

Parish Council of Coleford

Miss V Watts
Clerk to the Council
Tel: 07971 516916 / 01749 880428
Email: clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com
Website: www.colefordsomerset.info

Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

Annual Parish Meeting held Wednesday 25th April 2018

Presentation by Mr Stuart Taylor - External Relations. Post Office Ltd, Post Office Service in Coleford

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

Mr Ian Glover – Enforcement Officer, Neighbourhood Services, Mendip District Council, Preventing Dog Fouling in Coleford

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.

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

Present

Cllr P Ham (Chairman)

Cllr Townsend, Banks, Barrett, Conn, Evans, Talbot and Turner

There were 10 members of the public present

1 Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

Cllr Harding, Cllr Gurd, Cllr Pearce Karla March on behalf of the Scout group, Julie Bolton of Age UK, Avril Heywood for Huckyduck Carnival Club, Chiara Docherty from the YMCA and Tonia Scott for Bishop Henderson School all sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

2 Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting 25th April 2017

The minutes were produced and had been signed at the Parish Council meeting which followed last year's Annual Parish Meeting.

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Reports

4.1 Financial

The Clerk reported that Councillors agreed the end of year figures at our last full Council meeting, which showed the year-end figures in comparison with the budget set for the year.

We started this financial year 1st April 2017 with the combined bank balances of **£52,503.67** and ended at the lower amount of **£40,733.69** for year ending March 2018. This is a difference of **£11,769.98**

Our income inc Precept for this year was £39028.32 against £43959.40 last year.

The major project of the year has been the building of the BMX Pump Track which is virtually complete and we look forward to a formal opening in the near future.

The predicted spend for the project was £29,640. With the help of Andy Conn applying for grants we managed to secure:

Grant offer from Sport England	£14,000.00
Grant made by Somerset Community Foundation	£1,500.00
Grant offer by A and S Police Commissioner's Community Action fund	£1,500.00
Grant from Somerset County Council	£10,000.00
Local Fund Raising and bank interest on SCC grant	£3,798.32

There was amazing effort put into the fund raising for the BMX track namely:

Personal donation	£255.00
Business donation	£250.00
Sky Dive	£1,386.09
BBQ & Kings Head	£1,150.98
Xmas raffle	£521.75
Sponsored bike ride	£228.60
Interest	£5.90
Total	£3,798.32

We have continued to support the Coleford Youth club with a contribution of £6,070 being made during the year.

A £3,000 payment to the Citizen Advice Bureau was also made during the year, which equates to £1K per year which was paid retrospectively. We know that this is a service that Coleford residents are accessing on a regular basis and therefore believe it is important to support.

4.2 Chairman

Cllr Ham as Chairman gave the following report:

“Each year I write this report thinking what do the Parish Council do? Why are we Councillors? And do we do our best and service the community? As a group we certainly do our best and with intention to get it right.

At the beginning of the year we lost Val Horler after 26 years’ service so she could look after her husband, then Julia Neesam to after her father. Karla March was next due to promotion within the Scouts and last Dan Littlechild decided to move on.

We have recently had 3 new members join us. Mark Barrett, Adam Drescher and Nick Harding who I hope will enjoy being with us and get involved to help us become a better Council.

Last year we increased the precept budget so we could do a little more ourselves and continue our improvement programme but keep maintenance at the required level.

During the year we have provided funds to the Citizens advice bureau and Youth club, both who do a tremendous amount of work in the village most of which we do not see mainly as I t is helping those that need help in the complex world we live in. We also have given grants to the following during the year:

Church Hall	£120
Coleford Theatre Group	£150
Coleford Flower Show	£170
@ the Hub	£200
Tuesday Afternoon Club	£150
Scout Group	£220
CRG	£200
Dungeons & Dragons club	£50
CAFC under 7’s	£50
Court Café	£90
Huckyduck carnival club	£100

We will have another round of grant applications at the end of the summer when you can apply through the clerk.

Recently we have done a New Housing Scheme regards the need for new affordable housing with the village – the figure of 13 has come out of the survey and we will now be working with others to see if we can help with this. The last time this happened 10 years ago we had the need for 30 and after years of work Macintosh View was built. A long process. I would like to thank Cllr Townsend for doing this work.

We have continued to input into the MDC Local Plan Part II re site allocations, open and play spaces and infrastructure needs. Planning applications are dealt with monthly, the Parish Councils are only consultees and not decision makers but we take it seriously and do our best and often the vote is split but that is democracy.

