

# Parish Council of Coleford

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Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

Miss V Watts, Clerk to the Council

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In line with government guidance and recommended social distancing and self-isolation rules for those who are vulnerable, it was agreed that this meeting would be conducted as a virtual meeting using Zoom video technology.

## Minutes of the Parish Council Virtual Meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### 1. Present

Cllr Ham (Chairman presiding) Cllrs Allen, Barrett, Conn, Drescher, Evans, Pearce, and Turner (Arrived at 9pm).  
1 member of the public attended.

### 2. Public Forum

- 1 A resident attended the meeting to express concern over progressive development of 14 Roman Way, namely the removal of a thriving hedge, the erection of a wall which contravenes planning restraints incorporated within the deeds on all houses in Roman Way and alleged video and audio surveillance which points towards the playground and another to the side of the property which points towards a neighbouring garden. Cllr Ham said that the Parish Council does not have the powers to resolve the issues but can forward the complaint to Planning enforcement who will look into the matter. It may be that the Police would have to deal with the CCTV although they may be able to help with both issues.

*Action: The Clerk will raise matters with the Enforcement team*

- 2 Cllr Evans said that he had been notified that the cars parked at the Coleford British Legion have now been issued with permits at a cost of £10 per car. Are the British Legion accepting responsibility for the cars being parked in the car park?

Cars continue to be sold in Roman Way which is disruptive to the neighborhood.

*Action: Cllr Ham said that he would investigate with the managing committee*

Several residents had asked Cllr Barrett who is responsible for the overhanging vegetation and branches on both sides of the road between Vobster and Stockhill which are becoming an issue. Cllr Ham to highlight to Charlie Higgins of Somerset Highways.

*Action: Cllr Ham to raise with Somerset Highways*

### 3. Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

Cllr Townsend, Hanney, Banks and Talbot had sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

### 4. Declaration of Interest and Dispensation granted since last meeting

There were none

## 5. Approve Minutes of Parish Council meetings held on the 10th & 24th March 2020

The Clerk had circulated the minutes from the March meetings. It was agreed that both sets of minutes accurately reflected the meeting and should therefore be signed by the Chair.

**Vote: 7 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstentions**

*Action: Clerk to upload to the website*

## 6. Matters arising

All matters arising were completed or will be discussed under an agenda item apart from:

- The Clerk confirmed that the Land Registry documents relating to Beacon View had been received and clearly show that Coleford Parish Council owns the grass area on either side of the dividing path which is part owned by Mendip District Council, the other half is not identified.
- Coleford Athletic Football Club used the changing rooms last weekend for the first time having completed a risk assessment, displayed signage and marked off parts of the changing rooms to ensure that social distancing could be adhered to. Fogging with a cleaning product was also being completed mid-week to ensure the safest environment for all users of the facilities.
- The Clerk confirmed litter pick equipment had been purchased and passed to the volunteer organisers of the litter picking scheme who have subsequently distributed the kit to the volunteers. Arranging a skip for the Goodeaves/Stockhill area as part of the litter picking scheme, is still outstanding.
- Clerk to speak with Mendip District Council regarding the ownership of the woodland between Beacon View and Kilmersdon Common.

*Action: Clerk to action*

## 7. Reports

1. PCSO – No report received

2. Somerset County Council report

County Cllr Ham circulated the following report:

Future Parish, Town and City Council meetings: The government announced on the 25<sup>th</sup> March that the Coronavirus regulations allowing for remote Parish, town and City Council meetings would not be extended beyond 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. This effectively means that all Council meetings scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> May or later will have to be held in public, face-to-face. No provision is available for remote attendance including mixed hybrid (part attendance) meetings. A legal challenge has been launched by Hertfordshire County Council but this will not be heard until later in April and planning should now be made to either pull forward meetings before 7<sup>th</sup> May, postpone meetings or determine Covid secure meeting facilities for the Council and Members of the public.

At the same time the Government have launched a consultation on allowing remote or hybrid meetings on a permanent basis via their website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence>

Road Map out of lockdown: From 29 March -Outdoor gatherings of either six people or two households were allowed including gatherings in private gardens. Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis or basketball courts reopened and organised adult and children's sport, such as grassroots football, returned. From 12<sup>th</sup> April: major parts of the economy are permitted to reopen including non-essential retail, hairdressers and some public buildings like libraries; Outdoor settings like beer gardens, zoos and theme parks; Indoor leisure like swimming pools and gyms; Self-contained holiday accommodation, such as self-catering lets and campsites. Wider social contact rules will continue to apply in all settings - meaning no indoor mixing between different households.

