

Parish Council of Coleford

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 13th June 2018

Present

Cllr Philip Ham (Chairman presiding)
Cllr Banks, Harding, Drescher, Turner, Hanley, Evans, and Barrett

There were 3 members of the public present

PF Public Forum

There is much concern over the activity at a property within the village, which would indicate that it is being used to deal drugs, with people visiting throughout the day and night. The Police are aware of this but both the public and the Councillors expressed deep concern that no action seems to have been forthcoming.

It was reported that the container at Highbury playing field was recently graffitied. A witness was threatened by a knife and a fracas ensued on the Highbury Street. Members of staff at the co-op have also been threatened. It's believed that the people involved are linked to the drug issues within the village and that knives are regularly being carried. This has become a very serious problem and there is now a real concern that if the police do not do something to stop the behavior then some people from within the village will take it upon themselves to sort it out before someone is hurt.

At the same time as the graffiti was done, one of the safety signs at the Pump Track was damaged and ripped from the ground and the CRG bins were discarded down the bank.

It was agreed that the Clerk would email Inspector Mark Nicholson to highlight the concerns of the residents.

VW

1 Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

Cllr Townsend, Talbot, Conn, Pearce and PCSO Storey all sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

A letter of resignation had been received from Tony Gurd which was accepted by the Chair. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Tony to thank him for his commitment to the village with two stints with the Parish Council.

VW

2 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

There were none.

3 Approve Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on the 9th May and the 23rd May 2018

Both sets of minutes had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. It was agreed that both sets accurately reflected the meetings and were duly signed by the Chair.

4 Matters Arising

All matters arising had been completed or would be mentioned under a later agenda item apart from:

- Cllr Banks had been unable to make any progress regarding the phone mast at Rush Farm Lane, he will continue to investigate. HB
- Asset list to be amended to show a location for easy sorting VW
- GDPR – Clerk to process VW
- The grass needs to be cut at Underhill – Clerk to ask liaison with Steve Hill VW

- The rough ground at Coleford Playing field has still not been addressed. Ensure that Steve Hill is aware that permission has been given by the Parish Council for him to harrow and roll the ground so that the grass can be cut effectively for the rest of the season. VW

5 **Reports-**

5.1 PCSO report:

PCSO Michael Storey had sent his apologies along with the following report for the Rural North area:

Burglaries - 1

Non – dwelling Burglaries - 3

Criminal Damage – 3

ASB - 24

Coleford specifically. 40 service calls received for Coleford in the month of May.

These can range from ASB, Road related incidents, Burglaries, suspicious sightings and abandoned 999 calls.

Coleford:

Burglaries – 0

Non – Dwelling Burglaries – 0

Criminal Damage – 1

ASB – 8

5.2 District Council Report

District Cllr Ham had provided information from Mendip District Council that would be included within the reading pack. At the next planning meeting Cllr Ham will talk more about the implications of Unitary Councils and the possible options being proposed. AG

Cllr Townsend did not attend the meeting but had emailed to say that at the recent Full Council meeting at Mendip DC he had been appointed as a full member of the Licensing, Planning and Scrutiny Boards.

5.3 County Council Report

County Cllr Ham provided information to be put in the reading pack.

5.4 Councillors – details of meetings attended this month

Councillor Ham attended:

As County Councillor:

16/05/18 – Full Council

22/05/18 – Policy and Place Scrutiny

As District Councillor:

14/05/18 – Full Council

17/05/18 – Transformation

17/05/18 – Frome Independent market

17/05/18 – Advertising Opportunities

21/05/18 – Car Park reviews

21/05/18 – Cabinet

22/05/18 – Equalities

23/05/18 – Community Value Asset Panel

04/06/18 – Avalon motors

04/06/18 – Group Manager Interviews

05/06/18 – Holcombe PC

07/06/18 – Phoenix Board

12/06/18 – Tor Multi

13/06/18 – Moorlands

13/06/18 – Migrant Forum

As Coleford PC

02/06/18 – Pump Track opening

Councillor Townsend attended:

10/5/18 – Stoke St Michael PC

14/05/18 – Mendip IT training

14/05/18 – Mendip Full Council

16/05/18 – Mendip Planning board

21/05/18 – Mendip Cabinet

28/05/18 – Coleford 1st Priority signposts, survey and cutting back

29/05/18 – Truespeed High Speed Broadband presentation at Stratton. Cllr Townsend urged everyone to check out their presentation and see for themselves.