The main achievement of the year has been the development and construction of the pump track. This time last year we were just agreeing to cut down 2 trees and make a new entrance and now it is open for use. A huge thanks you must go to Tony Gurd for this – he took the project with both hands and made it happen. Andy Conn, Colin Turner and Vickie Watts also working hard alongside Tony.

This whole project has been funded by grants and fund raising and donations from local quarries and businesses. Not a penny from the Parish Council Precept! There will be an opening ceremony on the 2nd June when everyone can be thanked in the proper way.

At this point I need to thank everyone for their hard work:

Keith Evans – for running the environment group and getting many jobs done around the village and his expertise in the insurance and financial field.

Colin Turner – for advice, cemetery work and playing field committee.

Alan Townsend – for being my deputy, filling in the gaps where needed.

Chris Pearce – for his work on the highways and signposts. We hope that he is feeling better after his accident.

Andy Conn – for his spreadsheets, financial monitoring, finding grants, doing applications especially with the pump track and recently with the landscaping and reseeded.

Henry – for being very supportive through the year but most of all the time and effort given towards the Hub our new meeting place.

Tony Gurd – His enthusiasm for the pump track, jumping out of a plane, meeting with young people, making videos, preparing contracts, materials and organizing the contractor not to mention the allotments.

Thank you all.

Last but most important, Vickie. What does she do? She deals with the complaints, agendas, minutes, finance, recruitment, emails, phone calls, letter writing and records and then all of us twice a month and that's on top of her family, Cranmore and Holcombe Parish Councils. We are so lucky, Thank you Vickie.

Just before I close, we have done a lot. We have more to do. The future is for all of us to take forward and with projects like improving the hardcourts, signposts, highway improvements and making sure rural isolation is not a problem for Coleford. We can make a difference.

4.3 District Councillor Reports

District Cllr Alan Townsend reported:

It has been a varied year, but one of the most interesting aspects has been attending the meetings of the Parish Councils of Coleford, Holcombe, Stoke st Michael, and Leigh on Mendip. Many items in common, some very different, for example quarrying issues at Leigh and Stoke.

During the last 12 months my specific involvement with Mendip has been as follows,

starting with a number of working groups.

Shape our Future WG where officers and member meet to look forward at how the Council can perform better in the future.

Outside Bodies WG – concluding a review to ensure the Council is properly represented on all relevant local Bodies, for example here the Quarry Liaison groups.

Car Parking WG – looking at the longer term strategy of how best to use the District’s car parks.

I am a substitute member of the Scrutiny Board working on strategies and policies. One such policy is enforcement which you have already hear about.

I am a full member of the Licensing Board. We are currently looking at Mendips Taxi Policy, also at ways of increasing fees from Glastonbury festival to compensate the District for the massive disruption caused to our residents. In addition I service on the Licensing sub-committee which review typically taxi drivers or licensees who have been subject to formal complaint – this is generally a serious consideration of the Licensee’s livelihood against protection of the public. I also serve as a Substitute member of the Planning Board, having had the pleasure of all the training courses.

I regularly attend Cabinet – a current theme has been to try to gain closer engagement between Mendip and Local parishes. The recent Parish Forum was an attempt to bridge the gap with a full turnout of cabinet and Councils three senior officials for a Q & A session. The attendance of only 12 Parish Councillors to grill Mendip could lead to us to conclude that as a District Council we are not doing a lot wrong!

I represent the Council as a Director of KeyRing lettings, a community interest company established to support people at the lower end of the housing market who might otherwise have to be housed in B&B accommodation. We continue to suffer from a shortage of this type of property so any leads or contacts would be welcome.

Working with our neighbouring parishes I continue to take an interest in Highways issues. I would like to think that we have had some success with the new signage at Soho and Ham reducing the number of unwelcome visits to the bottom of the village – in fact I haven’t heard of any recently.

I’m sure that the coming year will throw up new challenges!

District Cllr Philip Ham reported:

Time flies by when you’re busy and it has been a busy year for me at Mendip. We continue to budget year on year with our income now over 40% less than 6 years ago from Central Government not even to mention inflation and rising costs. This last year our budget was around 900K underspend. This last we have completed the 5 Council contract although there have been tweaks to it over the last 9 months we have still achieved an 11% saving. The leisure contract has bedded in and in fact next year we get our first payment from Fusion. The core service contract has just been revised to give more services in some areas but savings in others.

