

Parish Council of Coleford

Miss V Watts
Clerk to the Council
Tel: 07971 516916 / 01749 880428
Email: clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com

Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 11th September 2019

Present

Cllr Ham (Chairman presiding) Cllrs Allen, Banks, Barrett, Conn, Drescher, Evans, Harding, Hanney, Townsend, Talbot, Turner and Pearce
There was 1 members of the public present

Public Forum

- PF 1 A parishioner asked if the Parish Council had any knowledge as to how busy JW Waste would be at the time of granting permission for the business to trade from Newbury Works. Cllr Ham said that there was no doubt that JW Waste had expanded and become busier with more lorries accessing the site. Cllr Townsend said that it is possible that the Parish Council could discuss with businesses that use HGV's within the village to suggest a preferred route - this will be discussed later in the meeting.
- PF 2 It was asked what was going on at Springwater Farm that warrants the number of lorries delivering materials? It was confirmed that within a planning application approved approx. 3 years ago included a bund on the west side of the site and it was suspected that the materials were being used for this purpose. There is no breach of conditions, however, if sufficient nuisance can be proved a complaint could be pursued via the Mendip District Council Environmental Health Enforcement team.
- PF 3 A cover to a water hydrant on Anchor Road outside Rope Walk Farm has dropped considerably and needs attention. The Clerk to report. VW
- PF 4 It was reported that the bollards installed on Beacon View are now ineffective and need to be replaced. The Clerk to obtain quotes for new bollards and for a new gate for consideration at the next meeting. VW
Ag
- PF 5 Cllr Turner asked if a second sign for Church Street could be installed opposite the existing sign located at the top of the steps at Underhill as it is regularly hidden by parked cars. The Clerk to seek approval from MDC Abigail Hamblin. VW
- PF 6 Cllr Conn reported a fallen tree is blocking the footpath to the rear of the Kings Head public house. Cllr Drescher to try and find out who the landowner is so that the Clerk can write and ask them to clear the path. AD
VW
- PF 7 The Clerk to order more dog poo bags for the bag dispensers. VW
- PF 8 Cllr Barrett asked if a dog walkers could be reminded to pick up after their dog at all time. Dog fouling on the footpaths across the farmland still seems to be a regular problem. The Clerk to place a reminder in OTM, Facebook pages and on the village notice boards. VW
- PF 9 The Coleford village sign from Springers Hill has broken and been retrieved by a member of the public. Clerk to organize for the sign to be reinstalled. VW

1 Apologies

Cllr Talbot and PCSO Storey 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 14th August 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: 11 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:

PF 4 – Cllr Ham to identify who owns the land between Stockhill and Goodeaves so that the Clerk can write to request that 2 trees be cut back to improve visibility. PH/VW

4 PF5 – The Clerk and Cllr Ham to identify a location for the new bin on Beacon View PH/VW

4 PF6 – Clerk to obtain a deposit from CRG for the Village Day VW

4 PF12 – Cllr Ham to arrange the removal of the bags of old grit to be collected from the grit bins at Careys Mead PH

4 PF14 – Cllr Ham to discuss the request from CRG to secure the container at Highbury Playing Field. PH

5 Reports-

5.1 PCSO report:

PCSO Russell Ford did not attend but sent the following report for Coleford during August:

- Dwelling burglaries – 1
- Non – dwelling Burglaries - 0
- Criminal Damage – 2
- Theft from a Motor Vehicle – 0
- Theft of a Vehicle – 0
- Shoplifting - 0
- ASB – 5

The next PACT meeting will take place on 29th October starting at 7.30pm at Batcombe Village Hall.

5.2 Somerset County Council Report

County Cllr Ham reported as follows:

Highways Small Improvement Scheme Consultation – Cllr Ham confirmed that the consultation held at Leigh on Mendip was a great success and as a result generated a large amount of correspondence in support of the scheme but also further suggestions for improvement. Since then there has been a meeting with the local haulage companies and the quarries to work towards possibly facilitating the installation of a roundabout at Beacon Cross.

Budget – A budget review will take place next week. It is predicted that there will be additional funding from Central Government which is encouraging.

Local road improvements – The recent road improvements around Newbury, Whitehole Hill and other sites were not thought through with the consequences of road closures being felt much wider. Cllr Ham will be taking this up with Somerset Highways.

