

# Parish Council of Coleford

Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

Miss V Watts, Clerk to the Council

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### Present

Cllr Ham (Chairman presiding) Cllrs Banks, Bell, Evans, Moulding, Paterson, Pearce, Townsend, Drescher and West

There were no members of the public present. The Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes

### 1. Public Forum

- 1.1 It was reported that there was another 'Bike Night' at the Kings Head last night, which resulted in a continuous stream of bikes passing through the village for most of the evening, making a noise.

*Action: Clerk to write to the organiser to ask if those attending could be asked to be respectful of the residents and drive carefully to keep noise pollution to the minimum.*

- 1.2 It was noted that the traveler community which had been resident at Standerwick market had this evening been moved on.
- 1.3 Complaints were received regarding the response times when making appointments and seeking test results from Mendip Country Practice. Complaints should be made directly to Ruth Woodland the Practice Manager in the first instance.
- 1.4 Praise was given for the work that the Community Pay Back team had done to clear the path at Farley Dell. Unfortunately, it was not completed and it is understood that the team have finished their visits for this period. All agreed that this should be the priority for when they return.

*Action: Clerk to establish when the Pay Back team will next visit the village.*

### 2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Allen and Barret which were accepted by the Chair.

### 3 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

There were none.

### 4 Agree the minutes

The Clerk had circulated to all Councilors the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> July. It was suggested that an amendment be made to minute ref: 9.3 which needed to read "The Council was sad to hear of the passing of Nigel Woollcombe-Adams so soon after the death of Nigel Taylor". This was because the surnames were originally the wrong way around. It was then proposed by Cllr Banks and seconded by Cllr Townsend that the minutes should be approved.

**Vote: 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions**

*Action: Clerk to ensure the Chair signs a copy of the minutes.*

### 5 Actions from the minutes

All actions had been completed or would be on the agenda apart from:

- 5.1 It was noted that the notice board outside the piano shop was no longer as visible as it was when parishioners were visiting the post office and shop. It was agreed that the new co-op would be approached to establish if they would consider a new noticeboard outside the store.

*Action: Clerk to write to the store manager at the earliest opportunity.*

- 5.2 The Clerk to send condolences – Nigel Woollcombe-Adams and Nigel Taylor

*Action: Clerk to send cards*

- 5.3 The Clerk to monitor progress of Auto Speed Watch

*Action: Clerk to monitor*

- 5.4 The Clerk to seek contractor to create rainwater harvesting structure. Once it is known that the new allotments can progress the Clerk to ask Goodeaves allotment holders if they would be interested in moving to the new site.

*Action: Clerk to seek contractor. Clerk to progress once decision on new allotment is known.*

## **6 Co-option of Councilors**

There is currently one vacancy, which the Clerk will continue to advertise.

## **7 Reports**

- 7.1 PCSO – No report had been received.

- 7.2 Somerset County Council – Cllr Ham reported that there have been lots of cuts to the bus services. Due to roadworks at Vobster starting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August through to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> the 184 bus service from Tesco at Midsomer Norton which runs through various villages (including Coleford) and ends in Frome will actually terminate in Coleford for that week.

*Action: Clerk to post on Facebook the alterations to the 184 bus service*

It has been reported that the finances for Somerset are now £40 million over budget.

Council Tax consultation: A consultation on council tax support for the new unitary Somerset Council has been launched. This is the first major policy consultation for the new council and it proposes that the lowest households across Somerset get 100% council tax relief. This is a substantial increase as maximum relief is set at around 80% in most parts of the County. The proposed changes would harmonise support for working age people on low incomes and would come in to effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 with the creation of the Council. The consultation runs until the 19<sup>th</sup> September and can be found at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SomersetCTRLIVE](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SomersetCTRLIVE)

Wheelchair and community equipment: SCC and NHS Somerset are this month launching a new Community Equipment and Wheelchair service to help people to live more independently. The new service will loan a range of equipment for as long as they need it. The service will include delivery and fitting, servicing, collection, and recycling. More information is available at [www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/equipment-to-help-you](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/equipment-to-help-you)

Tackling violence against women and girls: SCC and North Somerset Councils have secured an additional £317,674 from the Home Office Safer Streets fund to continue to make public spaces and streets safer for women and girls. This will allow the councils to focus on antisocial behaviour concerns that contribute to the fear of violence against women and girls by targeting resources at four locations – Taunton, Bridgwater, Weston Super Mare and Yeovil.

Ecological Emergency: SCC has voted to put additional focus into protecting Somerset's natural environment and biodiversity by declaring an Ecological Emergency. The Council previously declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and has since worked with Somerset's 4 District Councils and other partners to develop the Somerset Climate emergency strategy. The ecological emergency work will complement the existing Climate Emergency 'Natural Environment' actions with a renewed focus on land management, biodiversity and natural habitats.

