

Parish Council of Coleford

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Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 14th November 2018

Present

Cllr Philip Ham (Chairman presiding)
Cllr Allen, Barrett, Banks, Conn, Drescher, Evans, Harding, Hanney, Pearce, Talbot, Turner, and
Townsend

There was 3 member of the public present.

PF Public Forum

- 1 Cllr Turner reported that the dog waste bin at Rope Walk has not been emptied. The Clerk has reported this to Idverde to expedite the collection. Continue to chase up. VW
- 2 Cllr Pearce reported that a dog waste bin on Common Lane, Holcombe (Holcombe Parish Council) had been blown up using what was believed to be a firework. Other grit bins had also been targeted but not damaged in the same way.
- 3 A member of the public attended to raise concern over the fact that the salt bins were not being refilled by SCC this winter due to cuts in funding. Cllr Ham interjected to say that a reprieve had been given and the salt bins will be refilled in light of receiving additional funding by Central Government.
- 4 Mrs Diana Francis-Jones said that she was very concerned that it was now so dangerous negotiating to cross the road to get to the pharmacy. She understands that there are rules set out by the Highways department which may prevent the installation of a pedestrian crossing at the site. However, she felt strongly that the rules should be challenged and that she was prepared to speak with the head of the highways department directly to outline why it is only a matter of time before there is an accident and someone will get hurt.

She has spoken to the staff working in Dudley Taylor Pharmacy who agree it is dangerous but have said that she should contact the head office to discuss the safety concerns. The details were passed on to the Clerk.

Cllr Ham suggested that she joins him and Rebecca Davis from the highways department at the next site visit to which Mrs Francis-Jones said she would like to do. PH

Mrs Diana Francis-Jones left the meeting.

- 5 Cllr Evans said that at 9am each day a delivery to the pharmacy takes place. The lorry parks on the hatched area and causes an obstruction at the junction. Cllr Ham said that this would be taken into consideration at the meeting with highways as mentioned above.

- 1 **Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)**
PCSO Storey sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

- 2 **Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting**
Cllr Banks declared an interest in the Agenda item 10 Small Grants. He has an interest in the applications received from Coleford Theatre Group and @ The Hub.

Cllr Ham declared an interest in the Agenda item 10 Small Grants. He has an interest in the applications received from Coleford Flower Show, Coleford Youth Club and @ The Hub.

- 3 Approve Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on the 10th and 24th of October 2018**
Copies of the minutes from the abovementioned meetings had been circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed that both sets accurately reflected the meetings and were duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr Ham.

Vote: 13 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained

4 Matters Arising

All matters arising had been completed or would be covered under the agenda item during the meeting apart from:

1. The Clerk had spoken to Trevor Wilkins regarding removing the old safety surface from Roman Way but he was not taking on any new work until the New Year. The Clerk to try Pete Simpson who had helped recently to move a Christmas tree in Holcombe. Carry forward to next meeting. VW
2. Risk assessments for the village play areas and the hard court had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Conn drew attention to the risk of unwanted attention from strangers for children when using the play areas. He proposed that the Council could mitigate the risk by highlighting that children should be supervised when using the play areas which can be done using the website and Facebook. Carry forward to next meeting. VW
3. It was questioned whether the Parish Council insurance was providing adequate insurance if youths were to injure themselves from falling on the hard court. Cllr Evans confirmed that the Parish Council insurance policy provides thorough cover.

5 Reports-

5.1 PCSO report:

PCSO Michael Storey had sent his apologies along with a report for the Rural North area which had been circulated to all Councillors. Figures for Coleford were as follows:

- Burglaries – 0
- Non – Dwelling Burglaries – 0
- Criminal Damage – 0
- Theft of a motor vehicle - 1
- ASB – 2

PCSO 6742 Lucy GUMM has joined the Frome Rural North beat team and can be contacted via email address – lucy.gumm@avonandsomerset.police.uk

After the Frome Rural PACT meeting it was decided that rural crime would become a PACT priority. The rural crime umbrella covers many offences including Non–Dwelling burglaries, Burglaries, Theft of livestock, theft of farm implements etc. Our aim is to educate our rural community’s reference reporting of crime, preventative measures they can use to reducing the chance of becoming a victim of crime.

