

# Parish Council of Coleford

Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

Miss V Watts, Clerk to the Council

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### Present

Cllr Ham (Chairman presiding) Cllrs Barrett, Bell, Evans, Moulding (Part), Paterson, Pearce, Townsend and West

There was 1 members of the public present. The Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes

### 1. Public Forum

1.1 Cllr Evans reported that he had received several complaints about the footpaths being overgrown. He confirmed that he had instructed the payback team to strim the cinder path (ref FR4/26) which was reported at the last meeting for being overgrown. This is now passable. Cllr Barrett confirmed that a member of the Rights of Way team has left Somerset County Council, which will have impacted on the service, but they are being replaced and it is hoped that normal service will resume soon.

1.2 There is a dip in the pavement outside Colebury house which needs attention.

*Action: Cllr Townsend to report to Somerset Highways.*

1.3 The Bike Night taking place on a Tuesday night at the Kings Head has been a huge success with a large number of bikers attending. Complaints had been received about the noise as they dispersed later in the evening.

*Action: Clerk to write a letter to the landlord to ask if those attending can be asked to leave quietly.*

1.4 There was a break in @ The Hub. Evidence has been secured and passed to the police for investigation.

*Action: Clerk to ask the PCSO to contact Cllr Ham.*

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Allen, Banks and Drescher and which were accepted by the Chair.

### 3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

There were none.

### 4. Agree the minutes

The Clerk had circulated to all Councilors the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> June. It was proposed that the minutes accurately reflected the meeting and should be approved.

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

## 5. **Actions from the minutes**

All actions had been completed or would be on the agenda apart from:

1. It was noted that the notice board outside the piano shop was no longer as visible as it was when parishioners were visiting the post office and shop. It was agreed that the new co-op would be approached to establish if they would consider a new noticeboard outside the store.

*Action: Clerk to write to the store manager at the earliest opportunity.*

## 6. **Co-option of Councilors**

There is currently one vacancy, which the Clerk will continue to advertise.

## 7. **Planning Applications**

- 7.1 2022/1273/FUL - Subdivision from one dwellinghouse to 2no. dwellinghouses  
79 Anchor Road Coleford Radstock

All Councillors had considered the planning applications prior to the meeting. Concerns were raised over the following points:

- The creation of an additional entrance onto Anchor Road.
- The increase in the number of cars at the additional dwelling.
- Noise
- That there will be no fire protection wall separating the 2 dwellings.
- Over development of the site.
- There is no consideration for access to the rear of the property known as no 79.

After discussion it was proposed that the application be recommended for refusal for the reasons stated above.

*Vote: 6 For; 1 Against and 2 Abstentions (2 x District Councilors)*

- 7.2 2022/1207/FUL - Erection of 1no. dwellinghouse  
Land At 368716 149115 Church Street Coleford

All Councillors had considered the planning applications prior to the meeting. The applicant attended the meeting and explained that in 2021 the garden had been subject to a change of use application from agricultural to garden. The proposed plans are for a single storey flat roofed eco house. It will be timber clad on 3 walls with the 4<sup>th</sup> being an open glazed wall facing the valley views. The flat roof ensures the lowest possible silhouette and would be barely visible from the public realm and therefore has no detrimental impact on the character of the area.

A Councillor asked what had changed since the change of use application in 2021 when the applicant had stated that there was no intention of building on the site. The applicant said that due to a change in personal circumstance she was looking to downsize and live a simpler life hence the current application.

At a recent meeting the applicant had raised concerns over the speed at which vehicles were traveling down Church Street and had requested the installation of speed humps and a 20mph limit to help reduce speeds. A Councillor questioned how creating an additional entrance onto the road could be safe. The applicant said that the new access point would not affect the safety issue for people exiting @ The Hub. She said that @ The Hub's exit is dangerous and she fully supported the measure of lowering the wall to the right of the exit and installing either a 20mph limit and speed bumps to reduce the speed on that road. The applicant said that this would be a retirement home and therefore not a busy household with multiple cars.

It was noted that the Architect's Plan and the Design and Access statement did not seem to tally. A Councillor asked if it was the intention to change the existing stone wall to the left of the exit to improve visibility? The applicant said that she would have to speak with her architect about this as she believed that the splays were sufficient.

The applicant then left the meeting.

During discussions two issues were raised by Councillors:

1. Was the new build in keeping with the surrounding area?
2. Access on to Church Street. It was not possible for the required visibility splays to be achieved with the plans presented at this meeting.

After deliberation it was proposed that the application be recommended for refusal on the basis that the visibility from the access on to Church Street was not sufficient.

