

# Parish Council of Coleford

---

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

Gallant Hill Farm  
Foxcote  
Radstock  
BA3 5YB

## Annual Parish Meeting held Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

### 1. Present

Cllr Philip Ham (Chairman presiding)  
Cllr Barrett, Evans, Hanney, Harding, Turner and Townsend.

There were 6 members of the public present

### 2. Apologies Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

Cllr Henry Banks, Andy Conn, Martin Talbot, Adam Drescher, Matthew Allen, Chris Pearce, Veryann Conn and John Hansford

### 3. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

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

### 4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

### 5. Financial Reports

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

We started this financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 with the combined bank balances of **£40,733** and ended at the higher amount of **£52,927** for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. However, there is still £4000 to be paid imminently for the installation of new play equipment at the Roman Way play area.

Last year our income including the Precept was **£45,832** and for this year it had increased to **£59,423**, £14,000 of which was the Sport England Grant awarded to fund the pump track, which of course was the main project for the last financial year. After some excellent research and hard graft from several Parish Councillors the whole project was completed without the need to use the Parish Precept which was incredible.

The Coleford Scout group have taken on the lease of the Scout Hall which is in need of updating to ensure that it is fit for purpose for the future of Coleford scouting. In light of the investment needed, the Parish Council agreed to give a one-off donation of £6000 which can only be used to fund the repairs and or improvements to the Hall and the group are to provide evidence to the Council on how the donation is spent.

We have continued to support the Coleford Youth club with a contribution of £6,000 being made during the year.

A £1,000 payment was made to the Citizen Advice Bureau - We know that this is a service that Coleford residents are accessing on a regular basis and therefore believe it is important to continue our support.

During this financial year, it is hoped that with extensive consultation of Parishioners, that the Parish Plan will be reviewed. This will help to highlight areas where the community want the Council can concentrate its efforts and will form the back bone of the future development of the village. We will be looking for a team of volunteers to help bring this to fruition so if you are interested then please do get in touch.

## **6. Chairman's report**

Cllr Ham congratulated the Parish Councillors for all being elected unopposed. He said that either nobody else wanted to do it or you're all doing a reasonable job. During the year we said goodbye to Tony Gurd and welcomed Matthew Allen to the Council. It is also good to have Chris back after his accident last year.

The year started with the opening of the new pump track by the Chairman of Somerset County Council. The banks were then seeded and the fence between the track and the farm erected before the hedge being planted. Thank you, Andy, for overseeing this work. During the winter we appointed a new grass cutting contractor who to date is performing to expectations.

We have four play areas in the village and with investment, improvements are taking place in Roman Way and thanks must go to Danielle Hayes and Keith Evans for their persistence in making this happen. We also asked the west side of the village what they would like in the way of play equipment but the response was very poor and inconclusive.

Planning is always on the agenda and as a Parish Council we are consultees to all applications within our parish. Some are controversial but we always try to be fair and use facts to form our recommendations. The new Coop Application, closing of the post office and the opening of the pharmacy showing just how difficult the process is.

The council has been active in trying to find solutions to stop dog fouling with signs, dog poo bins, dog poo bag dispensers, competitions with school children to highlight the problem and recently with flyers to every household regarding enforcement. The later causing debate and disagreement but to me that is a sign the message may have landed. The payback team have done good work around the village on their monthly visits organised by Keith. We have assessed our trees and attended to those in need. We have done memorial stone testing and getting the faults rectified.

During the year we have done litter picks and now have our own village litter champions. At this point I would like to thank Keith Marshall for voluntary litter picking every week through the village. Also thank those that have helped to tidy up the allotments.

During the year we have tried to help Community Groups with grants paying £6K to the youth club, £6K to the scouts, £1K to Citizen Advice Mendip and nine smaller grants to groups and clubs. These are only available due to being prudent with the annual budget.

