

Parish Council of Coleford

Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th October 2021

Present

Cllr Ham (Chairman presiding) Cllrs Banks, Evans, Harding and Turner. 1 members of the public attended.

1. Public Forum

- 1.1 Cllr Townsend had emailed saying had received a request asking for the bus stops by Carey's Mead and Goodeaves to be cleaned as they are in a disgusting state.

Action: Clerk to arrange cleaning

- 1.2 Cllr Banks suggested that MDC should cut back the bushes at the entrance to Orchard Close which has become overgrown and is starting to obstruct access via the pavement.

Action: Clerk to ask Idverde to complete the work

Cllr Turner arrived at 19.13hrs

- 1.3 Cllr Evans asked when the grit bin would be installed at Beacon View. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for the new larger bin to be installed at Preachers Vale to replace the smaller bin currently in situ so that it can be relocated to the new Beacon View site.

Action: Clerk to install/relocate the bins

- 1.4 It was noted that there had been an attempted break in at Careys Mead. The Clerk highlighted that there had been a spate of attempted break ins at Holcombe whereby the offender had managed to find a hidden key outside the property. The Clerk advised anyone that had experienced this to report it to the Police via 101 to ensure that they are able to deploy staff accordingly.

- 1.5 The Clerk had received a complaint from a resident at Orchard Close asking the Council to remove the ivy from the party wall. They have subsequently removed the ivy and left it on the Parish Council owned land next to the Highbury car park. The Clerk had inspected the area and felt that the length of the fence line from the car park to the Rights of Way kissing gate should be cleared of brambles in an attempt to reclaim land which can then be mown by our contractor to ensure the brambles do not return. It was agreed that this will be an agenda item for the next meeting

Action: Agenda item for the next meeting

- 1.6 Cllr Turner said that the weeds at the edge of the highways and pavements are terrible in particular on Church Street, Highbury Road and Anchor Road. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mendip District Council to request action.

Action: Clerk to write to MDC

- 1.7 The Clerk had received a message from a parishioner worried that the cones outside of the Co-op were making the junction with Church Street dangerous. They were also concerned that the shop was using the pavement for promoting logs, plants etc. thus reducing the area for pedestrians and using signage and the litter bin in the road to also act as additional bollards.

It was agreed by Councillor's that the bin and signs should not be in the road and that the Clerk should write to the Co-op manager to request that they refrain from doing this.

The Clerk will also respond to the Parishioner to clarify that the pavement is in fact privately owned by the shop and therefore not a pavement as well as confirming that a SIS application was lodged with Somerset Highways some 4 years ago seeking a scheme to improve the safety of the junction. It is hoped that this will be considered soon.

Action: Clerk to respond to the parishioner as well as asking the Co-op to remove the bin and sign from the road.

- 1.8 An email had been received from a member of the public who was concerned to find several cases of dog fouling in the under 8's play area at Highbury. It was agreed that the Clerk would purchase 6 plastic signs stating that no dogs were allowed in the play area. Cllr Harding will make an adjustment to the self-closing mechanism in attempt to stop dogs from entering the play area.

Action: Cllr Harding to adjust the gate. The Clerk to purchase signs & respond to the parishioner.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Allen, Barrett, Bell, Drescher, Pearce, and Townsend had sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

There were none.

4. Co-option of Councillors

Mrs Annie Paterson attended the meeting, introduced himself and explained that she wanted to join the Council. She has lived in the village for 1 years and wished to learn more about the village and help make it a better place to live. Mrs Paterson was asked to briefly leave the meeting. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Evans that Mrs Paterson be co-opted. Mrs Paterson returned to the meeting and joined the Councillors.

Action: Clerk to ensure paperwork is completed and notify MDC of the new appointment.

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions

5. Approve Minutes of Parish Council meetings held on the 8th and 22nd of September 2021

The minutes from the meeting had been circulated to all Councillors for consideration. It was agreed that both accurately reflected the meeting and the minutes were approved.

Vote: 4 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to upload to the website.

6. Matters arising

All actions had been completed or would be discussed as an agenda item later in the meeting apart from:

- Following the request for the installation of an electric car charger within the village, the Clerk had sought feedback from Frome Town Council who confirmed that of the 5 installed there were only 2 still in service. This was due to the host businesses not being able to sustain the ongoing running costs. The Clerk had also emailed the Legion managing committee to ask if they would agree in principle but had not yet received a response.

