

Parish Council of Coleford

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Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 10th July 2019

Present

Cllr Philip Ham (Chairman presiding)
Cllr Allen, Barrett, Banks, Conn, Evans, Townsend, Turner and Pearce
There were no member of the public present

Public Forum

- PF1 A complaint was raised about the state of the cinder track footpath from Careys Mead. It was noted that the Clerk had this in hand.
- PF2 It was reported that the bolts were loose on the seat opposite the Church. Cllr Barrett volunteered to tighten them. MB
- PF3 The footpath behind the Kings Head had been cleared by Mr D Horler, who was thanked for his work.
- PF4 Mr Horler was happy to host the new Defibrillator at the Kings Head but questioned whether there were any restrictions on its precise location due to the building being Listed. Cllr Townsend agreed to investigate with Mendip DC. AT
- PF5 A request was made for an additional Bin at the end of Beacon View by the bungalows. It was noted that a spare is available. VW
- PF6 CRG requested that the Highbury Playing Field be made available for the 2020 Village Day on 28/29/30 August with time for setting up and clearing the site. Councillors fully supported the request. VW
- PF7 Cllr Turner reported that in the Cemetery 2 recent graves had sunk and 2 more were too high. The Clerk was asked to pursue this with the undertaker(s) VW
- PF8 It was reported that a complaint had been received that a caravan had been parked outside Douglas Yates Court causing a problem. This has now been removed.
- PF9 Considerable weed growth was reported at the edge of the roads around the village. The Clerk was asked to pursue with Mendip DC. VW
- PF10 It was reported that that the footpath at the rear of Nos 27/8/9 Goodeaves Close which had been cleared by the Payback Team was now overgrown again. The Clerk was asked to pursue with Aster. VW
- PF11 It was feared that previous issues were recurring again in Careys Mead. Cllr Ham agreed to investigate further. PH
- PF12 Cllrs reported that the grit bin in Careys Mead was surrounded by half empty grit bags. Cllr Ham agreed to investigate. PH
- PF13 The weed growth round the Pump Track was causing concern. Cllr Conn advised that he has it in hand. AC
- PF14 Mr P Horler asked if the Council could arrange some sort of protection around the CRG container on the Highbury Playing Field. Cllr Ham agreed to meet him to consider the options. PH

- 1 Apologies**
Cllr Hanney, Harding, Drescher, Talbot, the Clerk and PCSO Storey all sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.
- 2 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting**
There were none.
- 3 Approve Minutes of the monthly Parish Council meeting held on the 12th June 2019**
The minutes from the abovementioned meeting had been circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed that they accurately reflected the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr Ham.

Vote: 9 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:
- PF5 Cllrs were keeping the site under observation. The PCSO had been notified.
 - PF6 Cllr Conn reported that he had installed the new Sport England sign at the Pump Track
 - Min 4 Wall to the rear of the Kings Head – noted that this was being rebuilt.
 - Min 4 Land to rear of Beacon View – the Clerk had obtained confirmation that it was all owned by the Parish Council. Clerk to establish if this issue is ultimately the Councils responsibility if the drain is blocked further along. VW
 - Min 7.3 Resurfacing of RBL Car Park and safety proposals at Crossways junction – ongoing.
 - Min 7.4 Winter Gritting Programme – Cllr Ham reported that a new programme was imminent.
 - Min 8.3 Transfer funds into one savings account – In Clerks absence this will be an agenda item for the next meeting VW
 - Min 12 Defibrillator – In Clerks absence this will be an agenda item for the next meeting VW
 - Min 15.1 Return netball hoops to hard court – action ongoing PH
 - Min 15.2 Repair junior swings in Coleford play area – Work authorised by the Clerk.
 - Min 19.2 Overgrown hedge on footpath to rear of 69 Mendip Vale – Work has been completed.
 - Min 19.3 Footpath to rear of Douglas Yates Court – Highlighted to Somerset RoW and Debbie Pickford who support them by strimming in the village.