The Finance of the council is sound with reserves in place, budgets are set yearly but forecast for up to 3 years ahead so hoping to avoid surprises in the future we have this year moved to internet banking, our finance team of Alan, Andy and Vickie doing faultless work.

This year we started the restoration of the finger post signs, cleaning and painting is well underway but still looking to find replacement parts for parts missing on some of signs.

We also helped to secure the post office to attend the Hub twice a week to give an out reach service to the village.

A housing needs survey was done.

GDPR took place. We helped the electorate and the police with the drug problems in the village.

We do a lot during the year much of which is taken for granted, But I thank you all for your time, work and service you give to the village through the Council.

It's at this point we need to look to the next year and the future beyond:

Making Crossways Junction safer:

- Yellow lines
- Speed limit
- Speed calming
- Parking of cars

Repairs to the hardcourts:

- The future
- Basketball
- Football
- Tennis

Parish Plan

- Refresh
- New needs

Other items:

- All weather pitch for training
- More affordable housing
- Promote climate change initiatives
- Parking problems

Finally, one last thing is to thank Vickie. For all the hard work she does for the Council, yes, we do pay her but she always goes the extra mile, she gets things done and never says no. The accounts are accurate, we have easy audits, perfect minutes – how she does all that she does is beyond me. Vickie, you make my job look easy, thank you.

## **7. Mendip District Council Report**

District Cllr Townsend reported that the whole year has been overshadowed by the local election this month which resulted in the conservatives' losing control of the council to the Lib Dems, we have our seats being reduced from 33 to 10. However, Philip and I returned for which we are grateful and we hope that the overall position reflects a dissatisfaction with Westminster and that our re-election means we have got a few things right locally

During the year had been a member of the following bodies:

- the planning board, including visits to all sites being discussed at the board, then seeking to make decisions that balance our need to provide housing and employment and at the same time protect our environment.
- the licensing board, including sub-committee work, working to protect public safety while supporting people such as taxi drivers and publicans to earn a living.
- the scrutiny board, which hold a watching brief over the council's policies and strategies.
- Quarry liaison committee, keeping close to the activities at Halecombe and Wainwrights.
- the shape our future group, bringing staff and members together.
- and finally, Keyring lettings agency, where I am serving as a director on this company which looks to provide accommodation at the difficult end of the market.

In addition, there are be continuous day to day activities with residents providing support for example on planning, benefits, fly tipping, waste disposal and highways across the four parishes.

Current highway issues include road safety issues at the Crossways junction, speeding in Holcombe and HGV problems along what Whitehole Lane and Stoke Bottom.

For the future under the new regime, I am a substitute member of the planning and audit boards, a full member of the licensing and still at a director of Keane ring lettings. I look forward to working with Coleford and the parishes of Holcombe Leigh on Mendip and Stoke Saint Michael for the next four years.

District Cllr Ham reported that with the elections just passed myself and Allan would personally like to thank all those that had faith in us and returned us as elected Councillors for the Coleford and Holcombe ward. However, the overall result will mean a new administration and different roles for most of us, all are yet to be decided.

The result 22 Lib Dems, 10 Green, 10 Conservatives and five Independent.

There last year at Mendip district council for myself has been very busy as a cabinet member for transformation, through partnerships, reorganisation of offices, investment programme we raised in excess of two million towards the budget and the longer-term project Saxonvale in Frome have laid foundations for further progress, having brought the site in August and applying for a planning application last month.

1

A balanced budget for 19/20 was produced in February with just 83% increase in tax would no service cuts. Mendip have one of the lowest council tax bases in the south west. There are also budgets in place for 20/21 and 21/22. During the year the final consultation on the local plan part two took place and the plan is now with the inspector and the hearing will take place in July.

The leisure contract is now free of subsidy and now pays Mendip district council about £30K a year. This is remarkable as four years ago it cost MDC £900K per year.

