

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 2nd March at 7:00pm

Present:

38 public present

Penny Weston-Webb (Chairman)

Richard Plant

Howard Sanderson

Debra Marshall

Emma Crowe (Clerk)

1. **The Chairman opened the meeting and gave everyone a warm welcome.**
2. **The Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2022 were signed as a true record**

3. **Chairman's report**

Welcome to everyone and thank you for attending this evenings Annual Parish Meeting. It is great to see so many of you here.

The Parish Council have had a busy year....

We have put in a lot of effort with other members of the community over the past 3 years to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. Once approved, this document will be used by Charnwood Borough Council to determine planning applications in the Parish based on local priorities rather than Borough-wide concerns.

The Neighbourhood Plan contains a range of locally relevant planning policies that will shape development in the Parish for many years. It is a statutory document that has equal weight to the Local Plan and will help to protect the Parish from further inappropriate development that we have seen recently.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan has now been submitted to CBC and they will undertake further consultation before appointing an Examiner to check that it is in line with broader strategic planning policies, as it needs to be. The Plan will then be voted on by everyone on the electoral roll in the Parish at a referendum, which we expect to take place later this year.

The PC would like to thank all those that have contributed their time and thoughts about the future of Cossington to help make the Neighbourhood Plan truly representative of the Parish and to help make sure that any future development meets a local need and that the most important environmental areas are protected.

We have had two major development plans passed by Charnwood Borough Council Planning Committee. The Parish Council together with James Poland attended the planning meetings but were unsuccessful in opposing the building of 130 houses next to Derry's Nurseries and 57 houses at the junction of Main Street and Syston Road. There has also been planning permission granted for the green belt land between Sibleby and Cossington for 170 houses. Planning has been granted for a solar farm between Syston Road and the A46.

At the present time we are looking into the ownership of the drive between Main Street and the Memorial car park. This is very difficult as we are unable to ascertain who the owners are and therefore having to go to the Land Registry and use solicitors to help us. The Parish Council are waiting for quotes to come in for resurfacing the area.

It was lovely to see so many of the villagers get together in June to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the late Queen. Thank you to Harry and Alison Longman for letting us gather in their home. We hope as many or more villagers will join us in the Kings Coronation celebrations on Sunday 7th June. More details will be leafleted nearer the time.

In the Winter we cleared the dead trees and brambles along crab tree lane. Goscote Nurseries have recently donated and planted seven different species of crab apple trees along Crab Tree Lane to commemorate the late Queen Elizabeth's reign of 70 years.

With great sadness we saw the death of Queen Elizabeth II where as Chairman, I read the proclamation at the war memorial which was well attended. A book of condolence was also available for Parishioners to say their respects.

We are hoping in the next month or two to receive a VAS sign from the members Highway fund. This will have 4 locations in the village.

We were very sad to see at the end of September the bus service through the village being cancelled. We as a Parish Council have and continue to work with Sileby Parish Council to try and get some sort of public transport back in action.

The Cossington flood study is currently in progress. Most of the data required has been gathered and added into a hydraulic flood model, and the remaining data will hopefully be added in the next couple of months. The flood model has been built with the aim of better understanding flood risk in the catchment, possible flooding mechanisms, and to test potential measures. The County Council is in regular contact with other relevant organisations such as Severn Trent Water. The initial study is due for completion later in 2023.

The most recent update we have received from Severn Trent Water is that they have had approval from their legal teams to submit a warrant to court for land access this week. Should the warrant be granted, STW will then access the land through which their outfall pipe runs to investigate the condition of the public surface water sewer and make any spot repairs. It is currently unclear how long this legal process may take.

Finally, I wish to thank Howard, Richard and Debra for the hard work they have put into the Council. It has been wonderful to work with them over the past 12 months.

I would also like to thank Emma for all the hard work she puts in for the Council. This gets more onerous every year. I certainly could not manage without her.

I hope you will all enjoy this evening. Various groups in the village will be giving you an idea of their part of Cossington life.

4. Being a Councillor

Mr Sanderson said a few words about what it meant to him to be a Councillor for Cossington Parish Council.

5. Volunteer groups

The following groups gave a brief update:

Women's Institute
Borough & County Council - Cllr James Poland
Platt's Charity
Royal Oak Pub
Village Centre
Gardening Club
Babington Charity
Sileby Vikings RFC
Crafters
Village Newsletter

6. Public questions and answers

No questions were asked.

7. Thankyou

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

6. Meeting closed at 9:00pm