

Parish Council of Coleford

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24th October 2017

Present

Cllr P Ham, (Chairman)
Cllr Townsend, Conn, Turner, Pearce, Evans, Banks, and Fisher

There were 0 members of the public present

Public Forum

1. Cllr Pearce reported that he had caught two dogs worrying his sheep. He had contacted the owners who were apologetic but will also report to the police using 101.
2. Cllr Evans reported that the Community pay back team will be attending on the 31st October 2017.
3. The Clerk read out the letter of resignation from Julia Neesam. The Clerk had prepared a letter which will be sent to Julia thanking her for the time she has given to the Council.

VW

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Talbot, Littlechild, and Gurd had all sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

2 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

It was acknowledged that all Councillors present had an interest in discussing the Precept as homeowners that pay Council tax.

3 Planning applications

There were no applications to be considered.

It was reported that there is still no news regarding the appeal dealing with the application to convert an agricultural barn to a dwelling at Owls Nest. The appeal was lodged in July.

4 2nd Quarter Budget Review

The Clerk explained that a review had been undertaken by Cllr Townsend and Cllr Conn of the accounts for the first 6 months of the year. The Clerk then ran through the accounts on a line by line basis and flagged up areas worthy of comment.

- It was noted that £6000 had been allocated for Youth provisions of which nothing had been spent to date. Cllr Ham confirmed that the cost of running the Youth Club is now £8.5K. It had been hoped that @ The Hub would contribute towards the running cost but due to the continued renovation of the building it has not yet been able to contribute. The last payment made by the Parish Council to the Youth Club was made in March this year and it was agreed that the next should be made in February 2018.
- The new entrance at Highbury Playing Field is currently showing as being paid for out of the Play equipment repairs and improvements at a cost of £5970.40. It was questioned whether this was the correct line within the budget but it was agreed that we would leave it there for now.
- The new entrance cost includes VAT and that element would then be added to the 2018/19 income?
- The Play equipment weekly inspections (£1000), Key Holding (£250), Capital improvements for changing rooms and (£500) all remain unspent at this point and could be utilized during the year in other areas.

- It was discussed that the tennis court wire fence at the car park end needs replacing. If the rebound boards are to be removed and replaced with rubber matting then it might be worthwhile obtaining quotes and having the work completed before the mat is installed. Clerk to obtain quotes. VW
- Floodlights need re-aligning. Cllr Ham to ask the local farmer if his cherry picker can be used. PH

The BMX Pump track had not been included in the original budget for 2017/18. It has now been added at a total price of £28K. This includes £879 for tree work at Highbury PF, Installation by Dirt Kraft Ltd – allocated at £16K plus contingency of £2K. Materials £7K and landscaping £3K.

Everyone agreed that it was correct to show the true predicted costs within the budget even though it meant a £28K deficit. It is hoped that funding applications will reduce the deficit and if needed funds from the reserves would have to be used.

Cllr Fisher to chase up the Footpath Wardens to establish if inspections and reports have been completed for the year and to explain that payment will be made upon receipt of the reports. JF

All Councillors agreed that the budget was as expected and Cllr Ham signed the report.

Voting FOR 8, AGAINST Nil, ABSTENTIONS Nil

5 **Discuss Precept 2018/19**

The Clerk has prepared a discussion document for the Precept 2018/19. It was acknowledged that the decision will not be made until January 2018 when the tax base will have been supplied by Mendip District Council and the full extent of their budget implications which may impact on our Parish.

The Clerk read out the proposed allocations for expenditure and income on a line by line basis to show what the proposed Precept might look like.

Cllr Ham highlighted that when you look at the items with the larger expenditure and break it down it makes interesting reading. For example if the precept was £36K then:

- £6K for Youth Club would equate to £3.28 per person within the parish per year
- £10K for the Clerk would equate to £5.40 per person within the parish per year
- £1K for Citizen Advice Bureau equates to 22p per person within the parish per year

It was agreed that this is the initial stage which will be reviewed over the next 3 months.

It was noted that as a result of the discussions, the environment allowance would be increased to £2500 and that the Allotment fees should be reviewed in the new year to decide if an increase is due. Ag

It was agreed that the Clerk would amend the spreadsheets in line with the suggestions made and recirculate to all Councillors prior to the next meeting. VW

6 **Matter of urgency**

There were no matters discussed.

5 **Date of Next Meetings:**

Wednesday 8th November 2017

Tuesday 21st November 2017

Parish Council Meeting

Planning Meeting

The meeting ended at 20.24hrs