

# Parish Council of Coleford

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**In line with government guidance and recommended social distancing and self-isolation rules for those who are vulnerable, it was agreed that this meeting would be conducted as a virtual meeting using Zoom video technology.**

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Virtual Meeting held on Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

### **Present**

Cllr Ham (Chairman presiding) Cllrs Allen, Banks, Barrett, Conn, Evans, Pearce, Townsend and Turner.

### **Public Forum**

**PF 1** Cllr Evans said that the street lights on Preachers Vale are still not working. Cllr Townsend said that the problem is with Western Power who have said that the target date for resolution is the 26<sup>th</sup> July. Cllr Ham said that there had been a report of a light at Stockhill, which had become incredibly bright which was affecting residents sleep. It's been confirmed that a shade will be fitted to reduce the glare.

**PF 2** Cllr Barrett said that since the coronavirus lockdown, some pedestrians have been cleansing footpath gates with antibacterial wipes but many are being discarded rather than taken home or placed in a litter bin. It was agreed that the Clerk would laminate a notice to be placed on footpaths to remind users that all rubbish should be disposed of correctly.

VW

### **1 Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)**

Cllrs Drescher, Hanney, Harding and Talbot all sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

### **2 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting**

Cllr Banks declared an interest in the planning application 2020/1264/OTS.

### **3 Planning Application**

2020/1264/OTS - Application for Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved for the erection of a detached dwelling with details of access and layout.

Land Adj To 61 Mendip Vale Mendip Vale Coleford Radstock

All Councillors had been viewed the plans via the Mendip District Council planning website prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Pearce said that he believed that there was a mining fault known as a dyke which ran through the proposed site and he considered that this was why it had not been built on at the time of the original development.

It was noted that a previous application for outline planning had been submitted some years ago which had been refused on the basis that the site was outside of the development line. It was suggested that the site did look like an obvious location for infill development despite being outside of the development line.

Neighbouring consultees had expressed the following concerns:

1. As the site was so steep any contractor vehicles would need to park on the road which would potentially cause issues on the highway.
2. The building work would impact of night workers who work nights and sleep during the day.
3. Any new build will impact on the existing view.
4. It looks like it will be a large house alongside the existing bungalows.
5. The land is very steep and a neighbour has experienced a crack in a wall which has become larger and may be due to land movement.

It was noted that the Coal Authority have been consulted and have already stated that a full survey of the site would need to be completed before approval of any planning permission.

There was a concern that there could be a loss of privacy to neighbouring properties but this could not be evaluated at this stage due to the lack of information on proposed style of new building.

It was proposed by Cllr Conn and seconded by Cllr Allen that the Parish Council did not object to the application subject to a satisfactory mining exploratory survey to determine suitability of the site and the proposed design not overlooking neighbouring properties. The Parish Council would be keen to be consulted on the reserved matters if the application was to be progressed.

*Vote: 5 For, 0 Against & 3 Abstentions (2 District Councillors)  
Cllr Banks did not take part in the vote.*

Cllr Townsend confirmed that he was no longer part of the MDC Licensing Board but was now a full time member of the MDC Planning Board which he said he was looking forward to.

He said that the Planning Officer for the Gladman application is considering the many comments received since the 15<sup>th</sup> June deadline. Many relate to Highway concerns which it is hoped will be shared with the SCC Highway department for comment.

The Local Plan Part II main modifications included reference to the additional requirement for 500 dwellings on the North East border of Mendip. The inspector is holding an additional hearing on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September when those that commented on the main modifications will have the opportunity to attend and speak if they so wish. However, Coleford PC did not comment and are therefore not entitled to take part in the proceedings. It has since been confirmed that if the site for the proposed 500 additional houses could not be satisfied using the sites proposed within the plan then new sites would need to be found. If this was to happen, then there would be further public consultation. The Parish Council would then be able to comment if it so wished.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Townsend for the work he had completed on these topics.