5 Reports-

- 5.1 PCSO report:
PCSO Michael Storey did not attend but the Clerk had previously circulated his report.
- 5.2 Somerset County Council Report
County Cllr Ham reported as follows:
1. Cllr Ham recently attended the Chairman’s awards at Taunton and was pleased to see many awards for the Mendip Area.
 2. Cllr Ham was presented to HRH Princess Anne last week at the re-opening the Bridleway from Faulkland to Norton St Philip. It was an enjoyable morning and made to feel at ease with good conversation with HRH.
 3. A conversation is underway with the Hinkley C Community fund organizers and hope to hold an event in my division for all parishes that have had inconvenience, noise, dust and traffic problems will update soon.
 4. The Old Frome to Wells Road and Beacon Cross roads – County Cllr Ham and County Cllr Pullin’s scheme are moving forward. Plans are due in the next few days so will be holding an event for an afternoon/evening for everyone to comment. A date will be released soon.
 5. I have 2 funding pots:
 1. Improving Lives Grants - Total £2K
 2. Improving lives to prevent demand – Open bids.
 6. Further report from Somerset County Council was available. The Clerk will photocopy the paperwork for both grants and the Somerset County Council report to be circulated to Councillors for consideration.

- 5.3 Mendip District Council Report
District Cllr Ham sent the following report:
Scrutiny: Chaired the first meeting of scrutiny, MDC to be part of Somerset wide climate change group BUT MDC will have its own group – Alan Townsend will be our representative.

Scrutiny working groups for 2019 include:

- Policies & Strategies
- Managing contracts
- Access
- Tackling Deprivation

Local Plan Part II: This starts 23rd July until the 2nd August. The developer Gladman is booked to speak on the 1st of August reference Coleford development.

LGBTQ – Pride Day: Cllr Ham represented the Conservative party at the raising of the flag @ MDC on the 28th June for the very first time. This also happened in many places around the world including New York.

Further training and cancellations: More training has been completed this month BUT many sessions have been cancelled or postponed until further notice, some with less than 24hrs notice.

Other issues: Parking of caravans in Goodeaves Road. Removal of shrubs and plants in No 1 Goodeaves by Aster. Demands of Council tax on houses not yet finished in Stoke St Michael. Occupation of caravans in Cherry Garden Lane and verge cutting.

District Cllr Townsend sent the following report:

There have been two major re-arrangements to the Training Plan due to non-availability of new Councillors. There have been a further 4 training sessions in the month. Attendance has still been patchy.

12-06-19 Meeting of the Licensing Board, covering licensing of hypnotists, and mandatory reporting by Taxi drivers of health issues.

14-06-19 2 x Meetings of Licensing Sub Committees, covering an alcohol licence for a new Co-op at Pilton, which was granted. Also a Taxi driver had been reported for abusive behaviour but he handed in his licence before action could be taken.

19-06-19 Planning Board met for the first time under the new regime with a long agenda including items held over from May because they could not field enough trained Councillors.

26-06-19 Formal tour of Glastonbury Festival site for Licensing Board members. I raised concerns about the lack of space between tents. D&S Rescue advised that this had been risk assessed and concluded that naked flames were very rare as little cooking was done, and modern material was much less flammable.

01-07-19 Full Cabinet - It was noted that of the 17 newly appointed Cabinet Members and Assistants only 11 were in attendance. Cllr Townsend has been appointed as a member of the committee established to address the Climate Emergency, and also the Fusion Leisure Review Board.

Local Plan Part 2 – We have a meeting with Mendip Planners on 16-07-19 to establish the best way to oppose the Gladman housing application at the Inspector's review of the Plan.

5.4 Councillors – details of meetings attended this month

Councillor Ham attended:

As County Councillor were:

- 14/06/19 – Kilmersdon School
- 27/06/19 – Doulting School
- 01/07/19 – Bridleway opening with HRH Princess Ann

As District Councillor: Meetings attended in the month were

- 13/06/19 – Parish Forum
- 17/06/19 – Scrutiny
- 18/06/19 – Update with senior officers
- 24/06/19 – Planning training
- 28/06/19 – Pride Day

01/07/19 – Progress meeting ref Scrutiny
02/08/19 – Holcombe PC

Councillor Townsend attended:

