

Parish Council of Coleford

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 25th April 2018

Present

Cllr P Ham (Chairman)
Cllr Townsend, Banks, Barrett, Conn, Evans, Talbot and Turner

There were 10 members of the public present

PF There were no points raised

1 Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

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

2 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

There were none.

3 Update from Mr Stuart Taylor of the Post Office

Mr Taylor apologised that the Coleford Post Office had closed due to the resignation of the Post Master. A sale had been lined up which included the Post Office remaining in situ as part of the new store. He explained that at that point the Post Master handed in his resignation to allow the new potential owner to take on the role but the sale didn't go ahead and subsequently Jones ceased to trade and the post office closed with it. The resigning post master had given the required period of notice.

How do we restore the service? The first thing that the post Office has done is to speak with the existing businesses in the village, The existing co-op is not interested in taking on the Post Office and the new co-op is still some time off of being built. As there are no mobile units in the area the only option available is for a Postmaster to provide an Outreach service.

The Postmaster from Mells has agreed to provide the outreach service twice a week for 2 hours. Mr Taylor confirmed that this would never be a full time solution although if demand is there then it may be possible to extend the opening hours. A test of the mobile signal at both the Surgery and @ The Hub was undertaken which showed that the signal is insufficient so a fixed line will need to be installed. The Postmasters preferred location would be @ The Hub. Talks will be held with the new Co-op to see if they will be prepared to provide a permanent post office service once opened.

A consultation will need to be undertaken in line with their Code of Conduct, which the CAB will complete. The next step would need to establish what else would be required @ The Hub. The hard wiring would need to be ordered and installed once final clearance is received from the Postmaster. The consultation will take 6 weeks to complete and could be done in conjunction with the work being undertaken.

The Chairman invited questions from Councillors or the public. They included:

- Would Open Reach treat the request for hardwiring as a priority? Mr Taylor confirmed that they would be aware that this request would be completed on the behalf of the public.
- If the Outreach service became popular and extremely successful could the Hub become a permanent option? Mr Taylor said that there would be a lot to consider before the parish Council could consider running a full time service. There would need to be another form of revenue/income.
- Would any material changes be required to any part of the Hub building? No
- Who would fund the installation of the new line? The Post Office.

Cllr Ham thanked Stuart Taylor for coming to the meeting to bring us all up to date with the latest developments on the future Post Office service.

Mr Taylor left at 7.30pm

4 **Mr Ian Glover of Mendip District Council Enforcement team to speak on Dog Fouling**

Mr Glover explained that the enforcement department was understaffed with many responsibilities which included planning, fly tipping, gypsy and travelers and dog fouling. It is hoped that new team members will be recruited soon.

Under the current law a fixed penalty notice can be issued against someone for failing to clear up after their dog. The enforcement policy is currently being reformed and if agreed it will give additional level of powers. Once finalized the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) will mean that the public will have to:

- keep your dog on a lead
- put your dog on a lead if told to by a police officer, police community support officer or someone from the council
- stop your dog going to certain places - like farmland or parts of a park
- limit the number of dogs you have with you (this applies to professional dog walkers too)
- clear up after your dog

The perpetrator will be given a written warning but if the PSPO is ignored then you can be fined:

- £100 on the spot (a 'Fixed Penalty Notice')
- up to £1,000 if it goes to court

Local councils must let the public know where PSPOs are in place. If no dogs are allowed in a specific area the Council must display signs saying so. MDC can provide these signs but they are costly and Towns are likely to take priority initially. Mr Glover said that if we wanted some to get in touch and will arrange to meet with a member of the Parish to have them erected in the places requested. Ag

Mr Glover explained that no action could take place against offending dog owners unless a witness statement is provided. This must include the following details about the offence:

- the time
- date
- where the incident took place
- description of the dog
- the address of the perpetrator
- registration plate of car they were seen driving away in

Unless this information is available in the form of a witness statement then Mr Glover will not pursue it. He explained that this intelligence may need to be gathered over a period of time but said that he did not want any member of the public to get themselves in any form of confrontation or danger.

Some Councils have outsourced the enforcement work to companies like Kingdom. They issue the fines and will pursue the enforcement to reclaim the fines, 90% of which they take as payment and the 10% being returned to the Council.

Mr Glover also stressed the importance of picking up dog mess from farmland. Cows can get a disease from grazing areas with dog mess which causes the cow to abort its calf and then becomes barren.

