

Parish Council of Coleford

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 13th November 2019

Present

Cllr Ham (Chairman presiding) Cllrs Allen, Banks, Conn, Drescher, Evans, and Pearce
There was 2 members of the public present and the Clerk Vickie Watts taking the minutes

Public Forum

PF1 A member of the public reported that the water hydrant has still not be repaired outside Rope Walk Farm, Anchor Road. Clerk to chase up the repair. VW

PF2 It was asked why Highbury Road is to be closed for 2 weeks from the 25th November. Cllr Ham explained that the pavement from the Co-op to the Newbury Road is being replaced. The work will be completed in three sections with the road being closed from 8am til 4pm which will be after the school buses. The road will be open during the evenings and the weekends. During the day there will be a worker at each end who will authorise access for emergency vehicles and buses.

PF3 George Kite attended the meeting to give an update on the Coleford Scout Group. The group are currently at capacity with 65 children The Beavers have been working towards their fitness badge, the Cubs their environment badge and the Scouts cooking, including the County challenge and Bake Off. There was a great turn out for Remembrance Sunday. The group has been involved with running a day out for 70 young carers in conjunction with the Rotary Club which involved organising events for all to enjoy. The lease on the building is almost complete so work on finding grants has started and the group will be tendering to local businesses. A grant application has been submitted to the Parish Council for a small grant to go towards purchasing new benches and tables.

Cllr Ham invited the Scout leaders to the next VE Day meeting which will be held on Friday the 6th December 2019 @ The Hub.

PF4 Cllr Allen said that he had been notified that the bollards at Beacon View are stuck. Cllr Allen to inspect and report back. MA

PF5 A complaint has been received regarding the access to the steps at Underhill which is regularly blocked by cars parking in front of the access. It was suggested that Cllr Townsend reports this to Somerset County Council Highways representative to see if anything can be done. AT

1 Apologies

Cllr Barrett, Harding, Talbot, Turner, Hanney, Townsend, 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 meetings held on the 9th & 24th October 2019

The minutes from the abovementioned meetings had been circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed that they both accurately reflected the meetings and were duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr Ham.

Vote: 7 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 – Clerk to write to MDC to request that 2 trees be cut back to improve visibility. VW
- 4 PF5 – The Clerk and Cllr Ham to identify a location for the new bin on Beacon View VW/PH
- 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

- PF3 – The hydrant cover outside Rope Walk Farm had been inspected but was still not repaired. Clerk to chase up the repair. VW

- PF6 - Cllr Conn reported a fallen tree is obstructing the footpath to the rear of the Kings Head public house. The Clerk confirmed that the land had been sold so the new landowner would be approached. VW

- PF9 - The Coleford village sign from Springers Hill has broken and been retrieved by a member of the public. Cllr Drescher volunteered to organize for the sign to be reinstalled. AD

- Review 2nd Quarter budget review - Clerk seeks a rebate on the water bill which will be increased due to the recent water leak. VW

- Approve accounts for the Coleford Recreation ground for the Charity Commission
The Clerk had prepared the accounts for the Coleford Recreation ground for the charity commission website. The accounts were approved and the Clerk will upload the details onto the website as required. VW

5

Reports-

5.1 PCSO report:

PCSO Russell Ford did not attend but had sent a report for the Rural North beat which included the statistics for the whole of the beat.

5.2 Somerset County Council Report

County Cllr Ham reported that

School places – Applications for secondary / Upper schools closed on the 31/10/19 and the team are now beginning the task of placing students into schools. For those applying for their first school place the deadline for applications is the 15/01/20. Further information can be found at www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/apply-to-start-school/ Applicants are encouraged to submit 3 preferences including their local school as one of those preferences.

Mental Health First Aid Course – A 2 day free mental health course is being held on the 29/01/19 & 06/12/19 and helps attendees to spot the signs of mental health and to provide assistance on a first aid basis. Further details can be obtained from Sophie Chivers in Public Health schivers@somerset.gov.uk

Dillington House – Dillington’s Winter Wonderland is back for the 3rd year from the 30th November to the 1st December with Christmas stalls and skate rink.

Learning Disabilities – Independent living – As part of the promoting independence strategy SCC are currently focusing on those with learning disability. So far this year the County Council have moved with individuals express agreement 42 people with learning disabilities from residential care to supported living accommodation. This has resulted in a tremendous improvement in their quality of life.

