

# Parish Council of Coleford

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### Present

Cllr P Ham (Chairman)  
Cllr Banks, Conn, Gurd and Turner

There were 5 members of the public present

- PF** Mr Osborne asked if it was possible to relocate the Air Ambulance collection unit to another location within the village. The Council will give this consideration and get back to Mr Osborne. Ag
- It was reported that a plinth from a memorial had been dumped about half way up along the hedge that borders the right hand side as you enter the Cemetery. The Clerk has looked at the plinth already and will follow up as she believes she may know who is responsible for the action. VW
- 1 Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)**  
Cllr Townsend and Evans sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.
- 2 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting**  
There were none.
- 3 Co-Option of new Councillor**  
The Clerk explained that there had been interest from 3 people, 2 of which were present at the meeting. It is hoped that co-option of at least one will take place at the April meeting. Ag
- 4 Update on Coleford Post Office**  
The Clerk read out a letter from Richard Hall who reiterated information that had already been provided by the Stuart Taylor the External Case Manager for the Post office before he had gone on leave. Options are being sought for a temporary service and Richard had confirmed that he would keep us informed of any developments. There had been no response to the letters written to the owners of the property and Radco at this point. The Clerk will continue to keep up the pressure.
- Cllr Ham said that if anyone was experiencing hardship as a result of the closure then they should contact the Parish Council.
- 5 Planning**  
2018/0350/HSE - Erection of a two story side extension. 3 Beacon View Coleford Radstock BA3 5PE  
Councillors considered the abovementioned application. It was proposed by Cllr Conn that the application should be recommended for approval provided that the party wall (property no 2) is left in good order, which was seconded by Cllr Gurd.
- Vote: 4 For, 0 Against & 1 Abstained (1 District Councillor didn't take part in the vote)*
- 6 Agree new bank mandate**  
The Clerk explained that there were currently 4 bank signatories (Cllrs Ham, Townsend, Conn and the Clerk) with a further 2 that have subsequently left the Council who needed to be removed. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Banks and Cllr Evans would be added to the mandate as new signatories. The Clerk will arrange for the paperwork to be completed. VW

### Update on the BMX pump track

Cllr Gurd confirmed that the track has been completed and is being used by large volumes of youths. Top soil had to be brought in at a cost of £500 to cover some glass which had been exposed during the build. Cllr Gurd said that the track users have been riding their bikes across the landscaped soil causing some rutting which is frustrating.

The final payment of 10% will not be paid to Dirt Kraft Ltd until receipt of the Contractor's assurance, warranty and/or guarantee and successful resolution of any snags to the satisfaction of the Parish Council.

Cllr Gurd explained that some fencing was required to screen the track from the neighbouring farm. He explained that 18m of fencing was required and proposed a 6ft featheredge board, with 3 horizontals, top capping and a gravel board. 3 quotes had been received which came in at £50 per m, £65 per m and £100 per m.

It was proposed by Cllr Turner that the quote of £50 per m be accepted which was seconded by Cllr Ham. Cllr Gurd or the Clerk to action.

TG  
VW

*Vote: 5 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstained*

AG

Cllr Gurd said that there was still the matter of safety signage and the sponsor signage. This will be an agenda item for the April meeting.

It was agreed that the Clerk would notify Idverde that the bin has been installed and needs to be emptied and included in future collections.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Gurd for his hard work in leading and managing the build.

### 7.1 Landscaping

Cllr Conn confirmed that Somerset Wildlife Trust had completed the soil sampling which will help to ascertain which mix of plants should be sown. The results should be available within 2 weeks.

Cllr Conn explained that Dirt Kraft have left graded and smooth banks between the tracks and around the edges. At the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January, the Parish Council agreed to the planting of a specialist wildflower and grass mix on these areas. A new pedestrian pathway was added to the contract and it is suggested that the area between this and the track could be planted in the same way.

A plan had been prepared to show the areas for planting which total an estimated 300 square metres. In addition, some hedge planting is proposed, to help screen the track from the nearby farmyard. The budget allocated for planting was a maximum of £3000.

Cllr Conn explained that there is a fairly short timescale for planting before it may become too dry to be successful. Three options for planting were identified, as follows

<b>Option</b>	<b>Main advantages</b>	<b>Main disadvantages</b>
Seeding with a specialist wildflower and grass mix	Price – Less than £300* Can be spread by volunteers	Time taken to establish / may fail May need watering May not establish on steeper slopes Likely to require some reseeded in the Autumn More vulnerable to being walked on / Ideally the seeded areas should be roped off.
Laying specialist wildflower turf	Establishes quickly (plants are already germinated)  Suppresses weeds	Price - over £3500 *. Work required to cut and fix. Pegging required on steeper slopes (some cost) A contractor will be needed. Very likely to need watering (soak to start)
Spreading "wildflower earth" **	Probably higher success rate than seeds Can be spread by volunteers Suppresses weeds	Price – over £2,000* Very likely to need watering (keep damp until germination) Not used on slopes of more than 30 degrees

Cllr Conn has been investigating matting products that could provide stabilisation and protection and could probably be fixed by volunteers. If a more open sort of mesh is used, it could be applied after seeding. The product that looks most suitable would cost an estimated £330 to £750 approx (including delivery and VAT).

## 7.2 Hedging

Cllr Conn said that Hedge planting could not be carried until the autumn, because the soil will shortly become too dry for bare rooted whips. The length suggested for planting behind the starting pad and ramp amounts to about 20 metres. A further 8 metres could be planted in front of the planned fence to the corner of the playing field, to help screen the adjoining farmyard in the longer term. Use of 60-90 cm bare rooted whips with a mix of native species is recommended, in a double row using about 5 plants per metre. The cost is likely to be about £380-£450 for 28 metres, assuming that the work is done by volunteers.

## 7.3 Recommendations

Cllr Conn proposed:

- i. that the Somerset Wildlife Trust is recompensed for the cost of analysis of the soil survey (estimated cost £24)
- ii. that seeding of the proposed meadow areas is undertaken as soon as possible, with the seed mix chosen using the results of the soil survey, and that sufficient seed is purchased to allow for a follow up seeding during the Autumn (budget up to £300).
- iii. that, if necessary a biodegradable matting product be used to protect planting, reduce the risk of soil erosion on the steeper banks and reduce mud transfer to the track, for either the whole area of planting (about 300 sq metres) or selected areas most at risk (120 to 180 square metres) (indicative approx.. costs £330 / £500 / £750)
- iv. that ideas are explored for watering the planted areas in the event of dry weather.
- v. during the Autumn, a mix of native species hedging is planted, from the corner of the playing field, along the northern edge and the rear of the pump track ramp and starting pad, to the western edge of the pump track, a total distance of 28 metres, for which a budget of about £400 should be reserved.
- vi. that the Project Team be asked to make these arrangements and purchases.

The total cost of proposals would be up to approximately £1500

Cllr Ham proposed that the recommendations proposed by Cllr Conn be actioned, including the purchase and installation of biodegradable matting which was considered to be necessary. This was seconded by Cllr Gurd.

*Vote: 5 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstained*

## 8 **Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman’s Discretion**

The Clerk said that there was a large amount of people on Facebook who want to see dog fouling dealt with. An email has been sent to Mendip District Council seeking advice and support to help eliminate the problem. Agenda item for the April meeting.

Ag

Cllr Banks would like to discuss and agree a plan for future snow clearance. April agenda item

Ag

## 9 **Date of Next Meetings:**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**Annual Parish Meeting** and Planning Meeting

**The meeting finished at 21.15hrs**