#### **4 Discuss and agree response to Cognisant Research One Somerset survey & LGR report**

The business case for One Somerset had been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr Ham confirmed that the points raised within the LGR report (Commissioned by SALC, SLCC and other interested parties) have already been acknowledged by Somerset CC and have been included within the business case. The business case was put before Scrutiny last week, will then go to Cabinet before being considered by Full Council. If approved it will then be sent to the Secretary of State and will progress to the consultation stage. The process is expected to take 2 – 3 years and even up to 10 years.

Councillors voiced support for the LGR report which could mean more being done locally with Local Community Networks, possibly services managed at Parish level but it would be essential that the funding is there to take on such tasks. There could also be potential increased workload for parish councillors, due to more functions and attendance at local network meetings.

It was agreed that the Clerk would reply to the LGR report to say that Coleford Parish Council supports the 7 recommendations made within the report and will await further information regarding One Somerset and any proposals from the District Councils.

VW

*Vote: 9 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions*

## 5 **First Quarter Budget Review 2020-21**

There was some confusion over the lack of detail within the summary, including the end of year forecast, the format of which needed to be discussed to ensure that it provided the information needed to give a concise view of where the Council is financially, at the end of each quarter. This would be discussed via email to confirm an appropriate layout.

It was agreed that the actual income and expenditure was as expected and in line with the agreed budget set for the year.

It was proposed by Cllr Ham and seconded by Cllr Conn that a transfer of £10K should be made from the main current account to the savings account to increase potential interest earned for the year. This was providing the savings account was easily accessible, which the Clerk would check before progressing with the transfer.

VW

*Vote: 9 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions*

## 6 **Review Grave Digging Code of Practice**

Cllr Pearce had amended the code of practice to suit the requirements for Coleford Parish Council burial ground, which had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. There was debate as to whether this was necessary. Was the contractual relationship between the undertakers and the grave digger rather than the Parish Council? The ICCM had previously stated that the responsibility for the overall safety within the burial ground was with the Parish Council as the burial authority.

It was agreed that the Clerk would do some more research with Mendip District Council and other Burial Authorities and bring back to the next meeting.

VW

Ag

## 7 **Matters of urgency**

- 7.1 A request to use the hard courts at Highbury had been received from a Zumba instructor who wished to hold a class from 7 til 8pm. Music was an essential part of the class and would be required. There was concern that the music could cause a nuisance to local residents. Cllr Ham said that it was important that the Council did what it could to help parishioners to be active and proposed that we allow the class to start on the basis that if there are complaints then the classes would have to stop. The Parish Council would give 1 weeks' notice that the classes are to cease. The Clerk to notify the instructor.

VW

*Vote: 9 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions*

- 7.2 Cllr Conn reported that the annual RoSPA play inspection had been completed which had not highlighted any high risk issues. He confirmed that the report had been broken down to show 3 actions:

- Items that the Clerk should include in weekly inspections to monitor wear or deterioration.
- Councillor repairs – small repairs that could be undertaken by Councillors
- Contractor repairs – more complex or specialized work.

Cllr Conn recommended that:

1. the list of risks shown in the table previously circulated be agreed as the basis for action as indicated, commencing during the remainder of financial year 2019-20.
2. the Clerk be asked to include the items for monitoring in the weekly safety surveys.
3. the Parish Council considers the ROSPA proposals for the memorial gates at Coleford PF and MUGA
4. the Playing Field Working Party councillors be asked to carry out repairs to the two items shown for their attention in the table circulated.

VW

Ag

MB

5. new shackles, bolts, bushes and hangers for one swing at Goodeaves should be purchased.
6. That prices be sought from contractors for the contractor repairs that are not already under way, subject to decisions on the MUGA and Highbury PF memorial gates and the risk scores.

VW  
Ag

Cllr Barrett confirmed that he would repair the closing mechanism on the Goodeaves gate and the catch on the Roman Way gate. Cllr Allen confirmed that KM Steel would install the picnic bench at Goodeaves at the earliest opportunity that they have.

MB

*Vote: 9 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions*

**8**

**Date of Next Meetings:**

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 Parish Council meeting

**The meeting concluded at 21.00hrs**