Shape Mendip is still developing with more and more partners and in the next couple of years will give a revenue after all costs are paid for. Shape Mendip Housing Co, Shape Mendip Lottery, Shape Mendip Neighbourhood services are just a few examples of how it is developing.

As a Cabinet member for Transformation it is my job to raise revenue through investment assets or doing something in a better and more effective way. The assets we have bought to

date cost 17 million pounds and give us a return after all costs of around 800K – this is equivalent of around 8% of Council tax. The assets that we are acquiring should increase in value and will be valued every year end. We hope to spend more money in the next year.

Early in the year we had a Peer review which turned out to be a well done to MDC. It stated that it was a forward thinking Council, had good budget control and all departments seem to be working well BUT improvement could be made with communications and interactions with Parish and Town Councils. As a result we now have a new Communication team headed up by Elizabeth Price and Laura Thomas and a new communication strategy. At a recent Parish Forum there was a Q & A session with the Cabinet and Senior Leaders Team Members.

During the year there have been many enforcement issues with Gypsy and Travellers, Fly tipping and issues around the use of Public Space Protection Orders including a High Court case.

Glastonbury Festival had a good year but always increases workload for MDC. This year was really difficult as a general election was called for and was on the Thursday of Glastonbury. An election for Mendip is the busiest it gets with around 100 plus polling stations and a count overnight.

During the year as Chairman of Equalities and Migrant Forum we have helped in the re-homing of Syrian refugees and the difficulties of surrounding migrant workers with the building of Hinkley C and the outcomes of Brexit.

Planning as always has winners and losers and we have had our share of both this year. It is a balancing act, sometimes only a choice but myself and Alan are always around to try and help.

About a month ago we opened the first Changing Places in Frome – these are special toilet facilities for the extreme and bigger disabled person. We hope to open a 2nd in Wells in the next few weeks with further ones in Street, Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet. This has been done cross party and with different tiers of government. They cost around 30K fitted out and around 3K to service and maintain per year.

Shape Mendip Lottery has raised around 35K for local charities and organisations over the last year. Not quite as much as we had hoped for but a lot better than nothing.

I still continue to be the MDC representative for the YMCA, Citizens advice bureau and the Drainage board.

I have enjoyed the year and could have said more – I believe Alan and myself work well together and are both available most of the time – we are only a phone call or email away.

4.4 Somerset County Councillor Report

County Cllr Ham reported:

It was good to get re-elected last May with an increased vote. I have a varied role at County and am involved with the following:

1. Scrutiny – This is an interesting group, we discuss things from Hinkley C, new highways, libraries, registration services, heritage, assets and County farms. The latter being a Task and finish focus which I was chaired with recommendations for the Council to take forward.
2. Audit – From budget to outsourcing, debt recovery to investment. It is all very complex especially with central government reducing grants all the time. Procurement processes are very difficult under EU rules.

3. HR Committee – Roles of personnel, pay awards, management of staff and roles of members etc
4. Somerset Rivers Authority – This involves the scrutiny of the Authority, Drainage board's expenditure / workloads – helping to provide basis for motion to create a precept body for collecting the money.
5. Mendip Quarries Advisory Panel – This is regards all the quarries planning applications, extraction rates, transport and restoration as bio diversity measures to enhance environment projects to offset the harm of extraction.

There are also many highway issues and problems including here in Coleford. Parking, speeding, pedestrian safety to name just some of the issues. I have put in a scheme for the Highway improvement in Coleford – this is being assessed and scored and we should know more later in the summer.

I am also a corporate parent for the virtual school which now has just over 500 pupils who are in our care for one reason or another. This is a big responsibility for the Council.

Education and Adult Social Care are two areas that are costing more every year with financial support reducing – paying £100,000 per day in interest and loans taken out 15 – 20 years ago is making things very difficult.

I have handed around a fact sheet to support this report but I can assure you I am doing what I can. Thank you.

4.5 Young People

The following report was provided:

There is an average attendance of 11 young people coming to the club during this quarter. The club is developing well. At the start of the quarter there were issues with one young lad who was consistently disrupting these session which has been an ongoing issue. When they consulted with the other young people they said that this was why they tend to not come as often or do not stay for the duration because of the disruptions. They also said that this is why some of their friends do not attend anymore. The youth was subsequently excluded which resulted in the youth club sessions improving massively with young peoples behaviour being really good and numbers of young people attending being consistent. Although the numbers have reduced the youths are mixing well, valuing and enjoying the youth club sessions again which has seen old members returning. The young person who was excluded has been offered to get involved with the project team in the meantime and has been offered to meet with Chiara once a month during the exclusion period.