12/06/19 - MDC Licensing Board
13/06/19 - Parish Forum
14/06/19 - 2 x Licensing Board Sub Committees
15/06/19 - MDC Planning Training
17/06/19 - Leigh on Mendip Parish Council
19/06/19 - MDC Planning Board
26/06/19 - MDC Licensing Board visit to Worthy Farm
01/07/19 - MDC Cabinet
02/07/19 - Holcombe Parish Council
04/07/19 - Meet Writhlington Housing protest group
09/07/19 - Holcombe Planning site visit

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 Planning enquiry ref Upper Merryfield for 65 + houses

Councillors were briefed on the pre-application proposal for up to 70 houses from Gladman Developments. Some residents had already received a promotion brochure requesting them to give their views. Residents had met with the Writhlington Action Group who had been successful in resisting a similar application from Gladman. Mendip DC will be resisting this proposal at the Inspector's hearing on the Local Plan Part 2 on the basis that it is outside the village Development limits and that Mendip can demonstrate that housing targets are achieved already. Councillors felt that the Parish should also present their objections to the Inspector as there were very strong feelings that local facilities and infrastructure could not cope, especially the already dangerous highways issues. It was agreed that a public meeting should be held to allow all views to be expressed. This was scheduled for 7-00pm on Thursday 25th July at the Royal British Legion at Coleford. District Cllr Townsend was delegated to represent the Councils position at the Inspectors hearing, plus – Cllrs agreed to work with the Coleford Action Group to produce a leaflet publicising the public meeting and to hand deliver it throughout the village.

PH/AT/
VW

6.3 Present applications

2019/1504/FUL - Erection of a steel portal frame livestock building for beef finishing, installation of an underground water storage tank and associated building operations.
Springwater Farm Coleford Radstock BA3 5PY

Cllrs queried why this was not Permitted Development and whether the previous application for a dwelling was approved. To be pursued with MDC – Cllr Townsend to action

AT

Cllrs reviewed the plans and raised issues about potential subsidence as there were mining workings nearby, environmental implications of the disposal of effluent, and the location of the water storage tank which was not shown on the plans. It was proposed by Cllr Banks and seconded by Cllr Conn that subject to above being satisfactorily answered the application should be recommended for approval.

Vote: 5 For, 4 Against and 2 Abstained (District Councillor)

7 **Highways**

7.1 Cllr Townsend Highways Report

Cllr Townsend had submitted the following report:

Dropped Kerbs – Cllr Townsend advised that Holcombe had requested Highways to consider dropped kerbs in specific locations to enable mobility access to bus stops and the playing field. Cllrs were not aware of any similar need in Coleford.

Doors Hill – Noted that the missing 30mph sign had been restored.

Grass cutting – Cllr Townsend advised that the verges would be cut back at the Charlton Rd junction and at Terry Hill in the next couple of days.

Preachers Vale – Cllrs questioned whether Preachers Vale had been ‘adopted’. Cllr Townsend to clarify with Highways. AT

7.2 Update on safety proposals at Crossways Junction and resurfacing of Coleford Legion Car Park
Still work in progress

7.3 Winter gritting programme 2019/20 (Decision expected 28/06/19)
Cllr Ham advised that the new programme would be published imminently.

8 **Finance**

8.1 Income – In the absence of the Clerk this will be adjourned until the next meeting. Ag

8.2 Bank Reconciliation - In the absence of the Clerk this will be adjourned until the next meeting. Ag

8.3 1st Quarter Budget Review - In the absence of the Clerk this will be adjourned until the next meeting. Ag

8.4 **Payments**

The following payments were presented for approval.

Clerk expenses	£90.94
HMRC – Back pay for year ending 31 st March 2019	£107.47
Keith Evans – Community payback expenses	£18.28
Bigwood Play.com	£5,100.00
Brentons Garden care – Grasscutting x 4	£700.00
KSS CRC Ltd – pay back services	£36.00
Water 2 business – Changing rooms	£227.67

It was agreed that all should be approved. The cheques were signed by Cllr Ham, Conn and Townsend.