Somerset Business Climate Summit: This will take place at Queens College in Taunton on the 21<sup>st</sup> September between 10am and 1pm. The summit will highlight best practice and raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges for businesses as we shift towards a low carbon economy. Businesses were encouraged to examine their current business models and make pledges to reduce carbon footprints. Details can be found at: [www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency/climate-emergency-businesses/climate-summit/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency/climate-emergency-businesses/climate-summit/)

3. Unitary – Cllr Ham chaired the meeting held at Doultong where there was a discussion around Local Community Networks (LCN's). The boundary maps are still not available but should be out soon. There will then be a period of consultation and approval should take place in November. It has been rumoured that Licensing and Planning will be dealt with by the LCN's.
4. Mendip District Council – Cllr Townsend and Ham provided the following report:  
The Mendip Audit Committee met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August and finally agreed the sign off of the Accounts for the Year Ending March 2021.

The Planning Board on 17<sup>th</sup> August will debate the plan for the redevelopment of Saxonvale in the centre of Frome. This is in opposition to the plan submitted by Mendip and their partner Acorn following Mendip District Councils purchase of the site and this has already been approved by the Board. Mayday Saxonvale who has submitted the new plan claims to be a not-for-profit organisation and apparently have considerable local support. However, the new applicants do not own the site and it does not offer the quantum of housing required by the LPP2 – 182 as opposed to 250 but it does incorporate a new primary school hence the lower number.

At Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> August it was agreed to defend the Judicial Review raised by Norton St Philip against the legality of the Local Plan Part 2 and its allocation of an extra 505 dwellings in the north east of the district.

## **8 Planning Applications**

1. 2022/097/FUL – Change of use of existing stone barns into three holiday let units (Retrospective). Upper Vobster Farm, Upper Vobster Road, Vobster, Radstock, BA3 5SA

All Councillors had considered the planning application prior to the meeting. It was noted that the 2012 application was refused on the grounds of highways but was successful on appeal.

There are 2 main areas of concerns:

1. Highways – The access from Upper Vobster onto the main Vobster, Babington and Mells junction doesn't offer the required visibility.
2. The scale of the development of lettings is dominating the local community. Of the 30 properties in Upper Vobster 12 are now lettings controlled by the applicant, which equates to 40%.
3. There was a query over whether the main farmhouse building was a listed building, which could impact on the application.

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Evans that the applications be recommended for refusal.

***Vote: 8 For; 0 Against and 2 Abstentions (District Councillors)***

It was agreed that due to the concerns over safeguarding, a separate letter will also be sent to Mendip District Council.

*Vote: 8 For; 0 Against and 2 Abstentions (District Councilors)*

2. 2022/1528/HSE - Erection of single storey side extension either side of property.  
Thornlea Highbury Street Coleford

All Councillors had considered the plans prior to the meeting. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Drescher and seconded by Cllr Moulding that the application should be approved providing the fence is no higher than 1m.

*Vote: 5 For; 2 Against and 3 Abstentions (2 of which are District Councilors)*

3. 1207/FUL - Erection of 1no. dwellinghouse – Amended plans  
Land At 368716 149115 Church Street Coleford

All Councillors had considered the revised plans prior to the meeting. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Banks and seconded by Cllr Pearce that the application should be approved.

*Vote: 7 For; 1 Against and 2 Abstentions (District Councilors)*

**9 Planning updates including enforcement issue**

There were none.

**10 Highways including**

**1 Councilor update**

Cllr Townsend confirmed that the dip in the pavement outside Colebury House had been reported and repaired.

It was noted that the Highways team had marked up areas for repairs on Brewery Lane by Dark Lane. Stoke Bottom is currently closed for drainage and repair work.

Drainage work is planned just down from Cherry Gardens Farm, which will entail major diversions, but Charmborough Lane has not been utilised, as with 2 other recent closures.

Cllr Ham said that he had met with Sara Davis of Somerset Highways where they discussed the following issues:

1. White lining. Apparently can only be redone when it is 80% worn.
2. Work to the Whatley & Halecombe Quarry routes. There is a legal dispute over Whatley Road and Sara Davis confirmed that they wouldn't white line until the surface has been repaired.
3. Rumble strips and slow signs have been agreed at Newbury outside the school.
4. HGV restriction signage to be moved from Luckington Farm to Luckington Cross on Dark Lane.
5. 'Except for Access' HGV signs for Charity Lane, Hoares Lane at Kilmersdon and Luckington / Cherry Gardens Lane.
6. There was a conversation about the pending road closures at Stoke St Michael and how the many HGV's which regularly pass will be able to divert. Nothing has been decided as yet but it may be possible to agree a one-way system for HGVs to enable the traffic to kept flowing freely.
7. Martin Ford of Somerset Council will be asked to write to all the Somerset farmers to ask them to cut the hedges hard around the road signs to prevent them from becoming obscured later in the growing season.