Action: Clerk to pursue a response from the Legion and find more information about the chargers required.

- The brambles reported at Goodeaves will be cleared by the Community pay back team when they return to the village in November.
- Carried forward from the September meeting - It had been reported that children were playing around and on top of the CRG container on Highbury Playing Field. The Clerk was asked to consult with the Council's insurers to check our liability and what signage might be necessary.

Action: Clerk to liaise with the Insurance company

7. Reports

1. PCSO

The newsletter for the Frome Rural North had been circulated to all Councillors which provided an overview of the current issues and policing priorities. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask when the Mobile Unit will next be in the village so that it can be more widely publicized. More information can be found at the following link: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/frome-rural-north/>

Action: Clerk to enquire when the mobile unit will be in the village and when the PACT meetings will restart.

2. County Councillor

The Clerk had previously circulated the report from County Cllr Ham, as follows:

Covid 19 – Rates are slowly falling back in Mendip and Sedgemoor. It is the younger population and those not vaccinated that have been affected and are high risk.

Bus Service Improvement Plan: This was scrutinised by Somerset County Council. It is a very ambitious plan. 200 plus pages with lots of ideas, lots of improvements and lots of data but contains no costings as yet. It is a living a document and will be going to cabinet for approval in 2 weeks. There will then be a bid for part of a 3 billion pot of money from Central Government.

Cllr Ham said that he spoke with the 184 service in mind – all that it lacks and its failures for not only Coleford but all the surrounding villages. His points were taken into consideration and were noted.

Trading standards: This is now a combined service with Plymouth and Torquay.

It was reported that during 2019/20 £300,000 million was reclaimed from scams.

There has been a lot of work being done around the size and control of events.

The trading standards department is a well-run service. Many staff had been recruited to other jobs during the pandemic but it is now back to before and fully functional.

Unitary: Cllr Ham reported that during the next 14 days the change orders will be processed by Central Government. The timing will be agreed but if the process runs over, they could run out of time which could push the election back to 2023. Over the coming weeks there will be more meetings and consultation with Parish and Town Councils to discuss how Local Community Networks will be formed and work.

3. District Councillors

The Clerk had previously circulated the report from District Cllrs Ham and Townsend as follows:

Planning

Gladman - No result yet from the appeal. We sent the photo of the van on its side to the appeal inspector who responded that he was fully aware of the highway issues.

Local Plan Part 2 was approved by Mendip DC at Cabinet on 4th October and will now pass to full Council for adoption. This should give it more weight for the refusal of the Gladman appeal.

Climate

Carbon Neutral - Mendip's understanding of the alleged emissions from agriculture is very curious and a consultant is being employed by MDC to consider the implications.

8. Planning Application

2021/2035/HSE - Erection of two storey side extension and demolition of conservatory

7 Orchard Close Coleford Frome Radstock Somerset

All Councillors had considered the application prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Banks and seconded by Cllr Evans that the application should be approved on the basis that it did not breach planning materials considerations and was in keeping with extensions completed on properties within the area. There were no objections lodged on the planning website.

Vote 4 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions (Ward Cllr)

9. Planning updates including enforcement issues

Appeal APP/Q3305/W/21/3270276 Erection of a single detached residential dwelling, garage and associated development (updated information received). Springwater Farm, Anchor Road, Coleford, Frome, Somerset, BA3 5GX

The appeal was heard on the 12th October and written submissions were sent from the District Councillors.

10. Consider quote for cutting back the hedge at Coleford Playing Field

The Clerk confirmed that she had received a quote from Combe Garden Maintenance to cut back the hedge which borders the far side of the Coleford Playing Field a smaller vehicle which allowed easier access to the field. It was proposed by Cllr Ham and seconded by Cllr Harding that the quote of £300 should be accepted.

Action: Clerk to notify the contractor.

11. Discuss projects for the Community Payback team

The Clerk confirmed that she had met with Pete Mellen to agree dates for the return of the payback team. There will be no charge for the foreseeable future due to the offenders having to get themselves to the village rather than the organisers. It was agreed that a list of projects should be pulled together for completion, including some indoor projects if possible.

12. Highways including:

1. Councillor update: Councillor Townsend reported:

- The poor surface dressing on Charlton Rd
- Mud clearance from the Charmborough Lane
- The failed light on the crossing by the old Post Office.

