

Costock Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of Costock Parish Council held on 21 February 2024, in the Village Hall, Costock at 7.00pm

Parishioners were welcome to attend in person - approximately 26 parishioners attended to discuss the flooding issues in the village.

Summary of these discussions:-

Callum Smith (CS), Principal Flood Risk Officer from the Flood Team at Nottinghamshire County Council came to provide information on the work that has been undertaken to date and the future work proposed.

- A drainage survey has been carried out in the village
- Some drain cleansing has been undertaken, including Main Street (because defect here full cleansing could not take place as it could damage the drains further)
- Defects have been found in some drains and there is remedial work planned for March on Main Street, Church Lane and Chapel Lane - there is approved budget for this work.
- Severn Trent is doing an inspection regarding the issues in Algar Close. They are looking at their options to solve the flooding - this could involve closing the manhole which has been overflowing. The Flood Team are also looking at what Natural Rain Management actions can be taken here and in the surrounding vicinity to solve the problem. The Flood Team is not authorised to deal with the drains on Algar Close as this is not an adopted road. Severn Trent's report has not yet been submitted so CS does not know the exact issues found yet.
- Some work has been carried out on the outfall from Church Lane.
- Work has started with some of the landowners of land surrounding the village, e.g. asking them to plough fields horizontally instead of vertically to hold more water in the fields, clearing ditches and discussion about building drainage ponds.

Parishioners were then able to direct questions to, or raise issues with Callum Smith (CS)

- Drains on the A60 are silted up - CS noted
- There have been leaks of sewage in, or close to, at least 2 houses in Chapel Lane - CS noted but also said **if there are ever any leaks of sewage this should be reported to Severn Trent who have the responsibility for such leaks** but also let the Flood Team know. CS said that Severn Trent are conducting a hydrology survey and will make sure this is added to that survey.
- During heavy rain there is a huge volume of water that flows down the A60 and into the village which it is suspected would overwhelm a balancing pond if built. CS explained that there is a new member of their team who is a specialist in Natural Water management and he will be looking at a combination of measures to help solve the flooding problems like this and that there is budget for the necessary work and Costock has been put high up the priority list for this work.
- A60 southbound, by the bus stop - there used to be an old dyke there but this was filled in by Highways.
- VIA operatives found an electrical cable running through one of the drains between Millers Lane and Church Lane.
- There has also been flooding on Gables Farm Drive which has not happened before until recently.
- A request was made to add Old Main Road and Wysall Lane to the list as these have flooded badly too.
- A60 layby drain is very blocked with rubbish. **Rubbish on the highway or verge can be reported to Rushcliffe Borough Council whose responsibility it is to clear it. This can be done online by anyone.** The Parish Council will notify the Borough Council.

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Chair's signature.....

- Question about when the work will be done - CS responded that the work will be started this year and that there is now budget for this work to be done.
- Question regarding whether any previous work with surrounding farmers - CS responded that not done previously as no budget for this but is now.
- Question as to what continuing maintenance there will be in future - CS responded that there will be continuing maintenance. Drains should be cleansed at least every 3 years and in priority areas once a year. He is happy to meet at regular intervals with the village or Parish Council (whichever works best) to keep the village updated as to what is happening and what continuing maintenance there will be.

CS said good idea to meet with Matt from VIA to discuss more frequent drain cleansing as they have the budget for this.

- Question as to what can be done if surrounding farmer's refuse to co-operate with suggested flood improvement plans - CS responded that they prefer to work co-operatively with landowners but that there are other solutions they can look to if necessary.
- CS will request plans of the drains from Notts CC and Severn Trent and if agreed will merge these and share with the village.

CS suggested that going forward best course of action would be to have another meeting with representatives from Severn Trent, himself, the village and VIA once all the investigations have been carried out and plans drawn up. The Parish Council will publish information regarding updates and reports on the website.

Contacts:-

The Flood Team Flood.team@nottsc.gov.uk

County Councillor cllr.john.cottee@nottsc.gov.uk

Parish Council clerk@costock.parish.council

Severn Trent - report sewage leak - 0800 783 4444

Public forum closed at 7.45

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

Attendees: Cllr John Cottee and Lucy Brazendale, Clerk

1. To receive and approve apologies for Absence

Cllr Peter Gordon and Cllr Victoria McCourt gave their apologies which were approved and Cllr Edyvean also sent his apologies.

2. To record Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest

3. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 21 January 2024

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Chair's signature.....

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 Cottee reported that the Borough Council is proposing a 2.4% Council Tax increase.

The County Council has its budget meeting on 22 February. They are proposing an increase of 4.4% (all other Councils in England are proposing 4.99%), this includes a 2.6% increase for social care.

Ben Bradley is to be running for the Mayoral position and his priorities are highways and flooding. The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections are on 2 May 2024.

Cllr Cottee will chase up on our request to move the 30mph sign further out of the village, towards East Leake and for Costock to be put on the On Demand Bus route.

Cllr Cottee took note of the report that one street lamp on Church Lane goes into one of the drains there which is a problem for drainage but also because the street lamp is probably not very secure.

Action: Cllr Owen will let Cllr Cottee know which street lamp

Cllr Cottee took note of the damaged Costock sign. Cllr McGowan has reported this to Notts CC already.

Cllr Cottee said that there might be up to 50% funding for new road signs from the Community Fund if the Parish Council wish to provide these for the village.