It was decided by rural communities that burglary should be made a PACT priority; this was after an increase of this offence was shown in the crime. Burglary occurs when someone enters property illegally with the intention of committing a crime such as theft, damage or injury. Burglary doesn't have to occur in a building; gardens, outbuildings, sheds, garages and building sites are commonly targeted too.

Poaching - Gamekeepers and the farming community are often those most affected by, or are witness to rural crime. They provide the eyes and the ears of the countryside and often suffer the consequences of rural crime. Poaching can lead to a number of animal welfare issues, serious loss of income from the illegal taking of game and the damage which many offenders carry out to farm land in the process of carrying out these crimes. Poachers are usually involved with many other rural crimes as well. As landowners and gamekeepers , please remain vigilant and report anything suspicious on 999 emergency or 101 non-emergency, Any intelligence you can provide to us reference poaching /rural crime would be much appreciated by your rural beat team. Useful free app regarding poaching is now available at www.projectpoacher.com

These priorities can be seen on the Frome Rural North Beat pages on the force website - www.avonandsomerset.police.uk clicking onto your area.

5.2 District Council Report

District Cllr Ham attended the meeting and reported that:

The sale of Saxonvale has taken a lot of work. A sale and overage agreement has been signed. There is still lots of work to do and it is hoped that planning applications will be submitted by Easter with building to start late 2019. There will be lots of consultation over this on a commercial basis. Frome Town Council owns a small plot within the area and some negotiating is still to be done on how this will move forward.

Cllr Ham's portfolio of Transformation has so far spent £25m on assets that will raise £1.1m in revenue per annum. £6m has been spent on a derelict site in Frome and 3 more acquisitions are under review in Bristol, Frome and Plymouth, and another is under consideration in the Mendip area, but its location cannot be announced yet, all of which will result in £2.5m receipts each year.

MDC's Planning Enforcement team has been increased to six members, and fines have been increased to £150 per time.

The reinstatement of the railway from Frome to Radstock is starting to make progress with Central Government possibly looking towards contributing towards the cost.

A new Changing Places facility has been agreed at the main entrance at the Bath and West Showground and will hopefully be open by Spring 2019. This will be open 7am to 7pm every day. Street have also agreed to install this important facility.

Cllr Ham had attended a Mendip Citizen Advice Bureau presentation on Monday night. £100k has been cut from their county budget. For every £1 of funding gives £50 to the local economy. They are looking to District Councils, Parish and Town Councils to help bridge the funding gap. Reorganisation will also take place within the CAB.

District Cllr Townsend reported as follows:

Mendip Planning Board - The Board was able to agree to two new dwellings outside development limits, but only because very specific justification was provided. In one case to provide onsite security to a shooting facility at Haydon Drove near Wells.

Local Plan Part 2 - The final draft will be presented to Cabinet and Council prior to submission to the Inspector in January for final examination and approval. This provides details of locations for housing development and identifies Local Green Spaces. I had a meeting to try to secure agreement to our additional list of LGS, but was advised that they are too large to qualify, e.g. the landscapes surrounding the Old Canal. Nevertheless our comments will go to the Inspector.

Scrutiny Board - The work of the CAB was reviewed. It receives some 420 enquiries a week and The Council are keen to continue supporting its work. The Somerset Waste Partnership are well aware of the issue of plastic food containers. They are accepted for recycling at the Frome and Dulcote centers. They are looking at siting bins at supermarket car parks.

CPRE AGM - The theme was rural affordable housing. The regeneration of Radstock was quoted as a prime example having achieved 30% affordable. The importance of understanding local needs was stressed and the Housing Needs Survey for Coleford is a key part of the jigsaw.

