

Costock Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of Costock Parish Council held on 18 January 2024, in the Village Hall, Costock at 7.00pm

Parishioners were welcome to attend in person - approximately 46 parishioners attended to discuss the flooding issues in the village.

Brief summary of these discussions:-

- Given the limited time available during this meeting and the unavailability of a County Council officer responsible for flooding the Parish Council will hold another meeting soon to further explore what can be done to improve the flooding problems in the village. Date to be notified to the village on the notice boards.
- One of the villagers fed back on the responses from the questionnaire which villagers have been asked to complete. Summary document attached.
- Suspected root causes of the flooding are:-
 - (a) inadequate maintenance of the drains in the village (many of them being blocked and so cannot carry water to the culverts to take the water away),
 - (b) inadequate drainage,
 - (c) fields leading down the village no longer have drainage ditches or catchment ponds and the way they are ploughed could increase, not slow the flow of water into the village
 - (d) suspected blocked and / or badly connected drains in Algar Close causing flooding in this area every time there is heavy rain - the water from Algar Close is water that is coming from the A60

Algar Close is a private road which has not been adopted by the County Council so they cannot remedy the problem directly themselves but have to do this through the developer. The County Council has been trying to do this but as yet has had no response.

- Possible actions that will be / are being investigated:-
 - (a) The Parish Council to lobby the County Council to conduct a camera survey of the drains in the village. Parishioners were also encouraged to lobby the County Council too. The Parish Council have no powers to conduct the surveys themselves.

It is thought that there possibly have been some surveys of the drains conducted in the village by VIA recently. Cllr Cottee will try and investigate what these were and the results.

- (b) The Highways team of the County is meeting on Friday to discuss the flooding issue and the how farmers are managing their fields will be discussed
 - (c) Cllr Gordon will organise putting together a team of flood warden volunteers who can join the County Council flood resilience scheme, receive training and then be in a position, amongst other things, to perhaps be able to close roads to prevent further damage to homes caused by the bow waves of passing vehicles
 - (d) Cllr Cottee confirmed that the County Council have a legal duty to clear drains and these are done on rotation but also on a priority basis for areas which are flooding very regularly and unfortunately funds are very limited for Councils currently.
- There are some funds being made available by government for flood relief to residents - more details are available by contacting the clerk (clerk@costock.parish.email)

Costock Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Chair's signature.....

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

Attendees: Cllr John Cottee, Cllr Andy Edyvean and Lucy Brazendale, Clerk

1. To receive and approve apologies for Absence

No apologies, all Councillors present

2. To record Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest

3. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 15 November 2023 and 8 December 2023

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair as approved

4. Clerk's report

Nothing to report

5. Verbal report from the Borough and County Councillors

Cllr Edyvean reported that he has been investigating the planning history at Algar Close. The difficulty is that the planning was signed off by the Inspector but Cllr Edyvean will investigate who the Inspector was and try to get their report.

Rushcliffe Borough Council is currently undergoing a peer review process.

Cllr Cottee provided the Chair with details of who and what those affected by the flooding can claim from the recovery funds just announced by the government.

Cllr Cottee reported that he has now stepped down from his cabinet role and has a new position from his role as lead member for Communities and is now Vice- Chairman for Transport and Highways.

6. Correspondence

- The Clerk reported that she had received no response to her request to MP Ruth Edwards to attend out Parish Council meeting

- Two parishioners have very kindly volunteered to do a weekly litter pick between Bars Hill and Dormans. The Parish Council will provide them with equipment

Action: Clerk to contact them regarding this, copying in Cllr McGowan who will deliver the litter pickers to them

- ROSPA have said that they can look at the zipline but cannot do a full inspection which requires taking some of the parts to pieces. The Clerk has contacted KOMPAN (the suppliers of the play equipment) to ask what the inspection requirements are and will report back once this information is received and seek quotes for the work required).

7. Flooding

In addition to the above discussions the following **actions are to be taken**:-

- Cllr Cottee confirmed that he will look into the drain survey reports which are thought to have been done in October of last year and also the report done in Church Lane approximately 3 years ago.
- Cllr Cottee and Cllr Edyvean will look into the issue with the developer and the drains in Algar Close
- Cllr Gordon will pursue setting up the volunteer flood warden scheme with the County Council
- Parish Council to contact local farmers to discuss the flooding issue and possible ways they could help (in addition to County Council doing this)
- Parish Council to lobby County Council to contact a camera survey of the village drains and to clear the drains (copy of letter to go on website)
- Meeting this Friday of County Council transport team to discuss the flooding will include how fields are managed near Costock and how this could be improved to help reduce / slow flooding.

8. Environment

A parishioner has reported that a number of parents at the school are getting abuse from motorists trying to pass when they drop off their children.

Traffic calming has been discussed many times by the Council but no solution to the problems such as above and speeding etc. have ever been found, e.g installing one way priority systems would probably cause gridlock as the road is so narrow already.