8. There was discussion around the slowing of traffic on Church Street. As the Hub is used as a school, youth club and the scouts meet at the hall opposite, it is possible that a 20mph zone and warning signs could be implemented. Sara Davis will give this consideration.
9. As yet there is no consent from the Avon and Somerset Police to approve the Auto speed watch system.

2. Report of any new issues to be reported

The overhanging branch has still not been removed from the bus stop on Highbury Street.

*Action: Clerk to chase up.*

**11 Finance**

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter budget report – The Clerk presented a detailed breakdown of the accounts for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter which had been produced from the Scribe accounting package. The Clerk confirmed that other reports were available from the system and it is hoped that by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter the forecast for the remains of the financial year can be included.

There were no questions and all agreed that the budget was in order.

2. Bank Reconciliation – Cllr Bell to check the reconciliation prior to the next meeting.
3. Agree charges for CAFC to use the changing rooms – The Clerk had produced a report showing expenditure for the changing rooms over the past financial year. After discussion it was agreed that the annual charge should be increased by 5% which will amount to £1092.

*Action: Clerk to notify CAFC*

4. Accounts approved for payments

The following invoices were presented for payment:

V Watts - Clerks Expenses	£140.12
Crusader Windows (Changing room window)	£142.58
Play Safety Ltd (ROSPA annual inspection)	£441.00
Somerset Association of Local Councils (Training x 2)	£ 50.00

It was agreed that the invoices should be paid.

*Vote: 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained*

**12 Review and consider quotes for tree work**

It was agreed that the Clerk would speak with the 3<sup>rd</sup> contractor to see if they are able to provide the quote which was promised. She would also ask contractor 1 to provide a price for the few trees that had been omitted from his quote to make it comparable to contractor 2's quote.

The Clerk along with Cllr Drescher and Allen will then review the quotes alongside the report to establish if the work can be completed in phases.

*Action: Clerk to chase up quotes and arrange working party meeting.*

**13 Consider and accept quote to repair 2 picnic bench and removal of broken bench at Coleford playing field**

The Clerk had tried to obtain 3 quotes but had only received one. It was agreed that the quote of £75 from Nippers Tippers to repair both picnic tables and remove the broken bench would be accepted.

*Vote: 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained*

*Action: Clerk to instruct contractor*

**14 Consider future of the wildflowers at the pump track including whether to fund up to £50 to further improve the wildflowers or to develop wildflowers at Beacon View**

A knowledgeable member of the public had put forward several points for consideration on why the pump track site was appropriate for wildflowers and how it could be further improved. They did not consider Beacon View as a suitable location for wildflowers.

It was agreed that the banks would be strimmed regularly as part of the ongoing ground maintenance from now until the Spring when it would be further reviewed.

*Action: The Clerk to notify LSJ Gardening Services.*

*Vote: 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained*

**15 Discuss Community Engagement project.**

The Clerk had registered an expression of interest to be one of the 14 councils who will be selected to receive the full package of one-to-one support to create a Community Review at no cost. A response on whether the Council has been successful is expected imminently.

Cllr West left the meeting at 21.53hrs

**16 Review quotes for new Parish Council website and Councilor email addresses**

The Clerk had presented quotes from 3 website/email providers. After deliberation it was agreed that Western Web should provide a new website and email facility for the Council based on the following quote. £645 for design, build and migration. £80 for website hosting per year. £150 per year for hosting all email accounts per year. £30 to set up the mailbox. Western Web confirmed that the website would be completed by October.

*Vote: 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained*

*Action: Clerk to notify the contractor*

**17 Meetings to attend or attended**

11/08/22 @ 7.30pm Doultong PC to discuss LCN's & Unitary. Cllr Ham to attend.

08/09/22 @ 6.30 – 8pm at Shape Mendip/Teams Parish Forum meeting

07/09/22 @ 7pm – Allotment working party (Cllrs Pearce, Townsend, Allen, Drescher, Moulding, Pearce, Ham and the Clerk)

**18 Correspondence**

10/08/22 – Letter from Climate Emergency Fund confirming that the Board will consider the amended application for the new allotment site in early September – No action required  
Clerks and Councils direct – Passed to Cllr Ham.

04/08/22 – Email from BHIB insurance provider regarding valuations on properties. The Clerk asked if a valuation should be completed for the changing rooms but Cllr Evans reassured that the policy was checked at the time of renewal (May) and it was considered to be in order.

National Allotment Association magazine – Passed to Cllr Pearce.

**19 Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman’s Discretion**

Cllr Moulding asked for Climate Change to be an agenda item in the near future so that Coleford Parish Council can consider whether to declare a Climate Emergency.

*Action: Agenda item for September*

**20 Date of Next Meetings:**

24<sup>th</sup> August 2022

14<sup>th</sup> September 2022

The meeting finished approx. 22.14hrs