Somerset Highways have agreed to an urgent meeting to address the road safety issues at the Co-op. They are listening to our concerns over dangerous parking outside the shop and opposite the pharmacy, and the hazards of crossing the road.

5.3 County Council Report

County Cllr Ham attended the meeting and reported that it has been agreed that Somerset County Council will now provide salt for grit bins throughout the County but it is not known at this stage whether a supply will be made available for Parish Councils as an emergency supply as has happened in the past.

District Cllr Ham attended the meeting and reported that information relating to the roll out of broadband – connecting Somerset & Devon has shown that Gigiclear are not progressing well. There have been changes in senior personnel, they are 9 months behind schedule and simply not performing. Truespeed are gaining traction in the area and can offer a solution depending on individual locations.

SWP (Somerset Waste Partnership) have presented their new business plan, including the creation of an incineration plant in Avonmouth, as they are pulling out of sending anything to landfill. They are working hard on reducing single use plastics and trying to reduce waste especially black plastic which is the worst.

Halecombe Quarry's application went to the Board on 08/11/18, the report being 120 pages long. The process was started over four years ago and no one mentioned Bath hot springs until 8 months ago. Halecombe have not changed anything over the last 13 years so the drop in water level is not due to them. The application was approved for another 12 years works for the tar plant (£9m), and they will review the impact on the hot springs at each drop in level.

5.4 Councillors – details of meetings attended this month

Councillor Ham attended:

As County Councillor:

16-10 Whatley Quarry Liaison meeting

17-10 Full Council Budget Cuts

24-10 Scrutiny Policy and Place (Libraries)

08-11 Meeting with Buckland Dinham PC re traffic

08-11 Regeneration committee Halecombe Quarry

12-10 Scrutiny – Policy & Place – Rights of Way, Single use plastics, Broadband, CDS

As District Councillor:

11-10 Policy working group

15-10 Saxonvale Project board

15-10 Car park strategy meeting

17-10 Planning meeting with K Price

22-10 Saxonvale Project board

22-10 Cabinet

23-10 Phoenix board

23-10 Meeting with CAB

25-10 Saxonvale update

25-10 Meeting Bath & West regards 'Changing places'

29-10 Asset meeting

30-10 Members advisory group Local Plan Part II

31-10 Frome Independent Market meeting

05-11 Saxonvale Project board

05-11 Scrutiny

06-11 Holcombe PC

07-11 Meeting with planners & Frome re Radstock Railway

09-11 Saxonvale Stakeholders meeting

09-11 Car park meeting

09-11 Phoenix board

09-11 Meeting with Press ref Saxonvale

13-11 Car Park strategy review

Councillor Townsend attended:

11-10. Stoke Playing Field Makeover Meeting

15-10. Leigh Parish Council

16-10. MDC Planning Board 4 site visits

17-10. MDC Planning Board

18-10. Stoke Parish Council

24-10. Coleford PC Finance review

25-10. CPRE AGM Glastonbury

30-10. MDC Planning Members Advisory Group

01-11. MDC Planning re Local Plan Part II

05-11 .MDC Scrutiny Board

13-11. Key Rings Director's Meeting

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

20182608/HSE – Conversion of existing garage and outbuildings to residential use. Erection of a conservatory and replacement garage. Ferndale, Harris Vale, Coleford, Radstock
All Councillors had considered the plans for the abovementioned application prior to discussion. It was proposed by Cllr Conn that and seconded by Cllr Turner that the application should be recommended for approval providing there would be no addition traffic as a result of the conversion.

Vote: 10 For, 0 Against and 3 Abstained (2 of which were District Councillor)

7 **Highways**

It was agreed that the Highways team had completed the work outside of the Co-op to an excellent standard making it very much improved. It was agreed that a letter of thanks would be sent thanking them for the work done.

VW

Extensive pot holing repairs have been completed at Newbury significantly improving the road.