The core service contract is still returning good savings and increase every year, this has been remarkable since the living wage keeps increasing and when the contract was written this was not allowed for.

Markets within the Mendip times have flourished over the last few years especially Frome independent, Shepton Sunday markets and Streets weekly market with Wells supporting good markets on Wednesday and Saturday plus an excellent Christmas market.

I have chaired the Equalities Group nine for 12 years at Mendip, we have done a tremendous amount of work, including by 2011 act. We have now four changing places facilities in Mendip with two more in the pipeline at a cost of around 30K, this is brilliant news from none 18 months ago.

In the new council, it will be chair of scrutiny, shadow portfolio holder and substitute for audit. There are many appointments yet to be made.

The 'Shape our future' programme, that is MDC staff and members working together has progressed well with staff understanding why councils have had to change to stay solvent and continue to provide all the frontline services.

During the year I have continued to support the council as well as look after the electorate within my ward. Issues around planning benefits, entitlements to fly tipping, rubbish collection, street cleaning to name a few.

Shape Mendip lottery is doing well with 22 x £500 awards made in March to Mendip community groups. As I started, we have just had an election so much change ahead, but I am always available when needed.

## **8. Somerset County Council report**

They say austerity is over (central government) however there is little sign of Whitehall relaxing the purse strings to counties like Somerset or in fact any local government council.

Somerset has been plagued by huge increases in numbers and cost in adult social care and children's services with reducing grants from central government. This involved an emergency budget mid-year to find a further £21 million to survive.

Since then, we have laid foundations taken active-steps, difficult decisions and now in a hugely improved and stronger financial position. We are still not funded to the level we should be and are still lobbying for fairer funding especially around schools. In the last two years £65 million has been spent on new schools and extensions. Children's services are still on the journey towards Ofsted good rating with the recent inspections praising staff and managers.

Unitary decisions are still on going and with the local district elections resulting in new administration's this will become the most discussed subject over the coming months. The recent climate change emergency declaration by many councils will influence decisions made around vehicle expenditure and planning of new buildings like schools and offices.

During the last year I have fought hard against the reduction on the gritting programme and can announce all routes have now been reinstated plus many extra ones around Stoke St Michael and Leigh on Mendip, Coleford and Holcombe. This is due to pressure put to Somerset County council by myself and Mendip quarry producers.

I am still working on the highway improvement schemes that include the Old Wells/Frome Road, Coleford and Stoke St Michael. Also, the main roads A361 and A362. Extra money was agreed at full council to speed these projects up. SUES has been awarded the new waste contract starting next April with a new fleet of vehicles supported by the district councils.

## **9. Coleford Youth Club**

Chiara Docherty is the lead Youth worker for Coleford who provided the following report:

We have continued to develop universal youth provision in Coleford, providing open access youth work. We have continued to develop the quality of our services as well as the quality of our support we offer to young people inside the youth club, through project work and out in the wider community. Numbers of young people we support have continued to increase with us developing different ways of engaging, encouraging and creating opportunities for young people to further our reach within the local community.

East Mendip Project work has continued to develop in Coleford along with our relationships and links within the local community. We have continued to support young people to identify key themes within their community and

enabled them to positively challenge these issues by supporting them to plan and create projects that make a difference within their community. We have continued to successfully target the different areas within Coleford and have also been able to support young people in different locations each time, to further our reach and to enable us to support different young people. We have continued to build on and develop positive relationships with young people from previous projects as well as encourage and enable new young people to get involved in project work.

We have continued create opportunities for young people to help shape the service we provide and we have continued to implement their suggestions and act on their feedback. We encourage all young people to attend our quarterly programme planning, to give ideas and suggestions on the activities they would like on offer and the key themes they feel we need to cover to best support them as a group and individually. We also have regular consultation evenings, providing young people with the opportunity to have a say in the running of the service as a whole, ensuring we actively listen to young people. Young people decide on the running of the tuck shop, equipment we purchase, activities we offer, workshops we run and fundraising we do as well as having the opportunity to be a part of the youth steering group where they actively be a voice for all young people and help to make positive changes both inside and outside of the youth club. We have also continued to use various tools to enable us to monitor and evaluate young people's development to ensure we are meeting their needs socially, emotionally and holistically through our service.

