

Costock Parish Council

Rushcliffe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire

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Minutes of the Costock Annual Parish Meeting

**On Wednesday 17 April 2024
in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

The Parish Council Chairman Cllr Kath Owen took the chair and welcomed the parishioners present.

1] **Apologies** received from Peter Gordon and Councillor Edyvean

The **Minutes** of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26 April 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair of the Parish Council, Kath Owen.

2] **Chairman's report - Kath Owen**

The major issues for this year have been flooding and planning issues. Flooding appears later on the agenda. There have been several routine planning applications during the year but two recent ones have called for more consideration and as yet the decisions have not been made by the appropriate authority. An application for a solar panel farm on Wysall Lane provoked much comment but very little agreement as to what outcome the village would like to see. A number of people have, as advised, sent in their own comments and the Parish Council raised issues relating to access, particularly during the installation and flooding as well as a proliferation of such developments in one area.

The application (submitted to the County Council) to extend working hours and vehicle use at Johnson's Waste on Bunny Hill also raised traffic related concerns as the proposed longer hours included Sunday working and would increase traffic on the A60.

Celebrations for the coronation were very successful with a picnic, music from a swing band and open gardens all well attended. As a result £100 was donated to the school garden.

The nature reserve continues to thrive under the guidance of Lindsay McGowan, Bob Simpson and Ann Lister with assistance of several volunteers. Some urgent tree work was carried out and the hibernaculum was repaired and renewed.

A new defibrillator has been purchased, half funded by a grant, so we now have two in the village, one on the Generous Briton and the new one on the end of the village hall accessed by the path to the school. Both have coded access, the code will only be issued by emergency services when 999 is dialled. Further training on how to use them and administering CPR will be arranged soon.

We have been supported by regular attendance by County Councillor John Cottee and Borough Councillor Andy Edyvean which is much appreciated. We asked to be put on the

list for the Nottsbus on demand service and are awaiting availability. Early in the year we welcomed Angela Hoyle as a new Councillor. My thanks to all members of the Council for their work and especially to Lucy, our Clerk. We have increased her hours to 26 per month but I suspect that she works many more than this some months. Thanks also to residents who contribute so much to village life and community support in many ways, their support is invaluable.

3] **Finance report** – Lucy Brazendale, Clerk

The Council began the 2023/2024 financial year with a balance of £30,186.87 – this balance is held at NatWest bank.

During the year **the main items of expenditure** included:-

- Nature reserve maintenance costs of £1,868.85
- The Village Hall required no maintenance costs this year.
- £2303.77 for insurance (and a refund of premiums from our previous insurer of £181.04)
- £900 for a new defibrillator (the Council received a grant from Councillor Edyvean of £250 towards the cost of this and will be able to reclaim the VAT paid)
- £744.40 for the celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles
- £455 for grass cutting and equipment and maintenance.
- £325 on audit fees (more than last year due to having an external audit and internal audit because as Council expenditure was over the £25,000 for 2022-2023)
- £770 to the village school for rent of the playing field
- Office administration and expenses cost £4886.75

In total the expenditure during the financial year was £14,045.69 (£27,719.36 last year) - a decrease of £13673.67 - mainly attributable to the Village Hall repair costs and the additional insurance premiums required the previous year.

Income for the financial year was £27604.33 made up of:-

Annual precept £20,000

Bank interest of £658.13

Bank compensation of £300 for the lack of progress on setting up online banking and transfer of mandates

Community Infrastructure Levy £3198.00 (still to be allocated)

VAT refund of £2,877.16

The grants and payments referred to above.

The council ended the year with a balance in hand of £43,972.09.

(£5528.52 of this is earmarked, at 1 April 2024, for the Nature Reserve)

The precept for the new financial year 2024/2025 is £20,500, an increase of £500 to cover the recent increase in prices for most supplies and services.

Financial statements and the budget for the Council can be found on the Parish Council website www.costockparishcouncil.org

The accounts are about to be audited and signed off by the accountants who carries out the audit work for the Parish Council. There will be an external audit again this year as the Council's income is over £25,000.

4] Update on progress to resolve flooding issues

The April newsletter included the detailed report on work which has been done

and is planned by Laura Trusler from Via. It is hoped that the work starts and carries on in accordance with the schedule given, i.e. 21 May start.

The Chair has received a couple of queries from parishioners:-

- as to whether all the required work is included in the schedule of works for Church Lane - given that some of the work is investigation work it will be reviewed when this has been done to ensure all the issues are included.
- Old Main Road - it was felt that the Algar Close section of the report from Via did cover the issues at Old Main Road.

David Greenwood has done a huge amount of work regarding all the flooding issues in the village and organised a meeting on 26th March with two representatives from the County Council flood management team, together with Cllr Gordon and some of the parishioners in the village most affected by the flooding. This meeting was mostly fact finding - to understand the rapid run-off of rainwater coming off the farmer's fields to the south of the village, as this is the primary source of the flooding. The farmer had consented to his land being accessed for the purposes of the meeting and it is reported that he is possibly open to attenuation work being done on his land although nothing as yet has been agreed with him by the County Council.

The Chair summarised that the biggest cause of the flooding seems to be the amount of water coming off the farmers' fields and down the A60 straight into the village.

There have been approx.. 15 people volunteer to be flood wardens and they are just waiting to have their final training course before they are fully trained. They will then be able to put out flood signage and potentially close certain roads in the village if required during times of flooding. Flood signs are still awaited but the boxes to store them have arrived and one has been erected.

5] Nature Reserve

There are currently no projects planned at the nature reserve but the committee are hoping to have an open day later in the year.

Work has been done this year to remove a dangerous willow tree and to ensure that the hibernaculum (built by the developers to be a newt habitat) does not damage fencing to some properties neighbouring the nature reserve.

Surveys done at the nature reserve show that there is a "medium" and growing newt population there and a huge wild flower population. The annual rake at the nature reserve is a real help to maintaining and growing this wild flower population - volunteers are always welcome please!

6] Support / interest in village email

The clerk has received quite a few email addresses for the village email list and will work on putting this facility together to be used for village newsletters and more

urgent communications only.

A few parishioners have also said they would support new gateway signs for the village. The Council is concerned that these are expensive (approx. £4,000 each) and so will only look to do this if they can receive 50% funding from the County Council and will possibly also put the Community Infrastructure Levy funds received this year towards the cost. They initially propose only doing 2 on the A60. Please could residents let the Parish Council know if they have any comments.

Meeting closed 8.10pm

Minutes approved by the Chair of the Parish Council:

.....**Dated:**

DRAFT