6 **Planning**

6.1 Decisions on previous applications

There were none.

6.2 Complaints received by the Planning Enforcement Team at Mendip District Council

There were none.

6.3 Present applications

2018/1148/FUL – Retrospective application for the installation of disabled access ramp.

Coleford Pharmacy, Crossways, Church Street, Coleford, Radstock

Coleford Parish Council considered the abovementioned plans prior to discussion. It was proposed by Cllr Turner that the application should be refused. The Council welcomes disabled access but it must be fit for purpose and comply with current health and safety rules. The current design is inadequate, it is not wide enough and there is insufficient room to negotiate the bend and into the shop for mobility scooters and wheelchairs. This was seconded by Cllr Banks.

VOTE: For 7 Against 0 Abstained: 1 (District Councillor)

7 **Review opening if the BMX pump track and discuss press release**

The opening ceremony was a success. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr Nigel Taylor the Chairman of Somerset County Council to thank him for opening the track. The Clerk will prepare a press release to cover the recent opening of the pump track and thank all who helped contribute to making it happen. A letter of thanks will also be sent to Mrs Jenny Ham and her helpers for preparing the food.

VW
VW
VW

It was very sad to have to report that there has already been a case of vandalism where one of the safety signs and posts had been pulled from the ground. The actual sign is missing. Cllr Harding agreed to investigate and see if the sign could be found.

NH

8 **Highways including agree contractor for renovation of finger post signs**

The Clerk said that despite leaving messages she had still not had a response from the Mells sign post painter. It was agreed that the Clerk would phone the Clerks for Leigh on Mendip and Mells to establish if they had other contractors quote for their renovation project. The Clerk explained that it was crucial that the contractors has the required qualifications to work on the highways.

The new name sign has been installed at Preachers Vale. Cllr Turner asked if we could arrange for the sign at Mendip Vale to be reinstalled as it is now resting against the wall.

VW

A message had been received asking if double yellow lines could be installed outside of the Co-op. The Chair said that this has been investigated previously over a period of over 20 years. The point is that if the yellow lines were installed who would enforce it? The Police are already overstretched and Coleford parking is unlikely to be a priority.

Cllr Ham confirmed that the Small improvement scheme, which included measures to address inconsiderate parking and speeding in the village has been approved to go through to the next stage. If successful it would be many months (if not years) before we would see the installation of the scheme.

9 **Speedwatch**

The Clerk explained that 8 volunteers had come forward to be part of the speedwatch team. The Clerk has asked Area Coordinator Terry Drake to reactivate the previously approved speedwatch locations and notified him that training will be required.

VW

10 Report of vandalism to the cabin in the woods below Mendip Vale, Discuss and agree action AD
 Since the original report of vandalism to the shed the timber has been burnt. It was agreed that Cllr Drescher would visit the site to establish how much cleaning up is required.

11 Agree use of the irresponsible Dog owner form
 It was agreed that the document would be re-emailed to all Councillors for discussion and approval at the next meeting.

12 Finance

12.1 Income – There was none

12.2 Bank Reconciliation – Adjourned until the next meeting/.

12.3 Agree purchase of bags for the bag dispenser

It was proposed by Cllr Ham that 2000 bags should be purchased at a cost of £36.07 inc VAT per 1000 bags which was seconded by Cllr Turner. The Clerk to ask John Fisher if he would be able to keep a record of when he refills the bag dispenser unit.

Voting FOR 8, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTIONS 0

12.4 Update on the Direct Debit for the changing rooms electricity charge

The Clerk explained that the direct debit was to be increased to £15 per month to cover the electricity supplied to the Changing rooms. No action is required.