Inconsiderate parking is a long standing problem throughout the village. It has been reported that parking on the hatched areas adjacent to the pedestrian crossing near the school has become a regular issue causing concern over safety of pedestrians walking to and from school. The PCSO will be asked to be vigilant when visiting the village and address the problem throughout the village.

VW

A request had been received asking that the grit bin currently located at the junction of Common Lane and Ham Hill be relocated down Ham Hill. Everyone agreed that it would make sense and that Cllr Pearce should go ahead to arrange for the bin to be relocated.

CP

8 **Discuss replacement of components for Fingerpost Signs**

Some of the fingerpost signs are missing certain components. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact some of the recommended iron workers for quotes to replace the original cast iron finger and the SCC triangle on the top. The Clerk to also ask if there is a new method of fitting components rather than sliding them down the main post.

VW

VW

9 **Update of GDPR**

The Clerk has started working through the process and is now a priority.

VW

10 **Consider and approve Small Grants 2018**

Cllr Banks declared that he had an interest in the applications received from Coleford Theatre Group and Coleford @ The Hub. Cllr Ham declared an interest in the applications received from Coleford Flower Show, Coleford Youth Club and @ The Hub.

Cllr Banks explained that the working party made up of himself and Cllr Conn and Cllr Evans had met to consider the applications. 9 applications had been received seeking funding from the Coleford Small grants, which this year had a total amount of £2500 to be divided. Cllr Conn recommended that the following awards be made which was seconded by Cllr Evans:

Court Café	£150.00	Towards outings and expenses on food etc
Tuesday Afternoon Club	£150.00	Towards cost of annual outing
Coleford Athletic Group	£200.00	To buy junior football posts
Coleford Revival Group	£250.00	Money towards Pensioners Christmas Dinner
1st Coleford Cubs & Scouts	£350.00	Replace badly worn crockery, H&S risk
Coleford Flower Show	£150.00	To purchase new technology
Coleford Youth Club	£250.00	Pool table renewal and extra funding if repaired
Coleford @ The Hub	£600.00	New door for Post Office entrance & fire escape
Coleford Theatre Group	£400.00	Also used by School as old kit gives feedback

Vote: 11 For, 0 Against and 2 Abstained (Due to interests)

11 **Finance**

11.1 Bank reconciliation

The Clerk asked for this to be adjourned until the next meeting as the statements had just arrived.

Ag

11.2 2nd Quarter budget review

Cllr Conn, Townsend, Ham and the Clerk had met to consider the 2nd quarter budget figures on a line by line basis. There is some rebalance due to the increase in Clerk salary regarding taking on the role of play area inspection including implications on pension, tax and national insurance although the budget did already include allocation for play area inspections just on another line.

The amounts spent within the period were as expected and the Chair indicated that the 2nd quarter review should be approved.

11.3 Initial discussion regarding setting the Precept 2019/20

During the finance meeting mentioned above, some thought was given to the Precept required for 2019/20. At this stage it would appear that an additional £3K would be required on top of the last year's precept. Although the bank balances are good there are future pressures including Beacon View play area, playing field fencing, youth club, CAB, bus subsidies, emergency plan, parking and the parish plan (Cllr Conn will take a look at the parish plan over the winter).

11.4 Accounts approved for payments

The following payments were approved:

Clerk expenses (inc £36 home office)	£74.10
Darren Haine Printing	£29.00
SJH Services – Grasscutting September	£733.55
SJH Services – Grasscutting October	£406.50
Chris Ingrem – Signpost renovations	£500.00
Midsomer Norton Journal - Grass Cutting advert	£44.92
Noel House – Bin & Bench installation	£320.00
Mendip YMCA - Youth club	£6000.00
Henry Banks – Travel Expenses	£22.50
Court café – Small Grant	£150.00
Tuesday Afternoon Club – Small Grant	£150.00
CAFC –Small Grant	£200.00
CRG – Small Grant	£250.00
1 st Coleford Scout group – Small Grant	£350.00
Coleford Youth Club – Small Grant	£250.00
Coleford @ the Hub– Small Grant	£600.00
Coleford Theatre Group – Small Grant	£400.00
Coleford Flower Show – Small Grant	£150.00

It was proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Harding that the abovementioned payments be made.