Action: Cllr Cottee will ask Laura Trusler to provide the clerk with the criteria for such signs.

Cllr Cottee left the meeting at 20.10

6. Correspondence

Cllr McGowan and the clerk will investigate further the Defra funded grant which can be used towards the repairing or improving village halls as it might be useful for the possible improvement of the village hall ceiling and roof insulation.

Action: Cllr McGowan and the Clerk to research Defra grant further

Clerk to apply for free portrait of the King

7. Flooding

please see public forum notes above

8. Planning Matters

The Clerk has received no planning application notices.

Cllr Finney have received a planning application, as a neighbour to the site, which has been put in for a property on Main Street. The Clerk has not received this notice.

Action: Cllr Finney to forward the application to the Clerk for her to query with the Planning Department

9. Playing Field and Equipment

The Cllrs after considering the various quotations obtained by the Clerk decided that Kompan should be asked to do an Annual Inspection of the playground and zipline as soon as possible.

Action: Clerk to ask Kompan to complete playground inspections

10. Environment

(a) Progress on moving 30mph sign - see Cllr Cottee report

(b) Progress on village's request to be added to On Demand Bus route - see Cllr Cottee report

(c) Discuss new dog bin on A60 - Streetwise have said they will not provide a new bin outside the bus stop despite the bin inside the bus stop frequently being used for dog waste

Action: Clerk to ask Streetwise if they could move the bin to outside the bus stop instead

11. Solar Farm

(a) It was decided that the Clerk would report to Martin Powell from Wysall Parish Council that the Council are happy for him to post his leaflets in Costock but that they had not yet decided how they would deal with such a planning application when it is received. They felt they would first call a community meeting. No application yet received.

(b) The Council decided that at the present time they did not want to become members of CPRE, The Countryside Charity.

12. Nature Reserve

Aart De Groot has kindly delivered some chippings for the Nature Reserve for a delivery charge of £36.00.

13. Village Hall

(a) Defra grant - see 6. Correspondence above

(b) Village Hall Committee meeting is in 2 weeks time. The broken urinal is being repaired and whether legionella testing is required for the village hall is being researched.

14. Finance

(a) Payments of account - payments approved

Costock Parish Council 2023/2024						
Payments Sheet February 2024						
Expenditure agreed at:						
				£3,282.90	£132.78	£3,415.68
				£698.30	£40.00	£738.30
				£976.66	£4.33	£980.99
				£325.30	£0.00	£325.30
				£1,139.00	£96.64	£1,235.64
				£765.90	£9.00	£774.90
				£370.30	£9.00	£379.30
				£1,869.44	£308.83	£2,178.27
				£1,367.16	£165.92	£1,533.08
				£1,219.07	£9.00	£1,228.07
February	Date	Chq. / BACS	Payee / service	Net	VAT	Total
	18.1.24		Grasshopper Hosting	£90.00	£0.00	£90.00
	30.1.24		Notts Association Local Clerks membership	£170.12	£0.00	£170.12
	21.2.24		Clerk's salary			
	21.2.24		Tax on Clerk's salary			
	21.2.24		Clerk's mobile phone	£4.00	£0.00	£4.00
Total expenditure for meeting				£614.19	£0.00	£614.19
Total expenditure to date in current financial year				£12,628.22	£775.50	£13,403.72

(b) Cllr Owen reported that NatWest are now allowing opening of online (Bankline) community bank accounts again. She has been unable to get through to them on the telephone as yet but will keep trying.

The Council agreed that:-

- The Parish Council's business reserve and current accounts with NatWest be transferred to NatWest Community Bankline accounts
- That Mike Elliott be removed as a signatory on both the Parish Council bank accounts
- That John Finney be added as an additional signatory on both the Parish Council bank accounts (Cllr Owen and Cllr Gordon remaining as signatories)
- That the Clerk be added to the account to be able to set up the necessary payments for the Council

(c) The Council agreed that they will purchase two lockable storage boxes for the flood signage

Action: Clerk to discuss what required with Cllr Gordon and get quotations for such boxes for Council approval

(d) The Council agreed that as the Clerk as consistently been needing to work additional hours each month they will raise her hours of work to 26 hours per month from 1 March.

(e) The Financial Regulations sent to the Parish Council for review were approved.

15. Defibrillator

(a) The Clerk reported that the problem with accessing the defibrillator case has now been solved and David Lowes, electrician, in the village has very kindly agreed to fit the defibrillator at no charge. The Council agreed with his idea to also fit an emergency light above where the defibrillator for safety.

Action: Clerk to report Council's decision to the electrician

(b) The Council agreed that they wanted to run a defibrillator / first aid course for the village once the defibrillator is fitted.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Gordon to find a good course provider.

16. Risk Assessments

The Council approved the risk assessments for the Parish Council, Nature Reserve, Playground and Village Hall. The Risk assessments for the Village Hall and Nature Reserve will be carried out by the relevant committees regularly and the results fed back to the Clerk for recording.

Action: Nature Reserve and Village Hall committees to report results of risk assessments to Clerk when completed.

17. Village website / newsletter

No newsletter to be prepared this month

18. To receive items for information

19. Date of next meeting confirmation - 20 March 2024

Meeting closed 21.15pm

Lucy Brazendale, Clerk to Costock Parish Council