

Parish Council of Coleford

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Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th December 2017

Present

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

PF Public Forum

- 1 Mr James Alexandroff attended the meeting and spoke about the plans which will be discussed during tonight's meeting namely 2017/3046/FUL – The construction of a bat roost for a colony of lesser horseshoe bats at Brookside Cottage, Underhill, Coleford, BA3 5LU. James explained that the building that the bats are currently inhabiting is derelict and is at risk of falling down, hence the reason why a new roost is required. A detailed ecology report had been provided which covers the building assessment for roosting bat species along with dusk emergence and dawn re-entry surveys. Within the report there are three requests which are as follows:
 1. The Derelict building be knocked down at the time that the new roost is completed to avoid confusion for the bats.
 2. That the building has to be built in a precise location with access pointing in a specific direction.
 3. That the building is away from any artificial light – which it will be.

Mr Alexandroff explained that at some point in the future he would be looking to redevelop the derelict building which will, without intervention, in due course fall down.

The Chairman thanked Mr Alexandroff for attending and explained that the Council will consider the planning applications later in the meeting. He would be welcome to stay although he would not be able to speak unless invited by the Chairman.

- 2 Cllr Conn said that he felt the report written by Chiarra of the Coleford Youth Club was very good. The report outlined the amount of effort that the youths had put in to help make cakes to give out at the Christmas Tree light up ceremony. The youth club members had wanted to do this to show other residents that youths could be responsible, thoughtful and helpful unlike some of which had damaged the Christmas tree last year.

Cllr Ham said that he had attended the Youth Club Christmas party earlier during the evening where he had presented the award to Member of the Year, which on this occasion had been awarded to 2 members. The party was being run by 4 adults with 20 youths present and everyone was having an enjoyable time. It is hoped that the Youth Club has turned a corner and that 2018 will be a positive.
- 3 Cllr Conn reminded Councillors that the Winter clearance of the Butterfly Bank would be taking place on Sunday the 14th January 2018 starting at 10am.
- 4 It had been reported that the footpath to the rear of the Kings Head public house, has many fallen leaves decomposing, which is making it slippery. Cllr Evans will add this to the list of jobs for the Community Pay Back team to undertake.

1 Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

Cllr Pearce, Gurd and Talbot had sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

2 **Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting**
Cllr Townsend declared an interest in Agenda items 3.3 and 3.4, which was his planning applications 2017/3170/HSE and 2017/3171/LBC- Proposed stone built garden store and coping to walls. Internal modifications to create home-work space, new en-suite shower room and minor alterations. New porch on kitchen door for his property.

Cllr Ham and Banks declared an interest in agenda item 6 – Venue for future Parish Council meetings.

3 **Planning Applications**

Councillors had considered all of the plans for the following applications prior to discussion.

3.1 2017/3072/HSE - 69 Farley Dell Coleford Radstock BA3 5PN

Proposed demolition of existing garage & erection of single storey rear extension & garage.

Cllr Banks proposed that the application should be approved which was seconded by Cllr Conn. A vote was taken with all Councillors voting in favour of the proposal, namely to approve the application, agreeing that it would improve the property.

VOTING FOR 6, AGAINST Nil, ABSTENTIONS 2

3.2 2017/3046/FUL – Construction of bat roost for a colony of lesser horseshoe bats. Brookside Cottage, Underhill, Coleford, BA3 5LU

Cllr Littlechild proposed that the application should be approved which was seconded by Cllr Turner. A vote was taken with all Councillors voting in favour of the proposal, namely that the application should be approved.

VOTING FOR 6, AGAINST Nil, ABSTENTIONS 2

3.3 2017/3171/LBC - Proposed stone built garden store and coping to walls. Internal modifications to create home-work space, new en-suite shower room and minor alterations. New porch on kitchen door. Hill Farm, Lipyeate Lane, Coleford, BA3 5FJ And

3.4 2017/3170/HSE - Proposed stone built garden store and coping to walls. Internal modifications to create home-work space, new en-suite shower room and minor alterations. New porch on kitchen door. Hill Farm, Lipyeate Lane, Coleford, BA3 5FJ

Cllr Townsend left the room.