Mr Glover provided the Clerk with a Practitioners guide for dealing with irresponsible dog owners. The Chairman thanked Mr Glover for attending and asked if there were any questions:

1. Are there many incidents of malicious claims being made? No, the witness statement makes it very clear that if they lie then there will be serious legal consequences.
2. Is the warning letter only available if the PSPO is in place? No providing there is a witness statement then the letter can be sent.
3. Can the same be applied on farmland? Mr Glover said he was not sure at this point but hoped that in the first instance we could have some success in public areas.

4. Should we ever confront the offender? No. Public safety is paramount and gathering of intelligence safely is the best way.

The Council once again thanked Mr Glover and he then left at 8pm

4 Progress report on BMX pump track

- a Fence - Tim Orledge has now installed the new fence along the border between Mr Philips land and the playing field. It's robust and looks good. It was questioned whether the fence may be extended further along the border fence in the future.
- b Landscaping update – Cllr Conn explained that the coir matting and seeding had been applied to the banks of the track with the help of volunteers. He thanked Rebecca (Bex) Manley, Cecily Fowlds, Emma Bates, Keith Wadley, Veryan Conn, Colin Turner, Nick Harding and Vickie Watts for their help with the installation.
- c Signs – Cllr Conn said that he wished to be given permission to purchase and install the posts to be used for the signage to ensure that there was no delay. All Councillors agreed that this would be acceptable. AC
Vote For: 8; Against 0; Abstained 0
- Cllr Gurd has requested that someone else takes over the responsibility for ordering the safety signs and main sign acknowledging the donors. It was agreed that the Clerk would take on this responsibility. VW
- d Final payment to Dirtkraft – The Clerk explained that she had received a copy of the letter of assurance but it was unsigned. She has spoken to Rob Wareham and will arrange a convenient time to meet up to exchange the final cheque upon receipt of the signed guarantee. VW
- e Official opening – This has been agreed for Saturday the 2nd of June but a time is yet to be agreed. This needs to be done soon so that invitations can be sent and arrangements can be made. Ag
- f Levelling of the soil – Cllr Conn said that the soil need levelling asap so that it can be seeded. The Clerk said that Rob Wareham had mentioned that this was his responsibility during the recent telephone conversation. Clerk to follow this up ASAP. VW

5 Discuss findings of the Play area Inspections:

- 5.1 Discuss whether tree work is needed at Roman Way – It was agreed that Cllr Ham would inspect the tree and speak with the complainant before reporting back at the next meeting.
- 5.2 See saw at Goodeaves – The Clerk had identified a fault with the see-saw at Goodeaves play area. Cllr Barrett will inspect to see if he is able to repair.
- 5.3 Installation of an additional Litter bin at the track – It was proposed that the oil drums at the field should be removed and a new litter bin be installed in the location of the benches.

Vote For: 8; Against 0; Abstained 0

The Clerk will seek approval from Mendip District Council and arrange the installation thereafter.

VW

6 Finance

Accounts approved for payments:

The following payments were approved:

Campaign to Protect Rural England annual membership	£36.00
Tim Orledge – BMX Track fencing & notice board	£1,100.00
Andy Conn – Seed for Pump Track	£73.24
Vickie Watts - Expenses	£78.88
Keith Evans – Community Payback expenses	£20.60

7 Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman's Discretion

The Clerk explained that she had been contacted by a resident at Beacon View who was concerned about the condition of the 2 oak trees which bordered their garden as there was some dead wood amongst the large trees which on occasions is falling to the ground.

It was agreed that the Clerk would complete the relevant application seeking permission for work to take place on the protected trees. Quotes should also be sought. VW

The same resident also complained about fly tipping in the same fence line, some of which had been there for many years. The Clerk said she had asked MDC if they would clear but because it is on Parish owned land it is our responsibility. Is this a job that could be completed to the Community Payback team? Cllr Evans felt that it could. KE

The resident also raised concern over the sewerage which leaks from the manhole cover near to his home. It leaks across the footpath and then into his garden and is offensive. Cllr Ham confirmed that this was a longstanding problem and should be directed towards Wessex Water who deal with the sewerage on behalf of Bristol Water. The Clerk will inform the resident. VW

8 **Date of Next Meetings:**
Wednesday 9th May 2018 Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 23rd May 2018 Planning Meeting