We also implement this while working with young people out in the community during project work and detached youth work. We listen, encourage and support young people, enabling them to plan, shape and deliver projects that they have identified as a need themselves. We also consult them in our delivery and encourage them to voice any changes that would further their support from us to maximise their development.

We have continued to monitor and evaluate all that we do with young people and the service we provide as a whole. we do this through various tools and feedback activities to ensure young people are developing and reaching their full potential, the quality of youth work we deliver is to a high standard and young people are receiving the right support from our service. We monitor and evaluate through team briefs and debriefs, supervision, reports, team meetings, Team Leader meetings, planning nights, quarterly reports, individual case studies, consultation nights, your club your views feedback forms and person tools form where we can identify areas where young people need to develop.

#### Youth Club Highlights:

- Worked with 72 individual young people over the year
- Coleford Residential
- Coleford Project Work
- DJ Workshops
- Graffiti workshops
- Floristry Workshops
- Drumming Workshop
- Police Visits- Relationship Building with young people
- Guest Speaker- Paul Hannaford- Drugs, Alcohol and gangs
- Happiness Kit- Mental health community project

#### Lows

- We have had issues with building cleanliness, chairs being stacked on top of tables and the building being taken up with too many tables etc. young people had fed back it doesn't feel like a youth centre, rather than a storage room.
- Issues with store cupboard, rubbish still not been removed from there, our equipment has been put in there (table football) which we are unable to get back out or use.

#### Activities

- Sleep out organised by young people to raise money for the community due to anti-social behaviour. Although this had to be cancelled- young people still come up with this idea and helped to organise. Changed to a later date
- Increased issue-based activities covering a range of topics such as: Drug's awareness, alcohol awareness, sexual health, Mental Health, Friendships, Relationships, Consent, Child Exploitation,

Stress, bullying, community projects, Dementia awareness, Knife crime, Epilepsy Awareness, Autism Awareness, safety online, budgeting, teenage pregnancy, anti-social behaviour, disability and peer pressure, smoking prevention, recycling.

- Increased variety of activities where young people gain a variety of skills, build self-esteem and confidence: Monster Moves, Tennis, Football, Team games and challenges, badminton, Rounder's, Cricket, Archery, growing plants, arts and crafts- screen printing, mosaic crafts, pottery, plaster paris sculptures, memory boards, canvas art, create your own mug & money box, graffiti, cooking and music sessions (learning instruments).

- After experiencing behaviour issues on and off for some time, but now youth club members respecting the building and staff • Numbers of members have been up and down throughout the year and a priority has been promotion which we did an open day and had 5 new members attend on the last session. However, we do have regular and consistent members attend. We have worked with 72 individual young people over the year.

## **10. Public Forum**

Robin Bradbury attended the meeting and said that the Parish Council does great work to support the various groups within the village but he said that he thought further publicity would be positive. Not everyone reads On the Map, meaning that any newcomers to the village would not know what was going on. He felt that we do not do enough to welcome newcomers and suggested working with Mendip District Council to establish who has moved to the village so that a welcome pack could be sent to them, making them aware of what is going on in Coleford.

MDC would not release such a list but the Council said that social media and the website could include such information.

## **11. Tuesday Afternoon Club**

Eileen Smith attended a meeting on behalf of the Tuesday afternoon club and gave the following report:

The club is still going strong after 20 years and celebrated yesterday using the grant received last year towards the higher of a coach.