Highlights of the quarter have been the drama workshop provided by a drama teacher which went down really well with the children. Some of the children were sceptical to join in to begin with but went on to enjoy the session with all of the group taking part and it was great for confidence building and team building. Young people have requested these sessions again.

The Introduction to Graffiti workshop was a huge success with all children sat around engaging for the duration of the session. They went on to create some brilliant work and are looking forward to some follow up sessions next term where they will spray paint their chosen designs onto canvas boards for building.

The club took part in a successful exchange to Frome Youth. This was a closed session where they switched premises so they could benefit from experiencing Frome Youth clubs facilities. Young people do not have anywhere they can play sport at Coleford youth centre so really enjoyed the exchange and using Frome's Courts and sports hall. They all said that their favourite activity this term was the exchange and they were really appreciative of the

opportunity.

Other highlights have include the club linking with the East Mendip Project Team to create Drug Awareness board to be put up in Frome. They also experienced the Games Pod where they were able to learn about internet safety and passwords along with enjoying the gaming facilities.

The Club also provided cooking sessions around healthy eating and young people have tried various meals and dishes to make. More issue based activities have also been introduced such as sessions around knife crime, cannabis and smoking as we have identified these as key issues arising from the young people. The young people continue to participate in the club and be involved in group consultation, individual consultations, sessions, workshops and activities requested by those attending.

In the next quarter we will continue with this engagement and also work on developing the Youth Steering Committee personal progress folders and re booking the visit for young people to review another club that that had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

The Staff have a passion for young people and their work in the clubs. We are fortunate to have good workers and volunteers. There are positive commendations from SCC on Coleford and other clubs. The youth workers building positive trusted relationships with young people, youth club is a safe place for local people to go, hopefully the word will spread to the wider community. A whole of community and organisational goodwill towards the Mendip YMCA as an organisation and its work. SCC and community groups hold MYMCA is a positive light and value the work it does. The Parish Council and Coleford Hub Management Committee.

The way forward is to continue to build on the quality of service both in youth clubs and project work. Develop this year's strategic plan and implement. Strengthen links with the Parish Council and promote the collaborative work. Work on sustainability. Continue to promote and market partnership work.

4.6 Police and PCSO report

No report received

5 Public Forum to include reports from other Village Organisations

5.1 Tuesday Afternoon Club

Eileen Smith attended the meeting and gave the following report:

The Tuesday Afternoon Club has been running for 20 years. The aim of the club is to be friendly informative and enjoyable. We are very informal with a well-run committee.

It meet every two weeks at the Royal British Legion and last for 2 hours. We have 35 paid up members but visitors are always welcome at any meeting.

We have 18 speaker meetings each year on various subjects such as holiday slides for India, China and Italy from local people to the Life of Florence Nightingale, Friendly Societies, Lip reading and Camps International by Sister Beth Evans among many other subjects. They are held at the Royal British Legion Hall where the staff are very helpful with regards to moving chairs and arranging the screed if needed and putting on the heating.

We have six outings all within a 35 mile radius plus a meal. This year will be Slimbridge, a boat trip at Devizes, Salisbury and the Age UK Carol service at Wells. The coach transport is very expensive and we are not always able to cover the costs so are grateful to the Parish Council for the grant towards this expense.

Funds are raised by a raffle at each fortnightly meeting. Costs include rent to the RBLH, Speakers and transport.

5.2 Huckyduck Carnival Club

Christine Watts attended and reported as follows:

In May 1976 a group of friends met at the home of Denis and Sybil Hodges and decided to form a carnival club. What the club was to be called was next on the agenda. As Denis lived next to the Aqueduct known locally as the Huckyduck it was agreed that this would be the name.

We currently have over 40 members from 11 to 76 coming from Coleford and the surrounding areas. We are always pleased to welcome new members and meetings are normally held on the 1st Sunday of the month at the Kings Head. Over our 42 years we have achieved some great successes and last year we won over 60 trophies in the 7 Somerset Guy Fawkes Carnivals we attended with our entry 'The Flying Dutchman' and were overall County Champions of which the Club is extremely proud. We also attended Midsomer Norton Carnival.