Coronavirus infection rates: As at 1<sup>st</sup> April the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 19,982 (up from 18,890 on 28<sup>th</sup> February) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 787 (722). The rate per 100,000 stands at 41.8 for Somerset with Mendip at 26.8, Sedgemoor at 53.6, South Somerset 61.2 and at 22.6. The current number of total deaths across the County is currently 25% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.7 and 0.9. It is vitally important to remember, even those who have had a jab, to observe Hands-Face-Space and to Ventilate indoor areas at all times.

Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline: A single phone number continues to be available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. 0300 790 6275, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm. Vaccination programme roll-out: Teams across the wider health and care system have worked round the clock at 13 GP-led community vaccination sites, two hospital hubs, two large vaccination centres (Taunton Racecourse and the Bath and West Showground) plus seven local pharmacy sites. As a result, Somerset has one of the highest vaccination rates in the country with the latest figures showing 309,227 having received at least their first vaccination in the County or 66.7% of the 16+ population. In addition, 33,765 have received their second dose. Take up rates across the County of the first dose remains very high: 80+ (98.7%), 75-79 (100%), 70-74 (99.3%), 65-69 (91.6%), 60-64 (96.5%), 55-59 (94.2%) and 50-54 (88.3%).

Somerset Medal: The Somerset Medal is designed to say a heartfelt thank-you to the best of the best that have really gone beyond the call of duty during the Coronavirus pandemic. So many people, from teachers and nurses, police and fire officers, carers, shop workers, volunteer drivers and waste collectors have all gone the extra mile to make sure that every effort was made to support communities. To nominate someone who has really made a difference to your community please submit an email with a maximum of 250 words, providing the nominee's name and location and describing why they deserve the medal to [DemocraticServices2@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:DemocraticServices2@somerset.gov.uk) and put 'Somerset Medal nomination' in the subject field. Nominations close on 23 April with the inaugural Somerset Medal award winners unveiled on Somerset Day, 11 May.

One Somerset: The government's public consultation into changing the way local councils work in Somerset ends on the 19<sup>th</sup> April. The County Council's proposal to replace the county's five existing councils with a simple, single unitary model to end confusion for residents, remove waste and duplication, and free up funding to invest in vital public services is a key part of the consultation. It would also offer more powers for local Town and Parish Councils and one strong voice to lobby for funding and support. For more information and to take part in the consultation visit:

[www.onesomerset.org.uk](http://www.onesomerset.org.uk)

Investing in School (1): Plans are underway for a major £6.2m project to expand Holyrood Academy in Chard to increase student numbers and meet growing demand. The new building will incorporate a purpose-built student/dining area, six classrooms, new office spaces and meeting rooms and a single point of entry into the school. If approved, building is set to start late summer with the new building complete by September 2022. To have your say then email [FuturesInfo@Somerset.gov.uk](mailto:FuturesInfo@Somerset.gov.uk)

Investing in Schools (2): The new Somerton primary school will open after Easter following a £7.3m build programme by Somerset County Council. The new school can accommodate up to 420 pupils and 52 early years children, with 14 classrooms, a pre-school, a school hall, a production kitchen, sports pitches and a multi-use games area. The facilities used innovative construction techniques to ensure the school has strong environmental credentials. Plans for the school to open in September 2020 were delayed due to archaeologists uncovering evidence of Roman and Iron Age settlements at the site ahead of construction.

Highways Awards: The multi-million-pound project to upgrade Taunton's M5 Junction 25 has won two prestigious awards at the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transport (CIHT) South West Awards 2021 ceremony. As well as winning the Project of the Year and Collaboration Awards for the £19.2m scheme SCC also picked up the Innovation Award for on traffic modelling for the Toneway scheme.

### 3. Mendip District Council report

District Cllr Ham and Townsend submitted the following joint report:

PLANNING - The limited consultation on the Emerging Local Plan Part 2 finished on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Timescales have slipped, so the Planning Inspector is now scheduled to publish his final report in May. This will be debated by Mendip's Cabinet in July with a target to approve at Full Council in September.

SCRUTINY BOARD 18-3-21 - After limited debate Scrutiny endorsed Mendip's plan for installing electric vehicle charging points in 5 of its car parks. Very few will be of the highest power, and none will be in rural areas.