Sadly, we have lost some 4 members but on the positive side have gained some new ones. We usually have between 24 and 28 paid up members at each meeting. We have interesting and varied speakers such as man with the hearing dog, a speaker from the national osteoporosis society, a sitting and drumming session, and a demonstration by Wiltshire Farm Foods to which quite a few members use.

We enjoy many travel slides of places such as Uzbekistan to islands in the Bristol channel and rich and famous gardens in Britain. Eileen often had feedback from speakers who always say they enjoy visiting our group as are made very welcome. Comments from members to the committee are also very positive and they say how diverse the subjects we cover are.

We have six outings a year to places of interest within a 35-mile radius so that we don't leave too early and are back by 5.30pm and usually call at a garden centre pub or restaurant for lunch. In December we go to Age Concern UK Carol Service in Wells cathedral.

We also have entertainment afternoons and a member's afternoon.

Our main outings are transport and entrance fees but we try to subsidise members. And raffle is held at every meeting when members bring a small item. Guests are welcome but pay a small extra cost. We are always grateful to any financial help that may be available to help with costs and thank the parish council for their help in the past.

## **12. Huckyduck carnival club report**

Christine Watts attended on behalf of the club and gave the following report:

Formed in 1976 the Huckyduck carnival club build their entry at Lower Merrifield at the home of our vice President Roger Trussler. We had another successful year with last year's 'One for the road' when we were runners up in the County Tableau Class which means all contestants on the cart have to remain motionless during the whole procession.

We have 40 members ranging from 11 to 77 years from Coleford and the surrounding villages. Members come from all the different walks of life.

Our meetings are held once a month at the Kings Head and new members are always welcome.

To raise money to build we undertake various fundraisers including jumble sales, quizzes, litter picking at bath and west, marshalling at Horse World and the next month stewarding at the Glastonbury pop festival. A very busy time for the club.

This year's entry is progressing well. As usual we will be inviting villages to a 'Light up the night' at the cart shed the Sunday before Bridgwater carnival to thank them for all their support during the year.

### **13. The Coleford athletic football club**

John Hansford provided the following report. For the season 2019/20 the football club will again be running two adult and two youth teams.

Due to the poor condition of Highbury football pitch the under eights and under nines will play at Leigh on Mendip with the adult teams at Highbury. This adds extra expense to running the club but thanks to a donation from the Kings head we should be OK for the next season. The football club have purchased some expensive grass seed which we hope will bring back to life in some areas of the ground which never recovered from the long dry spell in the summer 2018.

Our annual Rex Willmott Memorial Day will take place on Saturday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of June with the first of the three matches commencing at 2.30pm.

The first match of next season is scheduled for Saturday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of July with a friendly verses Timsbury.

Due to the youth teams playing at Leigh, we have postponed plans for at least 12 months to renovate and improve the dressing rooms

### **14. 1<sup>st</sup> Coleford Scouts**

George Kite attended the meeting and gave the following report:

Currently the group is supporting close to 70 young people and have an expanding waiting list as our cub group is at full capacity. We run three sections at Coleford which include 6-14 year olds.

So, what's happened in the last year you may ask? With a struggle that's still ongoing with the county council's solicitor we are pending our 25-year lease which will allow us to repair the ever-de-lapidating scout hall. So, it's been nothing but fundraising and searching for grants, but in-between all of this we have had a busy year. We have entered so many competitions it's hard to list them all. To start we have taken the cubs night hiking to banner camp and to several group camps. The scouts have achieved something really special this year as many of you may have seen on social media a few weekends back just to start. They not only won the district cooking competition, several camping awards but the district camping banner all in one weekend, which is due to their commitment and hard work.

The Beavers or little terrors as they may be known have acquired a new beaver leader which has been a massive step for the group as this year, we have managed to obtain two new leaders from Mells group. The Beavers have completed so much badge work this year including several community projects, The group is meeting three times a week twice on a Wednesday and once on a Thursday providing a safe place for young people to meet others, learn new skills and escape their home lives. Due to the dedication of our volunteer leaders, there were over 200 hours of adventure the children could have access too including evenings and separate activities.