School Transport – For the first time in 25 years SCC will be operating their own school bus fleet from the start of this academic year. The low emission buses represent a major investment into school transport service delivery whilst saving the County Council money.

Castles and Coast Way – A new walking trail in a less travelled but beautiful part of Somerset is now open to the public. This a 13 mile circular walk running from Nether Stowey to Stogursey and on the Somerset Coast at Shurton Bars. The route links the Coleridge Way to the England Coast Path National Trail which will eventually run around the coast of England.

Apprenticeships – Over the last 3 years SCC has invested in more than 300 apprenticeships, helping people get started on their career and up skilling existing staff to further their careers. 50 new apprentices will be starting this autumn. SCC is the first local authority in the South West to make use of the Social Work Degree Apprenticeship, which will also see 12 of our existing staff across Adults and Children services, up skill to become Social Workers.

Stand up for Care – 3 major local government bodies have given their backing to Somerset County Councils Stand Up for Care petition. The petition calls for cross party discussions before Christmas on how to address the national social care funding shortfall. Leaders of all political groups at the County Council have given it their backing and have joined the Local Government Association, County Council Network and the Association of Directs of Adult Social Services. The petition is hosted on the www.petition.parliament.uk website.

Shared Lives Services – Somerset County Council has agreed to transfer its Shared Lives service to Shared Lives South West (SLSW) in a move that will see more people with different needs benefit from the life changing support. The scheme currently focuses on people with learning disabilities but the new arrangements will make this support available to younger people with physical disabilities, the elderly, those being discharged from hospital and people with mental health conditions. Shared Lives supports see's adults with additional needs be matched with a trained and paid carers who open their family homes to the person needing support. The aim is for the person being supported to live the fullest life they can, be part of the community and maintain and promote new skills.

iAero – An £8 million cutting edge aerospace technology centre in Yeovil is taking off with construction work starting on site. SCC is working with the aerospace industry, including Leonardo Helicopters in Yeovil, on the flagship iAero Centre which will encourage innovation, collaboration and growth in the aerospace sector and supply chain, ensuring it remains competitive in a fast changing world. iAero is due to be completed in July next year with the first tenants expected to move in later in 2020.

Squibbers Way – SCC recently asked the residents to help find a new permanent name for the £18.4m Colley Lane Southern Access Road. This attracted more than 250 unique nominations that were whittled down to a shortlist of six and put to the public vote. In total 2728 people cast their vote with Squibbers Way receiving 59% of all votes. (Squibbing, featuring two-handed firework torches held overhead, is an intrinsic part of Bridgewater Carnival),

5.3 Mendip District Council Report

5.3.1 District Cllr Townsend sent the following report:

Training – the programme continues apace, with most benefits to new members and providing updates to older ones. On 6th September a briefing was given on Community Health, a major issue highlighted was Safeguarding – all were reminded of our duty to be vigilant of and to report to Mendip's Safeguarding Team any issues of abuse whether Physical, Sexual – eg grooming, Emotional, Financial, Neglect or Discrimination

Licensing Board – the meeting on 14th August was briefed on the role of the Safety Advisory Group. These were established following the 66 deaths at Ibrox in 1971 and are a multi-agency advisory group to oversee safety arrangements for events. Mendip for example convened a SAG following the Glastonbury Festival traffic chaos in 2016 and the benefits were evident the following year. Major events subject to Licensing this year have included Glastonbury Festival, NASS at the Bath and West, Godney Gathering, Glastonbury Extravaganza, Mid Somerset Show, Pilton Party. A total of 164 Temporary Event Notices (TENs) have also been issued this year.

Cabinet – a long session on 2nd September. Firstly a presentation from local Fire and Rescue Services about the risks of the proposed options for reductions in stations and appliances. Frome and Wells would be directly affected.

The Norton St Philip Neighbourhood Plan was cleared to go to a village referendum. A number of options were tabled in support of the Climate and Ecology Emergency, for example reductions in road verge cutting to promote wildflower growth. The road safety implications were pointed out. The elimination of the use of Glyphosate was proposed, though the nearest alternative was estimated to cost the Council some £50k a year more, 1% of Council Tax.

The decline of the Shepton Mallet Sunday Market was reviewed – initially some 57 traders had been present but in July 2019 the number was only 10. It was agreed to license its continued operation through a Shepton Community Interest Company similar to Frome.