6 surface patches were repaired on Charmborough Lane within a day of reporting them to Somerset Highways. This will not help with the width and alignment issues.

Cllr Townsend has asked for urgent details of the road closure on Anchor Rd due to start on 17th October. A meeting with Sara Davis of County Highways on 15th October has been arranged to progress signage issues.

2. Report of any new issues to be reported –There were no points raised.

13. Finance

13.1 Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk had prepared the bank reconciliation which will be checked by Cllr Harding at the end of the meeting.

13.2 2nd Quarter budget review

The Clerk had circulated the 2nd quarter budget review for Councillors to consider. The income for the year is predicted at £11,609 which is up on the budget amount of £7,113. This shows a higher amount due to the VAT claim for 2019/2020 falling in the current financial year and an insurance pay

out for the damage caused at Goodeaves play area. The expenditure predicted for the year stands at £66,447 which is greater than the budget amount of £62,185, most of which is attributed to the professional fees to fight the Gladman planning application.

It was proposed by Cllr Banks and seconded by Cllrs Ham that the accounts should be signed as an accurate reflection of the accounts to date.

Vote 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

13.3 Invoices approved for payment:

The following invoices were presented for payment:

HMRC – Clerks National Insurance	£ 31.37
Clerk Expenses	£ 47.80
Coleford Revival Group	£1,200.00
(This the Reconnecting Communities grant awarded by Somerset Association of Local Councils).	

Cllr Ham proposed that all payments should be made which was seconded by Cllr Turner.

Vote 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

14. Update on the MDC Community grant application submitted for the improvements to the Highbury hardcourts:

The Chair reported that the Clerk and Sarah Halford had jointly put together a grant application for £30K from the Mendip District Council Community Grant fund to upgrade the hardcourts to create a new surface which can be more widely used by the parishioners and the football club. A decision should be made by the end of October.

Cllr Banks met with Sarah Halford and representatives from Penny's Haulage who have looked at the Highbury playing field and football pitch with a view to reducing the gradient on the field. Penny's will calculate the number of lorry loads that would be required and the predicted value. It was noted that the cost of planning permission to undertake such a project could be costly.

15. Consider quotes for setting up Parish Council email addresses for Councillors with associated security

The Clerk confirmed that she had preliminary discussions regarding setting up new Councillor emails but this needed to be progressed to ensure that the relevant antivirus / malware software is identified.

Action: Clerk to further investigate. Agenda item for the next meeting.

16. Allotment

1. Consider quotes to create rainwater harvesting structure at Goodeaves Allotments

The Clerk to see if grant funding is available to cover the cost of creating the rainwater harvesting structure. Cllr Ham will consider the cost of the materials.

Action: Clerk & Cllr Ham to further investigate. Agenda item for the next meeting.

2. Discuss potential sites for new allotments -

The Clerk has contacted the agent for the land at Vobster to establish what the cost of rent and how long the term could be. It is hoped that a site meeting can also be arranged.

Action: Clerk to further investigate. Agenda item for the next meeting.

3. Consider how to progress with the Somerset County Council Emergency Climate Fund Grant

The Clerk confirmed that she had updated Sam Shaw who was happy to wait to hear the outcome of discussions regarding the potential land at Vobster.

Action: Agenda item for the next meeting.

17. Meetings to attend or attended

07/10/21 - VW attended the LGR event and reported that it was an informative conference. Slides from the presentations will be circulated to all Councillors. Further events will be held to keep Town and Parish Councils included within the process.

SCOP26 + Climate Conference 6th November 1 – 6pm. The Clerk, Cllr Townsend and Bell will be attending.

Queens Jubilee Celebration meeting – 03/11/21 @ 7pm at the Hub. This will be open to all. The Clerk to advertise on Facebook.

18. Correspondence

CPRE Newsletter – To be passed to Cllr Townsend.

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

Cllr Turner declared an interest in the memorial application and therefore did not take part in the discussion or vote.

An application for a memorial had been received from Young Johnson for a polished black granite tablet for Leonard Reginald Turner and Rosina Betty Turner. After consideration it was agreed that the application should be approved.

Vote 4 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to notify Young Johnson

20. Date of Next Meetings:

27th October 2021 – Planning meeting

3rd November 2021 – Small Grants Working Party

10th November 2021 – Monthly meeting

Meeting finished at 22-10hrs