12.5 Accounts approved for payments

Clerk expenses (£36 home office)	£111.37
S J Hill – Grass cutting	£773.55
Citizen Advice Bureau grant	£1000.00
Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset & Wiltshire Community Rehabilitation Company – BGSW CRC Ltd Jan to March 2018	£108.00
Keith Evans – Refreshments, Stain & paint for CPB £53.26 & £49.00	£102.26
Holcombe PC – Cllr Training with SALC x 30	£62.50
Noel House – Bins installation at the Pump track	£60.00
Sign Efix Ltd – Pump track signage	£568.80
Jenny Ham – Food for the Pump Track opening	£46.75

Councillors agreed to make the abovementioned payments. Cllr Ham and the clerk signed the cheques. The Clerk will meet with Cllr Townsend to provide the 3rd signature.

Voting FOR 8,, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTIONS 0

13 Agree play area maintenance work

13.1 The Clerk explained that the following items needed to be completed

1. Large rocking horse at Coleford Play area – 2 x new seats @ £49.50 inc VAT for both seats
2. Wash safety surface at Coleford Play area – 2 quotes had been received: Ministry of Play quoted £376 + VAT and Aqua Power (from Coleford) quoted £250 with no VAT.
3. Replace side panel on multi play equipment at Highbury play area. Awaiting quote from Noel House but it's a small panel and shouldn't be expensive.

It was proposed by Cllr Ham that the 3 projects be completed as there was sufficient budget allocated for such repairs. This was seconded by Cllr Turner.

Voting FOR 8, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTIONS 0

The Clerk to arrange for the work to be completed.

VW

- 13.2 Update on the splits in the timber at Goodeaves play area.
The Clerk confirmed that there are several large poles that make up the multi play trail and the see-saw which have large cracks in which have opened up since the warmer weather. An inspection has been carried out by the original supplier but the person is now on leave. The Clerk has asked for an update which has not been forthcoming. Clerk to continue to press for a report and ascertain if the equipment is still within warranty. Ag
- 14 Discuss and agree new piece of play equipment at Roman Way**
The Clerk bought along a brochure which provided a large selection of different types of play area equipment, of which one may be appropriate as an additional item for Roman Way. She suggested that if the new item was a low level it would keep costs down as a specialised safety surface would not be required.
- It was agreed that Cllr Evans would take the brochure home and consult with the families in Roman Way to establish what they might like to see added to the play area and report back at the next meeting. KE
Ag
- 15 Coleford Athletic Football Club requests to**
- Tile the toilet area at a cost of £380 to CPC – It was agreed that Cllr Drescher would ask if the £380 is the materials for just the home changing room toilet or does this include the entrance area? AD
 - Paint dressing rooms – cost to be borne by CAFC. John Hansford has asked if this would be taken into consideration when setting the charge for the 19/20 season. AC
 - Consider grass cutting proposal – This will be discussed at the end of this grass cutting season. VW
- Quotes for the improvements to the changing rooms had been provided by Mr Noel House and Mr Kim Hawkins. Cllr Drescher will meet with John Hansford to establish more information and report back to the council at the next meeting. AD
Ag
- 16 Cemetery – Approve memorial application**
There was nothing to discuss as was entered onto the agenda in error.
- 17 Report of any risks identified**
Cllr Evans reported that there was a pile of builders rubbish and wood which had been placed over the wall into Highbury Playing field. Cllr Harding agreed that he would investigate and report back to Council. NH
- The overhanging trees at Underhill are a risk. The Clerk explained that the contractor was planning to cut back the Underhill trees and Roman Way on the previous Monday but as the road had been closed it had not been completed. The Clerk to establish when the work will be scheduled. VW
- Cllr Drescher has repaired the picnic table seat at Goodeaves play area however it was noted that the other picnic table is also loose and needs to be tightened up. Cllr Drescher will complete the work. AD
- 18 Meetings to attend**
Understanding Charitable Trusts – 20/06/18. Clerk to attend at a cost of £55
Understanding Planning – 27/06/18 at a cost of £30 per person. A useful course for new Councillors if they are able to make it. Clerk to ask MDC if they intend to hold another planning event which when last held was free of charge. VW
- 19 Correspondence**
Clerks and Councillors newsletter –
Truespeed broad band
Rainbow Ramble and Family Picnic Weds 29/08/18 to raise funds for the Hospice at Charlton Farm, Wraxall.
- 20 Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman’s Discretion**
There were none.
- 21 Date of Next Meetings:**
Wednesday 27th June 2018 Planning Meeting
Wednesday 11th July 2018 Parish Council Meeting

The meeting finished at 21.45hrs