Fund raising throughout the year includes jumble sales and quizzes at the Legion, Stewarding at the Pilton Pop Festival, Marshalling at Horseworld, Litter picking at the Bath and West Showground to name a few. This year's entry is progressing well and as with all Carnival Clubs the idea is a very closely guarded secret until November when the Carnival programmes go on sale.

We build our Cart at Lower Merryfield and all villagers are invited to our Light up night the Sunday before Bridgwater Carnival to see what we have built.

And finally on behalf of the Club I would like to thank the Parish Council for the Grant we received earlier in the year.

5.3 Coleford Theatre Group

Henry Banks reported that the Theatre group enjoyed a very successful year having held a Murder Mystery Night with evening meal which was a sell out to 80 people in the spring and a pantomime in November with record numbers attending the 6 performances. The group enjoyed good reviews for both shows.

Fund raising with jumble sale and a quiz night were also held which were well attended. The costs of putting on the shows especially the big pantomime can be really high for example a full costume hire from Bath Costumes in Frome was £2500. A shows script can be hundreds and maintenance also in the same figure therefore fundraising is very important to the group.

We have lost a few members as they have moved to pastures new or we lose children studying for exams. We are pleased to have recruited some new members also both young and old. Some of our junior cast have now stepped up into main roles and this always makes the committee running CTG so pleased now they have made the jump from chorus which shows that they have that level of confidence they gain from drama in front of a live audience. This is so beneficial to our young people for life being able to stand up and project themselves with confidence in front of people.

This Friday we are presenting our spring time Murder Mystery Night and again it is sold out. We wish we could put it on for more nights but after the first night the whole village knows who done it!!

The jumble sale and quiz night will again be playing their part this year and November we will be staging Snow White and the 7 dwarfs! All dwarfs are played by children and Tegan Philips who will be in a main role for the first time.

The year ahead looks good for the group and we look forward to entertaining the community as always and we cherish their loyalty towards us.

We would like to thank the Royal British Legion for the continued use of the premises and assistance.

We would also like to thank the Parish Council for the small grant to assist us which is always gratefully appreciated.

5.4 Coleford Revival Group

As you all know we at Coleford Revival Group are a community group and our main objectives are to organise various events for the local community and provide support to existing groups where possible.

We hold monthly meetings for general business and other subcommittee meetings for such things as events, funding and “The Colefordian” our community magazine.

Over the last year, we have held our usual main events, village day and it was a great success with the weather being on our side this time, the pensioner Christmas meal, (this year it was sponsored by Tesco Bags for life and Wainwrights quarry), also Walk Down Memory Lane 3, the Halloween disco, Children’s Christmas “Santa’s Grotto”, our Music Festival and just recently we held an Elton John tribute evening and any of you that came along would know what a great night that was.

We are pleased that all events went well and all were well attended. We have received some great feedback from locals who have commented on how much they admire the huge amounts of time and effort that we put in to events to make them happen and bring the community together.

The shipping container that you kindly let us keep at the recreation ground has now been painted to blend in with the background and continues to be a great asset to us as well as saving the money it was costing to rent a garage.

Since this time last year, we have donated to Bishop Henderson School for the purchase of bikes for the children and had significant involvement, along with Debbie at the Legion in raising over £1000 to help Jason Winsley buy furniture for his flat after the unfortunate loss of his lower leg.

For public information we continue to produce the quarterly community magazine “The Colefordian”, collated by Nicola Phillips, which promotes our sponsors and has articles such as the “Villagers Story” that’s my offering, and other things of interest alongside this we have our Web page (colefordrevivalgroup.org) and our Facebook page Coleford revival group – CRG.

5.5 Coleford Methodist Group

Mary Pearce reported as follows:

It’s very nice to see the Coleford Millennium Tapestries again. They are a familiar sight having hung for several years in the Methodist Chapel. Although we have no building in Coleford any more, we are still as active as we can be. Officially we are a ‘Class’ of Frome Wesley Church, but as well as supporting them when we can, they also support us here in Coleford.

We hold Sunday Services twice a month. One is a communion service led by our Minister Rev. Carol Chaplin. She lives near Bristol Airport, and she holds a service in the morning in Frome before coming on to us in the afternoon. So we share a light lunch at 12.30 for one o’clock where all are welcome, before the service starts at about 2.00 pm. This is held at

Douglas Yates Court and is a welcome time when we can get together as some of our members live alone, and we can get to know Rev. Carol much better. Thanks must go to Ron Brewer for playing the hymns so well, and to several of our members for providing the lunch. The other service is held in a member's home, usually Eve Tucker's, but sometimes Heather Rushton's.