Vote: 13 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained

The cheques were approved and signed by Cllr Ham, Townsend, Conn and the Clerk.

12 **Discuss solution to ease Dog Fouling in the village**

Dog fouling continues to be a problem with lots of discussion between parishioners on Facebook. Mr Eugene Osborne had emailed to suggest that a 'Poo Patrol' might be a solution. He also offered to supply the graphics for a sticker which could be stuck on to green wheelie bins to let dog owners know that they could use the said wheelie bin to dispose of bagged dog waste.

The Council discussed both suggestions but felt that calling for volunteers to form a 'poo patrol' could be difficult to police. With respect to the offer of artwork for a wheelie bin sticker, the Clerk identified that home owners would have to consent to members of the public using their bin which is likely to be located on their own property. There is also the question as to whether Somerset Waste would consent to this action. The Clerk had called them for initial discussion but was waiting for a definitive answer from the senior manager. It was felt that neither of these options were appropriate at this point. The Clerk to respond to Mr Osborne.

- The Clerk had circulated an email received from Keep Britain Tidy which showed a video where a local Council had managed to reduce the amount of dog fouling by using glow in the dark posters stating that ‘We’re watching you’ The campaign package costs £2250+ VAT for 40 corex signs plus digital sign for use on social media. Councillors agreed that this was an interesting concept which obviously was working. VW
- After discussion it was agreed that a mail drop highlighting that the dog fouling incident report form is in use which is supported by MDC enforcement team. The enforcement team has recently been increased and it is hoped that this will help in the campaign to reduce dog fouling. The mail drop will include a copy of the form. Clerk to put together a flyer and seek quotes for 1000 copies. VW
- 13 Discuss whether to contribute towards cost of Water & Refuse collections from the Church / Cemetery**
Cllr Turner said that the Church have been paying for the removal of the waste from both cemeteries at a cost of £50 per year and all water used on site amounting to approx. £66 per year. The Church volunteer has been removing the waste from the Parish Council cemetery which is actually included within the grass cutting contract.
- It was suggested that Cllr Turner and Conn will consider whether if the shed is removed whether there is sufficient room to install a compost heap. They will also consider a fair way to share the cost of the water charges. Agenda item for the next meeting. CT
AC
Ag
- 14 Update on Allotments at Orchard Close ref fire**
A site meeting will take place with Cllrs Barrett, Harding and Turner. Agenda item for the next meeting. NH/MB
CT
Ag
- 15 Agree meeting dates for 2019 Parish Council meetings**
All Councillors had received a copy of the proposed dates. It was agreed that the meeting planned for the 20th November 2019 will be changed to 27th November 2018. This will be amended and displayed on the Parish noticeboards and website. VW
- 16 Meetings to attend / attended**
CPRE AGM on 25/10/18 at 2pm at Glastonbury Town hall. Cllr Townsend attended and will provide a report. AT
SALC AGM on 29^h October 2018 – Henry Banks attended at reported as follows:
Guest Speaker – Pat Flaherty CEO Somerset County Council. The Council is experiencing cuts from government and this in turn has an impact on how much can be spent on services. Pothole repairs, waste collection, recycling, schools, libraries, all still have to be funded and the hand out from the government getting reduced all the time. The government would like more and more housing to be built but the schools are not in this equation and he has to find the money to pay for them. A school with 14 classrooms will cost circa £5,000,000. In order to balance the books council staff will be cut by 20% and practices will be more streamlined and efficient to cope. He is waiting to hear if funding or flexibility will be in the budget from the Chancellor, Philip Hammond. Note - as I write this Mr Hammond is giving English counties £420,000,000 to repair potholes and bridges a further £650,000,000 grant funding to English counties, so I should imagine this will help assist the CEO with his budget.
- Update on changes to the association – From the 1st April 2019 SALC will become a limited company and will charge VAT on its services. VAT should be able to be claimed back from PCs.
- Mickey Green – (MD Somerset Waste Partnership) Mentioned bulk waste going to the local recycling centres and Parish Councils collecting bulk for those who do not have transport. Recycling booklets were handed out for PCs and a supply of food waste bags for next PC meeting. There will be no land fill from April 2020 in Somerset. Bin refuse collections will begin going to 3 weekly shortly to encourage more recycling. Members present posed the question of non-recycle types of plastic packaging such as found in chocolate, biscuit trays and ready meal trays, he asked we stop buying products that have this packaging and look for the alternatives which will change the attitude of the manufacturer to package sensibly. There are some 250,000 homes as a statistic in Somerset which is now testing the collection of his aging fleet of vehicles and he aims to renew the fleet with more fuel efficient vehicles with all round CCTV, better receptors for waste products. His company are keen to visit primary schools and give talks and practical demonstrations of recycling so children can cajole parents into recycling.