Stepping stones - Independent living – Around 150 young people in Somerset leave care every year and as part of National Care leaver’s week SCC are highlighting the urgent need for more stepping stone carers to help them on their journey to independent living. Stepping stones carers welcome young people (usually leaving foster care) into their own home and support them with managing bills, cooking, shopping, gaining employment opportunities and accessing further education. Stepping

Stones carers receive a weekly fee plus extra for food and utilities. More information on how to support a young care leaver is available on 0800 587 9900 or by visiting www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk

Climate emergency strategy framework – A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes since the SCC committed to being carbon neutral by 2030 and agreed to work with all district councils in Somerset on a strategy to do so. Countrywide drop-ins and online consultations on the emerging Climate Emergency Strategy Framework are being held throughout January.

Somerset Rivers Authority – This month the annual report was published. In 2018-19 just over £3.8 million was spent on actions designed to protect both people and property across Somerset. Because there is no one simple solution to Somerset Flooding challenges and everyone in the County is affected in some way the SRA invest in wide range of actions to reduce the flood risks and increased the resilience when floods occur. All works are additional to those carried out by the Flood Risk Management Authorities in Somerset.

Dementia Support Groups – SCC is looking to invest more than half a million pounds to kick start and extend projects and groups that run day time activities for people with dementia and provide respite for their unpaid carers. Now two new projects are coming on stream, The Magdalen Environmental Trust near Chard offering a once a week session for adults with Dementia and their carers on its organic farm. The Dementia Café based at Wincanton; Dementia and Arts Programme run by the Creative Innovation Centre in Taunton; The Active Social Minds project in Wells and the Filo project across the County.

National Recognition Award – SCC Locality Manager Chris Denovan has been selected as a finalist for the lifetime achievement category in the annual Social Worker of the Year awards in recognition of her contribution to the profession over four decades. The winner from each category will compete against each other to be named Overall Social Worker of the Year 2019. Chris has been a forefront of Somerset's innovative community connect approach, with passion for helping people remain independent and live the lives they want to live. She and her team also featured in the recent Panorama care documentaries broadcast earlier this year.

5.3 Mendip District Council Report

- 5.3.1 District Cllr Ham said that many meetings have been cancelled or postponed due to the General Election including Cabinet and Scrutiny. This also applies to SCC with full council moved to January. Scrutiny work around the 4 themes continue at pace but procedure and awareness of political change and climate change seems to influence decisions and progress.

There have been several planning applications of late, putting the planning department under pressure with many of them taking up more time. Cllr Ham has been directly involved with an issue at Apple Meadows in Leigh On Mendip regarding a ransom strip. People have bought the houses and after all legal costs and searches finding out they cannot re sell due to a strip of land not in their ownership. It is currently being investigated to establish who is at fault and how it can be resolved..

The heating is now working at The Hub.

The Youth shelter is now at Cllr Ham's yard and needs some attention before being ready to install at Highbury Playing Field. Any volunteers help would be appreciated.

ALL

The MDC Planning portal website shows 150 objections for the Gladman application at Lipyate.

The Highbury Street road closure has caused some concern to residents but it has to be done and the safety of the road users and work force has to be priority.

VE Day – An initial meeting has been held with 10 people attending all willing to help organise celebrations. The group will meet again on the 6th December at 7.30pm @ The Hub were the plans will start to become more refined.

5.3.2 District Cllr Townsend had provided the following report:

Planning Board 16-10-19

Nothing of specific interest to Coleford. However at the 20th November Board they will be reviewing the outline application by Gladman for up to 100 dwellings at Elm Close on the western edge of Wells. Any lessons for Coleford may be crucial. Interesting that only 45 neighbour objections are recorded.

MDC Licensing Sub Committee 25-10-19

An urgent review was required of a Taxi Licence holder to ensure he is a Fit and Proper person, which we unanimously agreed.

MDC Cabinet 4-11-19

- Glastonbury residents complained about Travellers behaviour and lack of enforcement by Mendip
- Pilton By Pass - discontent about the way potential routes had been released leading to planning blight. MDC agreed to carry out a proper consultation
- Norton St Philip Neighbourhood Plan – Cabinet had previously agreed that it should pass to Referendum but a developer has raised a legal objection which may lead to an expensive judicial review of Mendip’s decision
- Climate and Ecology Emergency Strategy – an Action Plan is being generated under the overarching County strategy which will lead us to carbon neutrality by 2030. There is no mention of Hinckley B or C! A paper on creating new footpaths and cycleways as part of the strategy had to be withdrawn because of lack of consultation with the equestrian community! Full public consultation on the Strategy will happen in February.
- Motions on Markets strategy and District filming - Withdrawn because Cabinet hadn’t got their act together
- Bristol Clean Air Strategy – Tom Killen raised concerns on behalf of us to the south of the city, for example haulage contractors accessing the M4. Bristol Council have now assured Mendip that we will be involved in the final consultation process.