This service is held in the morning at 10.30, and Joan Lee provides the music. We must thank these three also. At this service the preacher is often our Lay Pastoral Worker Archie Rowe, but it can also be one of our Local Preachers, following the tradition started in this village by John Wesley and others.

We have a very good relationship with our friends in the Church of England, and Archie Rowe has recently conducted the funerals of the late Dennis Earley and Rachel [Button] Sellars, at Holy Trinity, and Bob Goldie at Bath Crematorium, all three were part of this village. We also have Guild Meetings on alternate Tuesdays, not to clash with the Tuesday Afternoon Group.

Our meetings are held at Douglas Yates Court, starting at 2.30 and we have a varied programme of inspirational speakers, whom we try to support with small donations as appropriate.

On Easter Tuesday, when we had not arranged a speaker as we feared a low attendance due to the holiday, we attracted two new members with our wonderful hymn singing. Needless to say, I was away that day. Again our members are mostly widows and widowers, and maybe if we had a little grant from the Parish Council we could hire a coach one day for an outing.

We also support the Lent Lunches and the Women's World Day of Prayer held in the village and must thank our Church of England Friends for arranging those.

5.6 Holy Trinity Church

Colin Turner reported that during the year there has been various fund raising events to help cover the £350 per week needed to cover the rent, gas, electricity and general upkeep for the church. It is quite a challenge so thank you to everyone who continues to support.

5.7 Coleford Scout Group

Karla March was unable to attend but provided the following report:

1st Coleford Scout group has been running in the village for over 50 years with many adults who still live in the village looking back on their time with the group with fond memories. I myself have only been with Coleford scout group for nearly 10 years and in that time have seen the group and many of its young people grow in many different ways. We have over 60 young people attending sessions every week from lots of the surrounding villages and run sessions for young people ages 5 3/4 years - 14 1/2 years old.

As leaders we are very proud of each young person that attends showing great determination and loyalty. We aim to teach the young people attending many basic life skills including cooking, first aid, self-confidence and determination, as well as a willingness to try and not be afraid to make mistakes.

The biggest issues that Coleford group face is the lack of adult support. We have very few leaders with most of us running at least 2 sessions a week for different ages and also running weekend camps. Fundraising is something that gets missed. We run mainly on young people's fees of £35 a term with 3 terms a year, this is to cover insurance for the young person which has to be paid to scout HQ each year of £42.50 a person, building and kit insurance, water, electric, the cost of activities during our weekly sessions and repairs to the existing kit. As you can imagine we do struggle. We are lucky enough to have had 3 grants this year from Coleford and Stratton parish councils and a local charity to spend on

new equipment as well as a donation from a raffle held at the Kings Head. Without the support from these we would not be able to give as many young people the amazing opportunities we can. The average cost for a weekend camp for a young person including all food is only £30 which makes it a lot more affordable for many families. We can only do this as all of us leaders are Volunteers.

Over the last few years many of our young people have taken part in a variety of camps from water activity camps in Dorset to a survival camp in the local woods near Mells. The cubs attended a big event to celebrate 100 years of cub scouting even getting to see Bear Grylls. While the scouts camped in boxes, hammocks and shelters all on different types of camps. One of the main things that Coleford scouts are very good at is competition camping this involves a group of up to 7 young people camping over the weekend. During the weekend they have an area of 11 x 15 meters and have to set up there sleeping tents, store tent, dinning shelter, boundary fencing, fire area and wood cutting area all to a high standard and safely. All without adult help! They are marked on everything from Team work to hygiene, to the straightness of fencing, tent pegs and even the disposal of rubbish. During this they also have to cook on an open fire a menu with a budget of £15 including 2 hot courses and a starter. All of this teaches the young people team work, budgeting, determination and also the skills to work with people that they may not always agree with which all helps them later on in adult life. I am very pleased to report that our patrol from Coleford not only won the Somerset County Banner (winning the overall competition) but the also won the District and the County Cooking competition.

We also do lots of day activities including navigation hikes, swimming galas, archery and shooting teams plus work clearing rubbish and tidying up the local camp site.