Cllr Conn proposed that both applications should be approved which was seconded by Cllr Fisher. A vote was taken with all Councillors voting in favour of the proposals for both applications, namely that they should be approved.

VOTING FOR 6, AGAINST Nil, ABSTENTIONS 1

Cllr Townsend returned to the room.

4 **BMX Pump Track Update**

Cllr Turner reported that Cllr Gurd had submitted to Mendip District Planning Office the Planning Application for the BMX Pump track. Wainwrights have written to confirm that they will be happy to provide free of charge, approximately £3500 worth of asphalt products, which will be supplied through Kingsmere Surfacing.

Cllr Conn confirmed that he hoped to hear back from Sport England soon as to whether the grant funding application has been successful. He also said that the Somerset Community Foundation looked likely to be offering a grant of £1500 towards the cost of the BMX Pump Track, confirmation to follow soon.

Cllr Conn said that he had started work on a draft contract which would be circulated to the working party team in the first instance for comment and amendment prior to sending to Cllr Townsend who has previous experience with contracts. It will then be distributed to full Council.

AC

Cllr Conn will also put together a paper on what we might like to see by way of landscaping once the track has been installed, which should include the boundary fence adjacent to the farm, as well as seeking quotes from contractors to undertake any work.

AC

Cllr Conn confirmed that there had been no response to the grant application submitted to the Avon and Somerset Police for funding towards the BMX Pump Track scheme. Cllr Conn to follow up.

AC

5 **Discuss Precept 2018/19**

Cllr Ham confirmed that the Tax Base figures have now been agreed by Mendip District Council. For Coleford the figure for 2018/19 is £730.98 which is a slight increase on the 2017/18 figure of £718.00.

The Clerk to amend the spreadsheet to show the new Tax Base along with the proposed increase to the small grants from £1500 to £2500 and then circulate to all Councillors prior to the next meeting when it will be discussed and agreed.

VW
Ag

6 **Venue for Parish Council Meetings**

As Cllrs Banks and Ham are both Trustees and committee members for the Hub they declared an interest and would not be taking part in the vote on this matter.

Over the last couple of years it has been discussed whether the Parish Council meetings should be held at the Hub rather than the meeting room at Douglas Yates. Cllr Ham thought that it would be possible to hold both the monthly meeting and the Planning meeting on a Wednesday (rather than the planning meeting being on a Tuesday).

It was proposed by Cllr Townsend that the meetings should be moved to the Hub which was seconded by Cllr Turner.

VOTING FOR 6, AGAINST Nil, ABSTENTIONS 2

The Clerk to write a letter to the Hub committee asking if they would be able to accommodate both of the monthly Parish Council meetings and suggest that they accept a payment matching the Douglas Yates room hire rate of £15 per session. If this is accepted then a letter of thanks should be sent to the manager of Douglas Yates thanking them for the hire over recent years but inform them that as of April the meetings will no longer be held in their meeting room but will be moved to @ the Hub. This would be the start of the new financial year and would be the time when the annual room rent is paid.

VW
VW

7 **Matter of urgency – at the Chairman’s discretion**

1 A complaint had been received to say that one of the village grit bins was in need of refilling. Cllr Evans has made an inspection and confirmed that all of the newly installed bins are yet to be refilled by Highways. Clerk to chase up.

VW

2 Cllr Ham requested that the Clerk provides the code for the padlock in order that he can retrieve the bins which have been donated by Aster homes.

VW

3 An email had been received from Mrs Mayell who was concerned over the speed which traffic were passing through Soho. Cllr Ham explained that as the District Cllr he has reported back to MDC and has been discussed at Leigh on Mendip PC as it is within their Parish

4 The Clerk confirmed that Krissy Mines had returned from Australia where she was competing in the Cycle Speedway. She came 10th overall and the women’s team won all 5 matches against the Australian team.

5 Cllr Banks asked if there was any news on the Fish and Chips shop development which was currently taking place and appeared extensive. There was no information at this point.

8 **Date of Next Meetings:**

Wednesday 10th January 2018 Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 23rd January 2018 Planning Meeting

The meeting ended at 20.20hrs