5.3.2 District Cllr Ham sent the following report:

Scrutiny is starting to pick up momentum and make some progress.

The Frome Independent Market AGM has taken place. During the year a small profit was made however it was noted that they would only have to cancel one market to run at a loss.

The Phoenix board meeting was today.

5.4 Councillors – details of meetings attended this month

Councillor Ham attended:

As County Councillor were:

21/08/19 – Mendip Quarries meeting at Cheddar

06/09/19 – Road / Highways meeting with Mendip Transport and queries

As District Councillor:

14/08/19 – Phoenix board

19/08/19 - Scrutiny board

03/09/19 – Scrutiny Access group

10/09/19 - Frome Independent market

As Parish Councillor:

30/08/19 – Coleford Hub meeting

District Councillor: Townsend attended the following meetings:

14/08/19 - MDC Licensing Board

16/08/19 - MDC Training - Housing Services

22/08/19 - Leigh on Mendip Farewell dinner to Chairman

25/08/19 - Leigh on Mendip Church history presentation

02/09/19 - MDC Cabinet

06/09/19 - Meet Sara Davis, Somerset Highways

06/09/19 - MDC Training - Community Health

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

6.4.1 2019/1996/HSE – Proposed first floor extension on North elevation.

Melrose, Highbury Street, Coleford, Radstock

All Councillors had considered the applications prior to discussion. It was proposed by Cllr Conn and seconded by Cllr Turner that the application should be recommended for approval subject to there being no windows installed on the East side of the extension which overlooks the neighbours to prevent a loss of privacy.

Vote: 10 For, 0 Against and 2 Abstained (District Councillor)

7 **Highways**

7.1 Cllr Townsend Highways Report

Cllr Townsend had submitted the following report:

Visit by Sara Davis of Somerset Highways, Taunton. The visit was specifically arranged to look at safety issues at the Charmborough Lane junction with Charlton Road. She appreciated that the speed of vehicles approaching from Holcombe was the main concern as the road starts to open out, slopes downhill and there is no indication of the imminent junction. Her plan is to mark the sides of the road on the Holcombe side and install a junction warning sign. Also to arrange cutting back of the foliage

around the finger post to increase awareness of the junction. Also to put additional markings at the exit from Charmborough Lane. She is persuaded of the need for this project but it is unlikely to be funded this Financial Year.

HGVs on Charmborough Lane were discussed and possible options. A One Way system would have some benefits but many disadvantages, particularly for Holcombe residents. Signage banning HGVs is a possibility but existing businesses will of course require access to the village. What would be our recommended route? If there is general consensus that the route through Vobster is preferred, Sara's suggestion is that the Parish Council makes a formal request to local operators for that to be the normal route in the interests of local harmony and road safety. This can obviously happen quickly and at minimal cost, any further action will take time/money/consultation. It was agreed that this would be discussed with other parishioners and monitored so that further discussion/decisions can be had at the November meeting.

Ag

Hillside Farm on Newbury Lane - Sara was quickly persuaded by the volume of traffic, the slippery road and conversation with Mr Philips of the need for some action. In the short run she will prepare a plan for two Cattle Crossing warning signs. An extension to the 30 limit could be a possibility but would take time/money/consultation. Cllr Townsend to write formally to request this action.

AT

Whitehole Lane – The safety rails are now installed at the stream crossing at the bottom, though they are not very visible and Cllr Townsend will ask for reflectors on them. BUT – the road closure during the works has highlighted the problem of diverted traffic – much of this went through the narrow roads in Stoke St Michael and the Parish was not happy, particularly as there did not appear to be any advance warning of the closure. All Councillors agreed that no changes should be made to restrict HGV's from using Whitehole Lane.

AT

Careys Mead – Good to see the pavement resurfacing work completed. On the footpath front, the path from Careys Mead to Highbury St is suffering from overhanging hedge growth on the car park side. Clerk to investigate if this a Mendip responsibility.

VW

Church St edges – Good to see the work in progress after we raised it and Highways chased the contractor. Cllr Conn said that where the surface meets the railings just up from the junction with Rose and Crown cottages the water is running down a hole at the edge of the road, which could cause problems in time. Cllr Townsend to visit the site and report.