There was much debate about the performance of Somerset Waste Partnership in these difficult times. There have been particular issues in Shepton. Cllr Pearce confirmed that there had also been issues within Coleford, which had been highlighted on social media. Cllr Barrett said that Nick Cater of Somerset Waste Partnership is very proactive and engages with customer via social media giving advice and feeding back points raised to the Somerset Waste team.

FULL COUNCIL - A special meeting was called on 15<sup>th</sup> April to discuss Mendip's response to the Unitary consultation, the Council having already endorsed the Stronger Somerset option. Notwithstanding any legal advice about holding public meetings which as not totally clear, the Conservative Group did not attend out of respect for the Period of National Mourning for HRH Prince Philip. The meeting itself was then curtailed as the proposal to hold a local poll was withdrawn in the light of a letter from the Secretary of State. This cast doubt on the legitimacy and value of the exercise, stating "I believe...it risks duplicating and detracting from the consultation to which thousands of people in Somerset have already responded". This was the separate consultation document many will have received with a response date of 19<sup>th</sup> April, published by the 4 District Councils in a leaflet promoting Stronger Somerset. The legitimacy of this 'consultation' has been challenged.

An Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council has been called for 30<sup>th</sup> April to consider a "local poll (referendum)" claiming it will give residents a voice in the debate and help to inform the Secretary of State's considerations. The S of S and a leading firm of lawyers warn against doing this, but a QC considers it to be legitimate. The local poll would start on 18<sup>th</sup> May and close on 4<sup>th</sup> June with responses to be made online or by post.

The Annual Meeting of Full Council was held on 26<sup>th</sup> April when memberships of committees were decided. Cllr Ham continues on Scrutiny and as a substitute member of the Audit Committee. Cllr Townsend continues on the Planning Board and on the Audit Committee. A number of changes were proposed to the Constitution which could have the effect of inhibiting debate, this is to be referred back to the Standards Committee

PURDAH - We are now in the period of Purdah prior to the May elections so we do not expect to see any decisions which could be seen to have political implications. For Mendip District Council there is a by election in St Thomas Ward in Wells following the resignation of Lib Dem Cllr McKinnell.

LITTER - The Mendip Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services has been asked if there is a simple method of securing a brief road closure for Charmborough Lane following the Idverde signage seen locally. No response as yet.

HALECOMBE QUARRY LIAISON - Cllr Ham advised meeting will take 12/05/21 @ 10am, including for the Community Fund from which Coleford could benefit. Cllrs Conn and Pearce to attend with Cllr Townsend and Ham.

#### 4. Planning Applications

2021/0754/HSE - Spring Hill Cottage Springers Hill Coleford.

Removal of existing uPVC entrance lobby and replace with new entrance lobby and associated works.

Councillors had considered the plans prior to the meeting. Cllr Conn outlined the application and said that although the proposed new entrance lobby would be a slight increase in size, the materials used will help it to blend in and the fact that the site is approximately 15ft above street level will mean that it does not impact on the street scene. It was proposed by Cllr Conn and seconded by Cllr Evans that as the Councillors have no objections, the application should be recommended for approval.

**Vote: 7 For; 0 Against; 1 Abstentions (As Ward Councillor)**

*Action: Clerk to notify the planning office*

#### 5. Planning updates

Cllr Townsend reported at the 24-3-21 meeting that the 17<sup>th</sup> March Planning Board rejected by 12 votes to 1 the repeat application by Gladmans for 63 houses on Anchor Rd, Coleford, ref 2020/2201. The sole reason for refusal was the same as for the previous application, the Harm to the Countryside caused by the Excessive Number of Dwellings. Highways, Sewerage and Sustainability issues as strongly advocated by residents and the Parish Council were not considered to have sufficient weight.

The closing date for responses to the appeal against the refusal of the original application 2019/2345 was 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Our consultant submitted on our behalf a detailed dissection of the appellant's case that Harm to the Countryside was minimal and he also stressed that the application contradicted the Emerging Modified Local Plan Part 2 which should be given substantial weight. The Parish Council submitted a further document to attempt to bring back to the Inspector's attention our other issues of concern, i.e., Highways, Sewerage and Sustainability. Mendip Planners also submitted their formal response, focusing solely on the original reason for refusal, i.e., Harm to the Countryside. The timescales for the appeal are uncertain. An Inspector has yet to be appointed. Our consultant's advice is that similar appeals are currently taking some 41 weeks from the Start Date, which takes us to Christmas.