5.4 Councillors – details of meetings attended this month

Councillor Ham attended:

As County Councillor were:

- 09/10 – Policy and Place Scrutiny
- 16/10 - Visit Hinckley C
- 16/10 - Wainwrights Quarry Liaison
- 16/10 – Torr & Colman’s Quarry Liaison
- 25/10 – Highways meeting ref: B3139 Road White Post to Norton St Philip
- 07/11 – Policy and Place scrutiny

As District Councillor:

- 17/10 – Stoke St Michael Parish Council
- 21/10 – Meeting ref Apple Meadows Leigh On Mendip
- 21/10 – Leigh on Mendip PC
- 29/10 – Scrutiny update
- 04/11 – Cabinet
- 11/11 – Apple Meadows meeting at MDC

As Parish Councillor:

- 17/10 – Meeting with Salmon Planning Consultants
- 24/10 – Planning meeting at RBL for Gladman’s application
- 08/11 – VE Day Celebrations

District Councillor: Townsend attended the following meetings:

- 16/10 - MDC - Wainwright’s Liaison Meeting
- 16/10 - MDC Planning Board
- 17/10 - CPC - meet Salmon Planning
- 17/10 - CPC - meet Key Transport Consultant
- 21/10 - Leigh on Mendip Parish Council
- 22/10 - MDC Climate Change Adaptation presentation
- 23/10 -MDC - meet planners
- 25/10 -MDC - Licensing sub Committee
- 30/10 -CPC - meet C Higgins of Highways re road closure

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

There were none.

7 Highways

- 7.1 Cllr Townsend Highways Report – News of the Highbury Street road closure has dominated this last couple of weeks. Many residents are unhappy about the closure but it is important to remember that safety for residents and workforce must be paramount. There will always be pedestrian access and men with Stop Go boards to allow buses etc to pass. The other aspect which caused concern with previous closures was the adequacy of diversion signage. Cllr Townsend suggested that a meeting with SCC Highways representative might be worthwhile to discuss the options.

AT/PH

As mentioned in public forum a complaint has been received regarding the access to the steps at Underhill which is regularly blocked due to cars parking in front of the access. Cllr Townsend to discuss this with Somerset County Council Highways representative.

AT

The Clerk read out a letter from a representative of Coleford Church which requested the Council considers adding a finger post sign at Underhill to identify where the Church could be found. The general feeling from the Council was that this would set a precedent for more requests in the future. The Clerk went on to say that a response had been received from MDC regarding relocating the Church Street side from the top of Underhill to the opposite side of the road where it will be far more visible. The Clerk will pursue this action.

VW

There has been reports that some grit bins have not been refilled. Cllr Evans is going to check and report to the clerk if any have been refilled.

KE

- 7.2 Update on safety at Crossways Junction & resurfacing of Coleford Legion Car Park - This is ongoing.

- 7.3 Discuss preferred route for businesses with lorries accessing the village – After discussion it was agreed that this would not be pursued. Cllr Ham suggested that if anyone saw any particularly large or unusual vehicle and are able to take down a number it could be established where they are trying to access.

8 Finance

- 8.1 Income: - £280.50 had been received during October in allotment rents

- 8.2 Bank Reconciliation – Adjourned until the next meeting.

Ag

- 8.3 Discuss, consider and approve Small Grant applications – The working party had met and considered the 8 applications. A request from CAFC for £200 had been withdrawn and the application from some young people for full size goals in Coleford play area was deemed to be the Parish Councils responsibility and CAFC had mentioned to the Clerk that the old posts removed from Highbury could be reused. Cllr Drescher to liaise with CAFC to take this forward. Cllr Conn will remove the broken plastic goal.

AD

AC

The working party recommended as follows:

1 st Coleford Scout	£250	Folding tables & benches
Coleford @ The Hub	£350	Steam cleaner
Court Café	£400	Christmas celebrations
Huckyduck Carnival Club	£400	LED Lightbulbs
Coleford Revival Group	£600	Pensioners Christmas meal
Coleford Theatre Group	£500	LED lights & Costume hire

It was proposed by Cllr Banks and seconded by Cllr Conn that the applications should be granted.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained

8.4 Payments

The following payments were presented for approval.