AT

Surface Dressing – Works on Cherry Gardens Lane and Charity Lane have been completed. There was concern that conflicting signage meant the residents along the affected roads were denied access to their premises.

Lipyeate Cross – The gap in the middle of Brewery Lane has been made good, almost, such a shame that the full length of the split could not be repaired. This was because at each end the split is not wide or deep enough.

Stockhill road surface – there are numerous manholes and ironworks generally which appear to have dropped. Highways to be asked to inspect.

AT

Soho junction – turning left from Leigh onto Doors Hill the road edge is eroding, again. Highways to be asked to inspect.

AT

Springers Hill – a resident has asked about continuity of kerbing to their frontage. Way ahead to be requested of Highways.

AT

Springwater Farm – in addition to other HGV issues, the footway where the access track leaves Anchor Rd has been damaged again and is a potential hazard. Highways to be asked to inspect.

AT

Cllr Townsend to report the following issues:

AT

1. The white lining in Preachers Vale needs to be addressed
2. There are 3 gullies in the High Street, near Mill Lane, that are blocked causing the water to back up in heavy rain.

7.2 Update on safety at Crossways Junction & resurfacing of Coleford Legion Car Park

There is no news from SCC Highways.

8 **Finance**

8.1 Income: - Received during August and September:

Ag

B H Mears	Burial	£251.00
Exclusive Memorial	Memorial	£71.00
B H Mears	Burial	£86.00
CAFC	Changing rooms	£110.00
Curtis Ilott	Burial	£191.00
Western Power	Wayleave	£26.55

8.2 Bank Reconciliation – The Clerk had prepared the reconciliation which was checked by Cllr Conn at the end of the meeting which was found to be in order.

8.3 **Payments**

The following payments were presented for approval.

Clerk expenses	£64.01
HMRC – National Insurance contributions	£19.95
Brentons Garden care – Inv 240/242/253	£525.00
Apollo Technology – Laptop Repair	£169.80
J W Waste – Skip hire	£264.60
Andy Conn – Charge for course (£11.36) plus mileage for Trees for Somerset Conference. 44 miles at 45p per mile (£19.80)	£31.16
AED Locator (EU) Ltd - Defibrillator	£2518.80
Wickstead Leisure Ltd – Non bump mechanism for see-saw	£412.74
Tim Orledge – Highbury Playing field fence	£2700.00
Greensward Sports Consultancy – Playing field improvements	£1310.00
Playforce – Goodeaves swing parts	£412.72

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

Vote: 12 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained

9 **Discuss options for safe burial preparations at the Cemetery**

The Clerk had spoken with Mr Peter Smith of Teleshore who had provided useful information (which had been circulated to all Councillors) on the preparation of graves and the way that the Teleshore grave shoring can help ensure that the Parish Council ensures the safety of those working and using the cemetery. Mr Smith has offered to meet with the Council to advise what might be required and the costs involved. It was agreed that this invitation should be accepted – Clerk to arrange.

VW

The Clerk said that she felt the Council could benefit from joining the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management who will be able to advise over the all aspects of cemetery management. The annual membership is £95 for a Parish Council. It was proposed by Cllr Barret and seconded by Cllr Conn that the Council should become a member who will then be able to advise about good practice.

VW

Vote: 12 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained

Cllr Hanney left the meeting at 21.00hrs

10 **Launch of Small Grants Awards**

The Clerk had circulated the application form for the 2019 Small Grants along with a poster to promote awards to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The total available to be awarded be set at £2500 as per the budget. The deadline for applications will be the 1st of November.

The working party will then consider the applications and report back at the Parish Council meeting on the 13th November 2019.

Vote: 11 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained

11 Discuss Coleford Parish Plan Questionnaire

Cllr Conn had circulated a copy of the proposed parish plan questionnaire. All Councillors agreed that the questionnaire was well structured and easy to read. Councillors were encouraged to report any typing errors to Cllr Conn to make final amendments so that it is ready for printing. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask potential venues (Co-op, Kings Head, Doctors surgery etc) for return boxes whether they would be happy to have one. Councillors to distribute the Questionnaire during late October. Cllr Conn will prepare returns boxes and supply to venues.