#### 6. Update on Highways including:

Cllr Townsend reported that following the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> March, Somerset Highways were advised of potholes at Stockhill, Dark Lane and Lawrence Rd, also blocked gullies by the Rose and Crown and High St, also flooding and potholes at Stoke Bottom, an apparent spring at Cherry Gardens and the wall leaning over the highway at Craddock's Bottom. Highways undertook to inspect all issues, but the only positive results appear to have been at Stockhill and Stoke Bottom where the flooding by the Fairy Cave junction has been cleared and all but one pothole made good.

Farley Dell – residents have expressed concern that delivery drivers are doing unnecessary visits to both legs of the estate because the road sign giving the split of numbers to left and right is usually obscured by parked vehicles. A possible simple solution would be to mount the sign at a safe height on the nearby lamp post. The Clerk will request Mendip District Council if they are able to make the improvement.

*Action: Clerk to make request to Mendip District Council*

#### 7. Finance

##### 1. Approve Highbury Playing Field Accounts for the Charity Commission 2019/20 & 2020/21

The Clerk had circulated the accounts for both the year end 2020 and 2021 for consideration and approval. It was proposed by Cllr Ham and seconded by Cllr Conn that both sets of accounts should be approved.

**Vote: 7 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstentions**

*Action: Chair to sign and Clerk to upload to the Charity Commission website*

2. Approve year end accounts 2020/21

The Clerk had circulated the Parish Council accounts for the year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 for consideration and approval.

Cllr Conn thanked the Clerk for completing the task. He outlined that the budget spend for the year was £55K with the actual sum totaling £52K which considering the pandemic was good to almost balance. The predicted income was £8K with the actual income at £4K. A VAT request has been lodged and payment is expected for the sum of £3K which would help to bridge the income gap. There was only a small amount of income from the changing rooms during the year due to pandemic. There are commitments which will roll over into the current year. The bank balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 was £44326.53 with a slight fall to £42586.33 at the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 which was expected.

It was proposed by Cllr Conn and seconded by Cllr Barrett that the accounts should be approved as submitted

**Vote: 7 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstentions**

*Action: Chair to sign as an accurate record*

3. Approve bank reconciliation

Cllr Barrett had reviewed the year end bank reconciliation which was found to be in good order

4. Approve Asset register 2021/22

The Clerk had circulated the asset register to all Councillors prior to the meeting for review. Which had been updated to include the Clerks laptop and metal picnic table at Goodeaves play area. It was agreed that the asset register 2021/22 was up to date and should be approved.

**Vote: 7 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstentions**

*Action: Chair to sign as an accurate record*

5. Approve Financial Risk statement 2021/22

The Clerk had circulated the Financial risk assessment to all Councillors prior to the meeting for review. It was agreed that the Financial risk assessment 2021/22 should be approved.

**Vote: 7 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstentions**

*Action: Chair to sign*

6. Accounts approved for payments – Appendix 1

The Clerk circulated the list of invoices due to be paid prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Conn and seconded by Cllr Barret that all payments should be approved.

| <b>Item purchased</b>   | <b>Amount</b> |
|---|---------------|
| Home office expenses @ £17 p/m  | £17.00        |
| Mileage for Agenda & play area inspections                                | £18.00        |
| Drop laptop at Geeking it simple and collect 22 miles @.45                | £9.90         |
| Key for bollards  | £15.00        |
| Postage for grass cutting contract  | £1.83         |
| Underpayment of £10 (Should have been total of £150 & £140 paid 10/03/21) | £10.00        |
| Paper & Laminating pouches  | £15.70        |
| 1st class postage for Context Planning                                    | £0.85         |
| Gloves for litter pick x 15   | £24.25        |
| Litter pickers 6 x 4  | £113.94       |
| Bin bags x 15   | £27.50        |
| RBLI Tommy  | £235.00       |
| Demarcation tape & Hazard tape for Goodeaves                              | £16.28        |

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Hippo Hazard tape   | £6.95          |
| Home office expenses @ £17 p/m                                    | £17.00         |
| Mileage for Agenda & play area inspections                        | £18.00         |
| Geeking It Simple - Antivirus software                            | £36.00         |
| Zoom subscription (2/3 to be claimed from Holcombe & Cranmore PC) | £119.90        |
| <b>Total due to the Clerk:</b>                                    | <b>£623.16</b> |

