council approved purchasing a Christmas tree stand to display the Christmas tree for the village at the Village Hall under section 137 Local Government Act.
- (e) The Clerk withdrew while the Council considered her pay review. The Council agreed to increase the Clerk's pay in line with NALC recommendations (backdated to April 2023) and to increase her salary by one pay point now she has been in post for 1 year. The Clerk thanked the Council for this and their kindness and support to her during the year.

14. Defibrillator

Nothing has been heard regarding the application for grants to purchase an additional defibrillator for the village.

Action: Clerk to try and investigate the position regarding these applications

15. Village website / newsletter

A Newsletter will be prepared for December.

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Items to be included - problem and dangers of dogs on the playing field and request to establish if there is any interest in creating a village email circulation list for quicker dissemination of information if needed.

17. To receive items for information - no other matters

18. Date of next meeting confirmation - 17 January 2024 - The Council agreed to not having a meeting in December as it is so close to Christmas, unless an emergency meeting is required to discuss planning matters.

Lucy Brazendale, Clerk to Costock Parish Council

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