AC
VW
AC

Vote: 11 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained

12 Agree printing costs for Parish Plan Questionnaire

Quotes for printing had been presented to all Councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Conn and seconded by Cllr Ham that Darren Haines quote of £145 for 2000 copies with limited colour should be accepted. The Clerk will ask Darren to print 1500 copies at a reduced price.

VW

Vote: 11 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained

13 Discuss and agree action for the block catch pit at Beacon View.

The Clerk confirmed that she had met with a representative from Wessex Water who looked at the blocked drain only to establish that it was a storm catch pit and therefore not sewage and not the responsibility of Wessex Water. The chap kindly removed a building block from the soakaway pipe at no charge.

The Clerk approached 3 companies for quotes to clear the blocked catch pit but upon inspection one company discovered that the pit was not blocked or full. They recommended that the pit be monitored but it is hoped that the removal of the building block has cleared the issue.

14 Update on Play areas:

The Clerk provided the following update:

1. The parts for the see-saw at Coleford play area have been purchased and delivered to Cllr Barrett who will complete the repair. MB
2. Cllr Drescher has installed the cable ties above the swings in the Coleford play area which it is hoped will reduce the birds fouling on the swings.
3. The shackles for the swings at Goodeaves have been ordered and are pending delivery.
4. Cllr Allen has asked KM Steel to provide scale drawings for approval prior the work commencing on the combination basketball and goals. MA
5. The picnic table at Highbury play area has had the graffiti removed.
6. Cllr Conn has removed the sharp edges around the hard court fence.
7. The Clerk confirmed that cracks in two of the posts making up the play trail at Goodeaves have expanded so the Clerk has asked Playforce to come and inspect. VW
8. The picnic tables in Goodeaves play area are both missing seats (1 missing 1 seat and the other missing 2 seats). The general consensus is that they need to be removed and replaced with something more robust. The Clerk to seek quote for different options for consideration at the next meeting.
9. The contractor contacted the Clerk to say that the junior swing at Coleford play area was far more rotten than anticipated and they suggested removing all of the old unit and rebuilding new for price for £650. The Clerk confirmed that she had provisionally agreed with the Bigwood that they should remove the swing and replace with new. All Councillors present agreed that this was the best option. The contractor should be able to complete the work within the next 2 weeks. VW

Vote: 11 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained

Cllr Conn asked if the Clerk could ask a contractor to remove the fallen hawthorn tree at Coleford play area. It is not causing an imminent risk but needs to be removed.

- 15 VE Day event planning**
Cllr Ham will arrange a meeting for village groups to get together and plan for the event.
- 16 Meetings to attend / attended**
Mendip Parish Forum – 12th September @ 6.30pm at the MDC Council Chambers VW
Chair Annual Civic Service – 5th October @ 3pm at Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Street, Frome
Parish Online Intro & Training – 26th September @ 10am at Edgar Hall, Somerton
PACT meeting will take place on 29th October starting at 7.30pm at Batcombe Village Hall. HB
CPRE AGM – 18th October 1pm until 4pm at Chard Guildhall AT
- Cllr Conn attended the Tree Conference which was informative. Somerset County Council has half the national average of tree coverage. Trees are important to help with flood control and for locking in carbon. A draft policy for trees is being put together for Parish Councils to adopt. Somerset Community Fund are hoping to be able to make money available for small tree planting schemes in the near future. Cllr Conn said that this could be considered as part of the Parish Plan. AT
- 17 Report of any risks identified**
There were none.
- 18 Correspondence**
An email had been received from Kevin Holmes who said that he would like to provide a bench in memory of his father, possibly at Beacon View as the family used to live at number 58. The Clerk will discuss this with Mr Holmes to establish what he proposes and who would be responsible for the ongoing maintenance. VW
- A request had been received from the Youth Club on behalf of young people for a shelter to be installed near to the pump track. It was noted that a shelter had been provided some years ago and was not a success. Councillors were encouraged to give this some thought ready for discussion at the next meeting. ALL
Ag
- 19 Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman’s Discretion**
It was agreed that the nuisance experienced as a result of lorries delivering to Springwater Farm would be reported to Mendip District Council Environmental Health department. AT
- Vote: 11 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained*
- 20 Date of Next Meetings:**
Wednesday 25th September 2019 Planning meeting
Wednesday 9th October 2019 Parish Council meeting
- 20 The meeting finished at 21.55hrs**