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Donation to Citizens Advice Mendip                                 | £1,000.00         |
| YMCA - Coleford Youth Club   | £6,000.00         |
| Greenways Grounds Maintenance - pump track strimming               | £49.88            |
| Mark Reynolds - Work on the Gladman Appeal                         | £4,260.00         |
| ICCM - Corporate Membership  | £95.00            |
| Chris Ingrem - Fingerpost renovation (Lipyeate Cross)              | £310.00           |
| SALC - How to find Cllrs (Clerk training)                          | £30.00            |
| SLCC - Creating accessible word and PDF documents (Clerk training) | £42.00            |
| The Courtyside Charity CPRE  | £36.00            |
| HMRC   | £31.37            |
| <b>Total to pay including Clerk reimbursement:</b>                 | <b>£12,406.08</b> |

**Vote: 7 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstentions**

*Action: Clerk to ensure payments are sent*

## 12. Update on Climate Emergency Fund Grant

Cllr Conn reported that the Parish Council have been offered £16795 for part of our application, namely the allotment and 2 orchard projects. Somerset County Council are proposing 2 or 3 payments in advance during the work. A record of all expenditure would need to be made for submission to support the project and how the money was spent. The allotments as specified in the plan cannot proceed without planning permission which will cost the Parish Council money and was not requested as part of the bid. Cllr Conn suggested that the offer of £16795 be accepted subject to planning permission being approved for allotments. If permission is not given the project cannot go ahead. Cllr Conn suggested:

- 1 We accept the grant and apply for planning permission and pay the planning fee of £280.
- 2 The Parish Council agrees to pay the planning fees
- 3 Publicity to seek more people interested in working on the orchards project.
- 4 Don't do any parts of the project until we know planning permission has been granted.
- 5 Account for all expenditure in a separate spreadsheet to satisfy Somerset County Councils requirements

Cllr Pearce asked if the allotments are still going to be put on the playing field. Cllr Conn said that there was only one actual offer of land which is a mile from the village and outside the parish boundary, which doesn't make it an attractive proposition. The intention is therefore to continue with the proposal for Highbury Playing Field.

It was proposed by Cllr Ham and seconded by Cllr Evans that we accept the grant, apply for planning permission and continue as suggested by Cllr Conn above.

**Vote: 7 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstentions**

## 13. Discuss recent damage at Goodeaves Play area

The Clerk said that the spate of vandalism and anti-social behaviour at Goodeaves play area seems to have eased over the last 10 days. A quote has been received from Alvian Ltd to repair the slide and the timber trail. 2 options were given for the slide, the quote is as follows:

Option 1 - To supply and fit (Like for like)  
 1 x Replacement plastic slide £1066.00  
 Installation repairs to rubber and disposal of old slide £750.00  
 1 x delivery £75.00                      Total £1891.00 + Vat

Option 2 - To supply and fit (Longer lasting option)  
 1 x Replacement Heavy-Duty Stainless-Steel slide £1378.00  
 Installation and disposal of old slide £750.00

1 x delivery £250.00

Total £2378.00 + Vat

Timber Trail - To supply and fit end timber £75.00 (as long as it is done at the same time)

The quote has been sent with photographs to the Insurance company for the claim. Alvian recommended replacing the plastic slide with a stainless-steel slide which will last much longer and would cope if similar behaviour was to be repeated in the future.

Alvian Ltd confirmed that the loose fixing on the basket swing was the result of the current dry spell rather than foul play and simply needs to be tightened which they have offered to complete when they are next on site at no charge.

It was proposed by Cllr Drescher and seconded by Cllr Ham that the slide should be upgraded to a stainless-steel version for the additional £300 making a total cost for the repair of the slide 2378 and the timber trail £75 plus VAT.

**Vote: 7 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstentions**

*Action: Clerk to pursue the insurance claim*

*Clerk to seek advice on how to stop kids climbing on the roof of the tower.*

#### **14. Review quotes for re fencing the Hard Courts and astro turf type surface**

Cllr Allen reported that he had received the following quote:

Cover macadam surface with sand, rubber balls and 3g grass £40K  
Wire fence £16k or £20K for weld mesh fence which is far superior and will last much longer  
Depending on use it will cost in the region of £160-£180 each month to maintain.

G3 surface can be used for football, rugby, tennis and netball

Cllr Allen confirmed that he had already passed the quote to a resident who is the mother of one of the youth football players who is going to try and access funding. She is hopeful that the full cost of the upgrade can be covered.