So, what's for the future? The hall will be repaired, the group has district camp, jaws adventure camp, helping at various activities and fundraisers for not just the group but as many people we can support. I would like to thank the local parishes for their continued support.

### **15. @ The Hub**

Cllr Ham confirmed that the committee are still a in the process of negotiating the lease with Somerset County council. The hall is being well used by the parish council, toddler group, open mic nights, youth club, the post office, Age UK, dungeon and dragons, Dagmar's Café, parties, funerals, and table tennis club. Thanks goes to Emily Swanzy who is doing a great job of cleaning the hall on a regular basis.

### **16. Court Café**

Myra Perry attended the meeting and gave the following report. The Court Café started in 2010, has 30 to 34 people attending every Thursday from 11 til 1.00pm and is mainly geared towards the retired but anyone is welcome. It is held in the meeting room at Douglas Yates Court. Most that attend are happy to sit and talk. There are seven or eight men who like to play dominoes and other games whilst they chat. Myra thanked the parish council for the grants which have helped to get equipment and last year's went towards the cost of a special meal.

### **17. Coleford Methodists**

Mary Pearce attended and gave the following report. We have had a very good year. We welcomed a new superintendent minister Rev Tina Swire to our circuit in September and a new lay worker Mike Evans to Coleford in January.

We also said a fond farewell to our old lay worker Archie Rowe whom many of you will know as he worked in Coleford for 22 years. In good Methodist tradition we all gathered for afternoon tea to say a last goodbye to Archie.

Sadly, we lost one member Ruth Hall, who is still greatly missed but her work still goes on as her family found several collecting boxes full of coins for Gideon's, and we have passed these on.

We continue to meet twice a month on a Sunday, once a month in Douglas Yates Court where we share lunch and then the communion service, accompanied by Ron Brewer. Then once a month in Eve Tucker's house, where our accompanist is Joan Lee and we appreciate their support.

Ron also accompanist us at our Guild meetings. We meet every other week at Douglas Yates Court. We have 15 members and have welcomed a variety of speakers, with topics ranging from personal testimony, to the story of John Wesley, who visited Coleford so many times and what Mission Aviation Fellowship does across the world to bring relief and supplies to remote communities. In all we enjoyed 17 speakers and we are grateful for their support.

We are planning a visit to Rode Quiet Garden in July and a party in December. We also hope to continue supporting various charities.

## **18. Coleford Revival Group**

Keith Wadley attended and gave the following report. As you 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 of Colefordian' our community magazine.

Over the last year, we have held it usual main events:

Walk down Memory Lane 4, as always supported by namely longstanding villagers but some young people also attended. Over the last four years we have about 560 pictures and several piece of film, this year there is no Memory Lane mainly due to my family commitments and very little in the way of new pictures being offered, so if you know anyone willing to allow me to scan their old pictures, I don't keep them, then please let me know and maybe Memory Lane can make a comeback next year.

Our music day was held as usual in May and saw many happy villages attend and enjoy the array of performance on show for them.

Village day, which after many weeks and find where there saw the most horrendous rain that lasted all day and caused almost all the traders to either pack up and go or not come at all. This had an impact in the returns we received, but we all make the most of are really unfortunate situation. During the day we made donations to the Tuesday club, the Court Café and the Wednesday club and awarded to Keith Marshall the Ted Phillips cup for his voluntary work in litter picking around the village, a worthy recipient.

The Halloween event was held in October and fairly well attended. The decoration and stage display were second to none, a big thanks to Martin and Karen Smith for their artistic work at this even.