*Vote: 6 For; 1 Against and 2 Abstentions (2 x District Councillors)*

- 7.3 2022/1177/HSE – Erection of detached outbuilding for use of studio & home office space.  
7 The Crescent, Stock Hill, Coleford

All Councillors had considered the planning applications prior to the meeting. After discussion it was agreed that there were no concerns relating to the application and that it should be recommended for approval.

*Vote: 7 For; 0 Against and 2 Abstentions (2 x District Councillors)*

## **8. Planning updates including enforcement issue**

There were none.

## **9. Reports**

- 9.1 PCSO – No report had been received. In light of the recent break in at the Hub the Clerk will request that the PCSO contacts Cllr Ham

*Action: The Clerk to request the PCSO contacts Cllr Ham*

- 9.2 Somerset County Council – Cllr Ham gave the following report:

Council Tax consultation: A consultation on council tax support for the new unitary Somerset Council has been launched. This is the first major policy consultation for the new council and it proposes that the lowest households across Somerset get 100% council tax relief. This is a substantial increase as maximum relief is set at around 80% in most parts of the County. The proposed changes would harmonise support for working age people on low incomes and would come in to effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 with the creation of the Council. The consultation runs until the 19<sup>th</sup> September and can be found at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SomersetCTRLIVE](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SomersetCTRLIVE)

Wheelchair and community equipment: SCC and NHS Somerset are this month launching a new Community Equipment and Wheelchair service to help people to live more independently. The new service will loan a range of equipment for as long as they need it. The service will include delivery and fitting, servicing, collection, and recycling. More information is available at [www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/equipment-to-help-you](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/equipment-to-help-you)

Tackling violence against women and girls: SCC and North Somerset Council's have secured an additional £317,674 from the Home Office Safer Streets fund to continue to make public spaces and streets safer for women and girls. This will allow the councils to focus on antisocial behaviour concerns that contribute to the fear of violence against women and girls by targeting resources at four locations – Taunton, Bridgwater, Weston Super Mare and Yeovil.

Ecological Emergency: SCC has voted to put additional focus into protecting Somerset's natural environment and biodiversity by declaring an Ecological Emergency. The Council previously declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and has since worked with Somerset's 4 District Councils and other partners to develop the Somerset Climate emergency strategy. The ecological emergency work will complement the existing Climate Emergency 'Natural Environment' actions with a renewed focus on land management, biodiversity and natural habitats.

Somerset Business Climate Summit: This will take place at Queens College in Taunton on the 21<sup>st</sup> September between 10am and 1pm. The summit will highlight best practice and raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges for businesses as we shift towards a low carbon economy. Businesses were encouraged to examine their current business models and make pledges to reduce carbon footprints. Details can be found at: [www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency/climate-emergency-businesses/climate-summit/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency/climate-emergency-businesses/climate-summit/)

- 9.3 Mendip District Council – Cllr Townsend reported that both Stoke St Michael and Leigh on Mendip have recently had planning applications for around 40 houses refused. The decisions is now being appealed and Mark Reynolds of Context Planning is acting for them.

An application for 270 houses at the White Post site, which was designated in the Local Plan was recently passed without incident.

An application for housing at Keyford, Frome had been refused for lack of eco credentials but that has now been addressed and the application has been approved.

The Council was sad to hear of the passing of Nigel Woollcombe-Adams so soon after the death of Nigel Taylor. Both were longstanding members, well respected and will be missed.

***Action: Clerk to write with condolences***

- 9.4 Unitary update - Cllr Ham reported that the July Full Council meeting Somerset County Council voted to endorse supporting fully funded Local Community Networks as part of the transition to a unitary Council. The geography of the proposed LCN's which was due last month is expected soon with their constitution and responsibilities. The roll out of Unitary is 10 weeks in and already 5 weeks behind but have been told that they should be back on schedule by Christmas - Everything has to be in place by March 2023. The first decisions will be made on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> with Scrutiny meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> August.

## **10. Highways including**

### **10.1 Councilor update**

Cllr Townsend confirmed that the dip in the road near Stockhill, pot hole at Lipyeate house and the issue at the pedestrian crossing have all been repaired.

The hole on Green Lane, Stoke Bottom has now been filled and the drainage work is due to be completed during August.

### **10.2 Discuss benefits of Auto Speed watch system**

The Clerk had circulated additional information about the system but as yet there has not been confirmation that Avon and Somerset Police or Somerset Highways that they will recognise this system.

***Action: Clerk to continue to monitor.***

***Cllr Moulding left the meeting at 20.41hrs***

### **10.3 Report of any new issues to be reported**

Cllr Townsend to report that the temporary traffic lights on Highbury Street need adjustment as they do not take into account any cars that park in the vicinity which then causes the traffic to become unpassable.