Once young people reach 14 ½ that is not the end of there journey. We currently have 2 young leaders who both help out with the youngest section. For them to be able to help they have to train in first aid, child protection, child behavior as well as learning to explain the activities to a younger age. One of these young leaders has completed his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award and is due to complete his Silver award this spring. He is also off to Kenya representing not only Coleford but also Somerset to work in a mission for 10 days after his exams, teaching the young people and helping out with repairs that need to be done to the school.

The next few months are very busy for us with the scouts camping this weekend and again in May, the cubs are camping in June at the District camp with some of the Beavers visiting for the day and the scouts are then off at the end of June to take part in the water activity camp. We also have a sleep over in July for the Beavers and a hammock camp for the scouts. During the August bank holiday we will be attending BIG CAMP at the bath and west show ground with young people of all ages from all over Somerset.

We are always looking for more help and do still have a few spaces for you people to attend.

5.8 Court Café

Myra Perry attended the meeting and reported as follows:

I was very pleased to receive an invitation to this evenings meeting as I have been thinking for some time that I would like to just pop in during one of your meetings at Douglas Yates Court. What with winter ailments and inclement weather before you can blink it was April. This is a sure sign of old age when time goes to quickly, so thank you all for having me tonight.

Court Café is and always has been very well attended each Thursday. We can have between 25 and 34, so we always provide enough for 30 people. Kate and I always pay out £2 donation like everyone else so we too enjoy the refreshments, but if we needed we would go without should we have more people than we anticipated. Kate has been with us some years

now, 3 maybe 4yrs and does an excellent job. There has been other helpers before but didn't stay for long, maybe it just wasn't there cup of tea.

We are now in our 8th year and it has stayed pretty much the same as it was at its inception. When we had a few gentlemen join us I asked if they would like me to get some cards, dominoes or darts for them they said no they were happy and just love to chat. That is exactly what I wanted to hear. Many new friendships have been made a Court Café. Out of the £2 donation we offer 2 items of food and as many cups of tea and coffee as they wish. We might have 2 sausage rolls or 2 filled rolls, small salad with cheese and trimmings, maybe soup. Crusty Bread and butter. Tomorrow we are having Cornish Pasty with or without beans followed by a sweet biscuit. We will pay £10 per Thursday to Housing 21 for the use of the communal lounge and once a month we have a raffle which raises £30 - £40. Sometimes nominated to a charity or it goes into funds.

Around July we have a visit to Whitstones at Shepton Mallet for a 2 course meal and before Christmas we do the same. We close for one month in August and usually 6 weeks at Christmas and New Year. We close each Christmas with Carol Singing with Ron Brewer and his accordion. We invite people to outside the café and last year we ran out of chairs! Clarissa our minister always gives the Christmas blessing and very often I have known her to sit on the floor if no chairs are available. The books are always audited during the Christmas break and on our return the balance sheet is passed around the room. I apologise if have gone one too long but this is the first repost you have ever had so I wanted you to know as much as possible about the Court Café.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Parish Council for the very generous donation of £90 to buy new crockery. I have bought a sample to show you. It's all very handsome and when we first used them one lady said she loved them and could she take it home. I said oh no it will be £2 donation and a £2 deposit on your cup!

I must say I have thoroughly enjoyed running the café and wonder how long I might be able to continue. Thank you once again for your very generous grant and if any of you are in the vicinity on a Thursday between 11am and 1pm then please look in for a cuppa.

5.9 East Mendip Woodcraft

Rebecca Manley attended the meeting and reported as follows:

East Mendip Woodcraft has recently started up in Coleford. It is a UK wide movement and is run by parents. It was established in 1925 and as the name suggests refers to the skills of living in the open air, close to nature. We don't spend all our time doing woodwork! In fact the young people enjoy a varied programme of activities including co-operative games, craft, drama, singing, outdoor activities and discussions. When the weather permits we do lots of outdoor activities like campfires, nature activities and games, walking, camping and outdoor skills.

Sessions are held on a Thursday from 3.45 to 5.15pm for children aged 3 to 8 years. We are looking for other families to join and specifically families where a parent is keen to get involved.

5.10 Mature Movers

Julie Bolton the Ageing Well coordinator could not attend but did provide the following report:

The More Mature Movers classes are organised by the Charity Age UK. And are tailored to meet the needs of older adults. This class is led by an experienced instructor and is great for improving balance, mobility and general well-being. Our groups are sociable and friendly – not only will you look forward to coming each week you might enjoy meeting some new people.