The pensioners Christmas meal saw us again serve 100 villagers with a meal, drinks and entertainment. This event is loved by the pensioners and gives a great deal of satisfaction to us and all who help deliver it. We had donations from Philip Ham, the Somerset community foundation, Coleford parish council and Chowell House to help with the meal. I must not forget to mention Pat and Laura Beale who supplied 90% of the contents for the hampers which they freely gave for the draw at the Christmas meal and then donated the money raised, £330 to the Coleford revival group. There are others that donate from time to time and we are grateful for all that is donated.

After many comments from people being disappointed about us not lighting at the Christmas tree, we decided that we should do this in conjunction with the Scouts.

We held a quiz night in March and although it was a week after another quiz, it was well attended and was delivered by John Hayes in his usual way. He also gives up his time to cook the pensioners meal, a great chap to have willing to help.

For public information, we continue to produce the quarterly community magazine 'The Colefordian' collated by Nicola Phillips which includes The Villagers Story, that's my contribution, and other items of interest. Alongside this we have our webpage (colefordrevivalgroup.org) and our Facebook page Coleford revival group – CRG.

We have been blessed with some great sponsors and our main sponsors Kevin Corcoran carpets and vinyls has endorsed what we do by again donating £1000 this year. We are also pleased that the businesses that advertise in the Colefordian are continuing to do so. Talking of the Colefordian, we have our friend Darren Haines who prints this, and all the posters that we use to thank. We are always looking for new sponsors and recently added Abbey Piano's and Dudley Taylor Pharmacy, two new businesses in the village, who are sponsoring the music day on Sunday. We are continually searching various other ways of funding what we do.

We decided that after five years of continual fundraising to support village day and the time and effort put in by the handful of volunteers that we have, that we are giving village day a rest for this year. It was a difficult decision but it was felt by most that this would be understood by most people and has prompted some new people to join the group and are willing to help and support us in what we would do.

We hope to continue our work in a community for as long as are volunteers keep going and we remain financially viable.

And there have been several rumours concerning Coleford Revival Group, none of which you want to respond to, and our answer to everyone is, "Everyone at CRG is a volunteer, no one takes wages or payments. We do this because we enjoy it and to make Coleford a better place to live"

### **19. Coleford Woodcraft**

Veryann Conn was unable to attend but provided the following report. We now have 10 children ranging from 3 to 8 years old, who come to the group and an additional two you may start soon. We now meet once a fortnight, usually outdoors on Sunday mornings. This seems to work much better than meeting after school. Sometimes we meet at the lower playing field in Coleford, sometimes we go further afield. We do a range of activities including walks, nature activities and some cooperative games.

In the future we hope to get a few more members and are considering ideas for a project to benefit the local community

### **20. Knit, natter and craft group**

We are a group of likeminded people who like to craft and socialise. We knit for charity and donate when we have enough money. We are a small group but have changed over the years. We are mainly ladies but do have one man who joins us regularly with two 90-year-old members regularly contributing. We meet on a Friday between 2 and 4pm at Douglas Yates Court. At the beginning of each year, we choose the charities to donate to for that year.

During 2018 we donated to:

- Dorothy House - £52.50
- Saint Dunstan's - £50.00
- Donkey sanctuary - £50.00
- Julian House – hats, socks, scarves and gloves
- Children's hospice southwest – knitted and crocheted rainbows
- Mary's meals – rucksacks of school equipment
- Gospel hall – blankets, scarves, baby hats and adult hats
- Happy landings – cat blankets and a knitted coat for a small dog

### **21. Coleford flower and craft show**

Philip ham reported that by 121<sup>st</sup> will take place this year and the schedules are currently being printed by Darren Haines. The show will take place on Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of August which clashes with Coleford Revival Groups seaside trip which is a shame. Entries can be bought in on the Saturday afternoon.

A Cream Tea afternoon will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June from 3pm till 6pm. Tickets will be available from Myra Perry and will cost £5.00 per person.

### **22. Coleford Theatre Group**

Henry Bank was unable to attend but it was noted that the murder mystery production was a huge success with all tickets selling in advance.

The meeting finished at 20.45hrs