Clerk expenses	£74.87
HMRC – National insurance	£19.95
Brentons Garden care – Grasscutting	£350.50
Read Agriservices – Gate and posts	£154.15
Combe Garden Care – Installation of cemetery path	£1500.00
Combe Garden Care – Removal of the cemetery hedge	£600.00
KSS CRC Ltd (BGSW Division) Payback team	£36.00
Salmon Planning Company	£1380.00
Unity Printworks Frome Flyers - Questionnaires	£145.00
Bigwood Play Systems – Replacement swings & Coleford Play Area	£924.00
Playforce Ltd – Swing shackles	£46.46
Key Transport Consultants	£1724.40

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

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained

9 Discuss options for safe burial preparations at the Cemetery

The Clerk had spoken with a representative of the Institute of Crematorium and Cemetery Management who confirmed that the Parish Council as landowner has a responsibility to the gravedigger working on our land. The Clerk went on to explain that she was arranging for Idverde to prepare the next grave at Coleford using the Teleshore shoring so that our grave digger can get involved with the preparation and see the equipment being used before we purchase. The Clerk will report back at the December meeting.

Ag

10 Discuss and consider quotes to remove picnic tables at Goodeaves play area

The Clerk presented a quote for removal of both picnic tables which are fixed into the ground. It was agreed that Cllr Drescher would liaise with the company who have quoted £720 to build a metal picnic table as they may be able to utilise the ground fixings when building the new one on site.

AD

It was agreed that both tables should stay in place from the time being.

11 Discuss, consider & agree whether to purchase a new picnic table for Goodeaves play area.

It was proposed by Cllr Drescher and seconded Cllr Allen that the quote received from KM Steel Fabrications Ltd for a galvanized bench for £720 + VAT should be accepted.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained

Cllr Drescher to establish if they will utilize the ground fixings as per the minute reference above.

- 12 Discuss, consider & agree quotes for installation of gates at:**
- 12.1 Beacon View – It was proposed by Cllr Conn and seconded by Cllr Drescher that the quote from Ben Windell of £175 + VAT to include labour and collections of materials (not cost of materials) to install the gate should be accepted. Cllr Allen to meet Ben Windell on site to agree the location. Clerk to notify contractor. MA
VW
- Vote: 7 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained*
- 12.2 Church Street footpath – Clerk to seek quotes from Steve Burdett and Ben Windell VW
- 13 Update on Coleford Parish Plan Questionnaire**
- Cllr Conn confirmed that all the reply boxes were now in place namely The Eagle, British Legion, the Doctors Surgery, Co-op, The Hub, The Kings Head and the Vicarage door.
- It was suggested that the Clerk should post on Facebook a reminder to residents that the questionnaire should be completed and returned to be entered into a prize draw to win £100. A second reminder should go out at the end of November. VW
- It was suggested that the Clerk should state in OTM that the deadline for return is extended to 8th December. VW
- 14 Update on Allotments at Orchard Close**
- The Clerk had reviewed the guidance provided by Somerset Association of Local Councils regarding disposing of land. The process was not straightforward. It was agreed that the information would be sent to Cllr Townsend for consideration. He may be able to seek further guidance from MDC legal team. VW
AT
- 15 Discuss Truespeeds proposed location for the telecommunications cabinet**
- Cllr Conn met with Truespeed representatives and discussed the proposed location of the cabinet. They will need access to both the front and back of the cabinet. Cllr Conn explained that the cabinet will be less prominent than the mock up supplied by Truespeed within the email circulated. The work is already underway.
- 16 VE Day event planning**
- A second VE Day meeting will be held on Friday the 6th December 2019 @ The Hub. Anyone interested in getting involved should attend.
- 17 Meetings to attend / attended**
- The Clerk to attend a SALC training session on Interactive budget setting on Friday 15/11/19 at a cost of £75 which will be split between the 3 councils. VW
- 18 Report of any risks identified**
- There were none.
- 19 Correspondence**
- 19.1 A letter had been received from a Coleford resident who works for Western Power who has requested permission for a helicopter to land in Highbury Playing Field to pick him up if snow is preventing him from driving to work. The helicopter is used for identifying problems when power has gone down which is important work. Councillors agreed that permission should be given. Clerk to notify the resident. VW
- 19.2 An email was received from Rev'd Clarissa Cridland thanking the Parish Council for the installation of the new path.
- 19.3 To be circulated to all Councillors:
- Clerks & Councils Direct
 - Avon and Somerset Police Newsletter
 - Information from Age UK (Clerk will display the posters on Facebook)
- 20 Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman's Discretion**
- No points were raised.
- 21 Date of Next Meetings:**
- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Wed 27 th November 2019 | Planning & Precept Meeting |
| Wed 11 th December 2019 | Parish Council meeting |

The meeting finished at 21.00hrs