Unfortunately there are not currently enough numbers to sustain the class on a long term basis so are doing our best to raise awareness and encourage people to come along and have ago. The age group is 50 plus but we are happy to accommodate anyone younger who would not be able to attend a mainstream exercise class.

Some feedback has been that there are some who are not able to get to the venue easily – transport is always a problem throughout Somerset. Is there any way that this can be overcome.

Some of the people attending the Parish Meeting stated that the class clashed with a similar class held at the British Legion.

5.11 Coleford Flower and Craft Show Public Forum

Philip Ham reported that last year was the 119th show held in Coleford! Sponsors are currently being sought for the 120th show. The Committee and helpers are busy and the schedules will soon be sent for printing. There will be over 50 cups and trophies awarded with over £500 given in prize money. The grant given by the Parish Council was much appreciated. This year there will be a Special Afternoon cream tea in June with the main event on Sunday the 19th August.

5.12 @ The Hub

Henry Banks reported for the year 2017/18 with neophytes beginning activities that have left and our view of things to come.

We were sorry to have lost the Saturday Breakfast Club which was very well supported by the community and provided a good meeting place for the Coleford Revival Group and the Hub Committee as well as other villagers just popping in for breakfast. Alas numbers dwindled and the activity closed. However the Committee are having a fresh look at this with a possibility of combining a Breakfast more health orientated with a fresh produce sales experience of Fruit and Veg.

Zumba started @ The Hub and was so successful that it had to move to the Legion – they are still going strong.

Bookings for parties and post Christenings have proved very popular throughout the year with the hall and kitchen facilities at the events disposal.

A group of Dungeon and Dragons evening s every Thursday. A game of role play for example “Defend the realm against the Frosted Giants” which can be a massive battle scenario using imagination, arithmetic and taking on the role of a senior character which has proved successful.

Somerset Wildlife are holding their own meeting in the Hub. They work with the quarries, bats, door mice, birds, special habitats like Asham Woods, ANOBs, and Edford Fields at Holcombe not to mention our own Butterfly Bank. Interesting facts can be learnt for example How do you tell the sex of ants? You place them both in a bucket of water, the female sinks but the male floats to the top as he’s bouy – ant!!!!

Age UK who are booked in for a Wednesday morning provide interesting activities for our senior citizens as well as advice on benefits, money advice, health issues, travel and lifestyle, help for carers and work and wellbeing.

The youth club meet each Tuesday under the guidance of the YMCA. This activity has proved a hard task for the staff in the past with some difficulty situations to resolve.

However all that is behind them now as the youth Club continues to thrive. The Staff were able to reward the good behaviour with a day trip which provided immensely successful.

The Directors and committee @ The Hub are in total support of the Youth Club and is the main reason for bookings for funds and maintenance of the building.

The Parish Council now meeting @ The Hub for planning applications and general village business after many years at Douglas Yates Court. The move enables a better business approach to the meetings with more capacity for the public gallery.

In January we closed the Hub for all activities to give the Main Hall toilets and the kitchen a complete make over. One particular difficult task being to enable natural light to flood the kitchen once more by opening up an old window that had been boxed in. A new floor was laid in the kitchen. Spot lights were added to enable the hall to show off the tapestries the Hub are custodians of and create a good ambiance for the right evening events.

The redecoration, addition of new fridge freezer, oven (making 2), double sink unit and drainer plus stainless work table have all been bought in to enable the hub to host restaurant nights with differing themes such as Indian, Italian, French cuisine and have written to prospective clients requesting available dates. Other events forecast to the Hub are storytelling evenings, Tea and Scone afternoons, the possibility of a café opening in the day offering hot and cold drinks, quiche and soon on to coincide with the opening of the pop up Post Office service which we hope to facilitate on a twice weekly basis. Our back room is next to decorate and will be open for hire once completed. A further access is hoped for the future to the back room doorway to Church Lane. Better access is being sought from Somerset Council to the Play/Car park area with a view to lowering the wall in order to make the wall safe and give better visibility to drivers visiting the building.

We at The Hub would like to thank the Parish Council for the donation received from the Small Grants which is greatly appreciated to help with the expenses we have had over the last 12 months.

In conclusion the future is looking very bright for The Hub and the committee are very excited to see what we can achieve in raising funds this year after all the planned work is now completed with a plan for more work to be done in this coming year. All work is agreed by the trustees and committee at regular meetings. I would like to thank the committee for their hard work over the past year. Thank you.