Councillors discussed the pros and cons of undertaking the work.

Pros include:

Would provide excellent facility for Coleford Athletic Football Team

Could be rented to bring in an income and support the upkeep

If a grant funding is an option, then outlay is minimal

Will tidy up the currently untidy area

Cons include:

If locked it could divert some children to play on CAFC pitch

A booking clerk would be required

Will require ongoing maintenance at a cost

Cllr Pearce said that doing nothing with the area is no longer an option as it is tired, in need of maintenance and not being used to its full potential. It was suggested that it could all be ripped up and the area returfed. Cllr Allen had received a quote of £12K for this to be done. Cllr Ham said that the pitch could be opened for a period of time on set days to allow public use. It was agreed that there should be communication with representatives of CAFC. This would be essential from the onset. Should we go to a public consultation?

*Action: Clerk to arrange a zoom meeting with a representative of CAFC, Sarah Halford as fund raiser, Cllrs Ham, Conn, Allen and Drescher*



### **15. Discuss rain water harvesting at Goodeaves allotments**

Cllr Ham reported that having spoken to a local resident it is apparent that there is a supply of 1000ltr tanks at nearby farm which we could have for small fee. There is also a 1000ltr container at Leigh on Mendip which they have agreed we can have free of charge.

*Action: Clerk to liaise with the allotment holders, supplier and Cllr Ham to arrange delivery.*

Cllr Turner arrived 9pm

### **16. Discuss the future use of the telephone box at Careys Mead**

The Clerk had asked Cllr Hanney to inspect the door to the phone box which was rotten around the door handle. He confirmed that it was also rotten at the bottom but as the glass is set into metal frames, he felt that a carpenter would be able to make a new door and reset the glass rather than buy a new door.

*Action: Clerk will seek quotes for repair.*

*Agenda item for a future meeting to consider quotes and future use*

### **16. Discuss the return of face-to-face meetings**

A Court has ruled that Parish Councils can no longer use virtual meetings beyond 6<sup>th</sup> May and meetings must return at an agreed location and be face to face. As the judgment was only given the evening of the meeting it was agreed that this would be an agenda item for the next meeting when it is hoped that there may be clarity on how numbers could be managed and what requirements @ The Hub would expect of the Council using the hall.

*Action: The Clerk to establish if the Annual Meeting of the Parish has to be done face to face.*

*Agenda item for next meeting*

### **17. Meetings to attend or attended**

Frome Town Council invited neighbouring parishes to join them for a discussion on what unitary might mean to each Council. There were 24 attendees. Paul Wynne said that the decision is expected from Central Government in June on what will be implemented in Somerset. Frome Town Council are suggesting that Local Networks start to work together and offer the group as a lead pilot. Communication could be difficult if we lose Mendip District Council but Somerset County Council will also be disbanded and the new set up will be put in place. Will Unitary actually effect parishioners? Want to make sure that our North East corner of the County is not neglected. All agreed that planning consultation must be retained at Parish level. It was agreed that the next meeting will take place in a month.

Cllr Ham said that there were legal challenges now taking place over the Stronger Somersets wish for referendums and polls.

### **18. Correspondence**

The Countryside Voices – Pass to Cllr Townsend

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

A resident has made a request to have the parish bench removed from the green at the entrance to Beacon View, next to the village sign. Recently there has been regular gatherings of young people in the evening, up to 10 breaching the covid regs. With the people comes additional cars and motorbike. This is impacting on the resident’s mental wellbeing. The police have not yet been notified. Cllr Ham said that there has always been opposition to the bench right from the time it was installed. He went on to say that the problem needs to be resolved rather than removing the bench as that will result in just moving the problem to another area. He encouraged resident to report any disruptions or anti-social behaviour to the police so that they can provide the officers to patrol. If they are not aware of the problem, they cannot do anything about it.

Cllr Drescher suggested that a bin be installed at the location as the litter was particularly bad in that area. The Clerk said that Idverde had confirmed that bagged dog waste can be put into the multi-use bins.

*Action: Clerk to report the complaint to the Police and our local PCSO using 101*

*Clerk to seek costs for the installation of a multi-use bin*

*Clerk to highlight to public via social media that multi use bins can accept bagged dog waste*

**20. Date of Next Meetings:**

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021  | Annual Parish Council meeting followed by the monthly meeting         |
| Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 | Annual Meeting of the Parish Council followed by the Planning meeting |