Vote:8 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained

9 **Discuss and agree the installation of a new litter bin on Church Street**
Cllrs agreed that Cllr Ham and the Clerk should agree the location. VW
PH

10 **Consider quotes received for replacement of components for Fingerpost Signs**
Discussion was deferred to the next meeting. Ag

11 **Update on the condition of trees at the green at the entrance to Preachers Vale**
Cllrs commented that the reply from Mendip had been unhelpful. The low hanging branches were considered a safety hazard and needed professional attention, not random cutting by helpful residents which could severely damage and disfigure the trees. Cllr Townsend was asked to take up with the Mendip Tree Officer. AT

12 **Discuss Coleford Parish Plan Questionnaire**
Cllrs reviewed the Brief prepared by Cllr Conn. Cllrs agreed that we should proceed with a new Parish Plan as the previous one was published 10 years ago, but felt it important that the village should support it too. It was agreed to review the Draft Questionnaire on the content of the Plan and comment with a target of agreeing it by 11th September, then printing and delivering throughout the Parish for return by 1st December. Ag

13 **Discuss ground conditions in the Cemetery**
In the absence of the Clerk this will be adjourned until the next meeting. Ag
VW

14 **Update on Allotments at Orchard Close ref fire**
Cllr Ham to advise the Clerk of his discussions with Mendip legal team on the correct procedures to follow for the disposal of any plots and prepare a way ahead. PH
VW

- 15 Play areas:**
- 15.1 Update on basketball hoop installation at the hard court / Consider the quotes for new hoops at the hard court
 Cllrs considered that the quotes received were very expensive and it was difficult to justify the expenditure from the precept. Cllr Allen offered to investigate further suppliers for better quotes. It was suggested that grant funding could be sought. MA
- 15.2 Consider request from CAFC to review condition of the playing surface at Highbury Playing Field
 Greensward Sports Consultancy had carried out a pitch inspection and quoted for weedkiller - £170, Fertiliser - £240, Overseeding ' £500 per visit (2 may be needed). The VAT status was not clear. Consultation was needed with CAFC on the way ahead as it may be necessary to keep of the pitch for 2 months. Cllr Ham to discuss with the Clerk. PH
 VW
- 15.3 Working party response to the ROSPA play area reports
 Cllrs Hanney, Harding, Drescher and Conn had prepared a detailed Action Plan to meet the requirements of the ROSPA surveys. The Chairman thanked them for their work. Cllrs agreed unanimously that the recommendations should be actioned.
- 16 VE Day event planning**
 Cllrs discussed the possibilities to mark this significant occasion on Friday 8th, Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May 2020. One option could be a street Party involving the closure of Church St. All village organisations would need to be involved and a committee set up. Cllr Ham agreed to approach other organisations in the first instance. Cllr Banks asked Councillors to consider celebrating the Merchant Navy on Red Ensign Day on Tuesday 3rd September 2019. All agreed that we should participate, including involvement of local dignitaries, Sea Cadets and news media. Cllr Ham agreed to progress. PH
- 17 Meetings to attend / attended**
 Trees Workshop – Cllr Conn agreed to attend
 Cllr Ham passed on the invitation from the Chair of Somerset County Council for all to attend his Annual Civic Service in Frome on 5th October.
- 18 Report of any risks identified**
 The wall behind and beyond the Kings Head is to be kept under review, noting that the worst section has been taken down and further work is in progress.
- 19 Correspondence**
 The new pack was passed to Cllr Conn.
- 20 Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman’s Discretion**
 Barrier on Church St – Cllr Banks had spoken with the neighbour who was concerned about it restricting his left exit, though if it were shorter it may not provide sufficient barrier. Cllrs discussed the possibility of a gate with 2 way opening. Cllr Banks agreed to investigate further. HB
- Water leak at Highbury Playing Field – 2 quotes had been received, a third was awaited. Cllrs agreed that a Sub Committee of Cllrs Ham, Conn and Townsend be delegated to make any urgent decision when the Clerk has all quotes. VW
- 21 Date of Next Meetings:**
 Wednesday 24th July 2019 Planning meeting
 Wednesday 14th August 2019 Parish Council meeting

The meeting finished at 22.20hrs