Guest Speaker – Dr Jonathan Owen CEO NALC. Announced Lorretta Whetlor as the SALC representative for any national issues. The NALC CEO heads up a team of 15 based in Ipswich, Suffolk. His team like to push diversity, race relations, women, religion and disability. A new committee member was required for Mendip area as 3 sit on the committee with 1 member as chair. I have been elected to do this and will involve an extra 4 sessions of meetings per year. Expenses will be paid by SALC. Each district in Somerset will have 3 members each. Mendip area meetings will take place at Mendip District Council (subject to approval MDC). Meeting will discuss all local issues and forward findings to SALC HQ. The meeting concluded 3pm.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Banks for attending the meeting and for volunteering as the Mendip SALC representative.

17 Report of any risks identified

Cllr Evans reported that during the recent clearance of Beacon View with the Community Payback Team, 3 asbestos pipes were found. The Payback team were not prepared to take them away so it was agreed that the Clerk would ask J W Waste if they would pick up the pipes and dispose of them in the correct way.

KE
VW

18 Correspondence

- CAB request for funding – No action required as Coleford PC already contributes annually.
- Email from a resident concerned with the drying up of the Tufa Falls, Whitehole Hill, Leigh on Mendip. The Parish Council was copied into the email which was sent direct to Somerset County Council. It was therefore agreed that we should not respond as SCC were better placed to do so.
- An email had been received from a relative of a resident of the village complaining about the overgrown path to the rear 29 Goodeaves. The brambles have become so bad that the path is unpassable and therefore poses a risk. It was agreed that the Community Payback Team will clear the path on their next visit to the village. Clerk to notify of action proposed.
- An email had been received from a resident concerned about the lack of gritting which Coleford would receive this winter resulting from cutbacks in funding. Cllr Ham confirmed that this email had been received prior to SCC confirming that the grit bins will now be refilled. Clerk to respond.

VW

VW

19 Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman’s Discretion

The Clerk contacted the Chairman prior to this meeting to say that Chris Brown of Shepton Mallet Landscapes was able to cut the rough ground left by Steve Hills at both the Coleford Playing Field and at Highbury Playing Field when he was next in the village. Cllr Ham agreed that we should not delay but instruct Mr Brown to complete the work at the earliest opportunity so that the grounds are in good order before agreeing the new contractor.

It had been reported that youths were climbing onto the roof of the barn located in the corner of Highbury Playing Field adjacent to the BMX pump track. It was agreed that this should be monitored. The Clerk will check the previous minutes to establish if it was agreed that the panel fence was to be extended further along the

VW

20 Date of Next Meetings:

Wednesday 21st November 2018 Planning Meeting
Wednesday 12th December 2018 Parish Council Meeting

The meeting finished at 22.15hrs