Actions: Cllr Cottee is organizing a meeting with one of his colleagues and will visit the village to look at moving the 30mph sign between East Leake and the village closer to East Leake, at the entry to the village. He will liaise with Cllr Owen on this.

Cllr Cottee will also look at whether any progress has been made on the village's request to be added to the On Demand bus route.

Cllr Edyvean will investigate whether the police did visit the village to do speedchecks.

Cllr Mears is to meet with Streetwise to discuss the playground inspection and will raise our request for an additional dog waste bin for outside the bus stop on the A60

Action: Clerk to pursue this dependent on the response from Streetwise

9. Planning

No objections or comments to the planning applications made during December detailed on the Notice of the Meeting

10. Solar Farm

Nothing further has been heard regarding this.

8.45 Cllr Cottee and Cllr Edyvean left the meeting

11. Playing Field and Equipment

Cllr Mears found no problems on his monthly risk assessment of the playing field

12. Nature Reserve

Cllr McGowan has received a very expensive quotation for bark chippings for the nature reserve from Streetwise so will seek other quotations.

13. Village Hall

Work needs doing on the ceiling of the village hall at some stage as the tiles need replacing. The hall also needs redecorating but agreed this should probably be done after the roof work. Both matters to be looked at further this year.

Action: Clerk to chase what is required for legionella testing.

14. Finance

(a) Payments of account – payments approved

January	Date	Chq. / BACS	Payee / service	Net	VAT	Total
	17.1.24		s137 contribution to Village Christmas tree	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
	16.1.24		Nottinghamshire County Council - Playing field rent	£770.00	£0.00	£770.00
			Rushcliffe Borough Council - Street cleansing (Jan. '24 - March '24)	£45.00	£9.00	£54.00
	17.1.24		Clerk's salary			
	17.1.24		Tax on Clerk's salary			
	17.1.24		Clerk's mobile phone	£4.00	£0.00	£4.00
Total expenditure for meeting				£1,219.07	£9.00	£1,228.07

Costock Parish Council Bank Reconciliation August - December 2023

Bank balance at 31 August 2023				£52,985.18
Business Reserve Account		£52,935.18		
Current Account		£50.00		
				£52,985.18
Payments received		£187.14		
Payments made		£5,302.68		
				£47,869.64
Bank balance as at 21 December 2023				£47,869.64

(b) Decision on changing bank account – NatWest's response to our letters has not been helpful so the Chair and Vice Chair to have one more try at getting new signatories and internet banking set up with NatWest

Action: Cllr Owen and Cllr Gordon to contact NatWest

(c) & (d) Budget presented and approved.

(d) Agreed to raise precept by £500 to £20,500 for the year 2024/2025

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Chair's signature.....

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	
Band D Council Tax Rate	£62.73	£64.75	£66.36	
Council Tax Base (equivalent Band D properties)		308.90		
Proposed Increase to Precept for 2023/2024	2.50%	£500.00		
	Costock Parish Council Element of Overall Council Tax Charge			
Council Tax Banding	2023/2024 Rate	Increase	2024/2025 Rate	Increase per month
Band A - 6/9	£43.17	£1.07	£44.24	£0.09
Band B - 7/9	£50.36	£1.25	£51.61	£0.10
Band C - 8/9	£57.56	£1.43	£58.99	£0.12
Band D - 9/9	£64.75	£1.61	£66.36	£0.13
Band E - 11/9	£79.14	£1.97	£81.11	£0.16
Band F - 13/9	£114.31	£2.84	£117.15	£0.24
Band G - 15/9	£107.92	£2.68	£110.60	£0.22
Band H - 18/9	£129.50	£3.22	£132.72	£0.27

(e) Consider appointment of new accountant to deal with payroll

Action: Clerk to discuss what involved with doing it herself to establish if need to outsource

(f) Review Parish Council insurance - figures for updated premium to raise village hall contents cover not yet received.

Action: Clerk to chase

15. Defibrillator

Concerns had been raised by Community Heartbeat about the defibrillator supplied under the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) grant scheme. Having spoken with someone from the DHSC, and establishing that the defibrillator is fully automatic, it was decided to keep this defibrillator and the clerk to organize for it to be fitted. Once it is fitted an open familiarisation session will be organised.

Action: Clerk to get quotations for fitting the defibrillator

16. Village website / newsletter

Cllr McGowan has been working on the website to get an availability calendar for the village hall included and more information about societies etc. in the village.

It was decided that a newsletter would be prepared following the next village meeting regarding flooding. It was agreed that interest in a village email list and area wardens for the village would be sought in this edition of the newsletter too.

17. To receive items for information

Agreed Clerk would write to Chris Oldham to thank him for donating the Christmas tree for the Village Hall and Cllr Owen to write to the Coyles thanking them for the tree near the Pinfold and to provide a donation towards its cost.

18. Date of next meeting confirmation - 21 February 2024

Meeting closed 9.20pm

Lucy Brazendale, Clerk to Costock Parish Council
Costock Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Chair's signature.....