***Action: Cllr Townsend to report to Somerset Highways***

It was noted that the junction at the co-op is still chaos.

At the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June Councillors were invited to write with their suggestions on how to respond to the letter 13<sup>th</sup> June received Somerset Highway's Michele Cusack. A draft response has since been compiled and circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed that the letter should be sent to by the Clerk.

**Action: Clerk to send the letter to Somerset Highway's Michele Cusack.**

## **11. Finance**

### **11.1 Consider whether to continue to pay the increased charge resulting from inflated fuel charges**

The Clerk confirmed that the Council had paid 3 months at the inflated price. It was agreed that Jamie submit a request prior to this meeting for the Council to further review but this had not yet been received. After discuss as initially agreed

### **11.2 Agree charges for Coleford Athletic Football Club to use changing rooms**

The annual charge for 2021/22 was £1040. It was suggested that an increase of 5% should be added which would take the annual charge to £1092. After discussion it was agreed that a more detailed review of costs incurred should be completed for consideration at the August meeting.

**Action: Clerk to review annual costs for review at the August meeting**

### **11.3 Invoices to be approved for payment:**

The following invoices were presented for payment:

HMRC - National Insurance	£ 19.34
V Watts - Clerks Expenses	£ 35.00
Mendip District Council – Election recharge	£100.00
LSJ Gardening Services – Hedges at Church St & Cemetery	£415.00
Water 2 Business – Changing rooms water	£119.52
Society of Local Council Clerks – Annual membership	£ 93.00
Keith Evans – Payback expenses	£ 20.13
Read Agri services – Payback expenses	£ 81.75

Already paid on 15<sup>th</sup> July to prevent interest being charged on the invoice:

JK Tree Services	£2664.00
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It was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Pearce that the invoices should be paid.

*Vote: 9 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained*

## **12. Consider a request to install a table tennis table at Highbury Playing Field**

The Clerk presented quotes for table tennis tables which ranged from £2500 to £4800. Although Councilors thought that it was a nice idea, it was agreed that this year's budget was tight and that the purchase of such an item should be considered alongside other facilities as part of a community review. This would help to establish what the priorities were for the Coleford parishioners.

## **13. Update on potential new Allotments site and agree whether to pay legal fees**

The funding application has been resubmitted to Somerset County Council. The committee will not be meeting until the end of August when we will then know if we have been successful.

## **14. Discuss issues relating to lack of water supply at Goodeaves Allotment**

Several emails have been received requesting a water supply be installed at Goodeaves. The Clerk was disappointed to hear that the latest contractor to accept the work has pulled out so we are back to square one again. After discussion it was agreed that all Goodeaves allotment holders should be offered the opportunity to take a plot at the new allotment site if the grant funding is secured and the project is able to progress. In the meantime, the Clerk will seek a new contractor to build the rainwater harvesting structure.

*Action: Clerk to seek contractor. Once funding secured for the new allotments the clerk to ask Goodeaves allotment holders if they would be interested in moving to the new site.*

- 15. Consider future of the wildflowers at the pump track including whether to fund up to £50 to further improve the wildflowers or to developing wildflowers at Beacon View**  
This will be carried forward to the August meeting.

*Action: Agenda item for August*

- 16. Discuss Community Planning and Engagement Project**  
The Clerk attended the recent meeting promoting the project and has submitted an application expressing an interest in Coleford PC being one of the 14 Councils who will receive support to complete a plan. Successful Councils will be informed after the 31<sup>st</sup> of July with the first meeting taking place on the 7<sup>th</sup> September.

- 17. Review quotes received for new Parish Council website and Councilor email addresses**  
The Clerk had received several quotes but had asked for clarification on the email packages. This information will be shared with the Councilors ahead of the August meeting when a decision will be made on which supplier to use.

*Action: Clerk to forward quotes and information on the websites & email packages. Agenda item for August.*

- 18. Meetings to attend or attended**  
11/08/22 @ 7.30pm Doultling PC to discuss Local Community Networks and Unitary.  
27/07/22 – Affordable Housing meeting hosted by SALC

- 19. Correspondence**  
24/06/22 – Letter from the Coleford branch of the Royal British Legion stating that due to concerns over the condition of the car park they may have to gate it to prevent it being used outside the opening hours.

*Action: Clerk to respond acknowledging receipt*

- 20. Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman’s Discretion**  
The Clerk was asked to contact the Mendip District Planning Officer to say that Coleford PC wished to be consulted over planning application 2022/0979/FUL - Change of use of existing stone barns into three holiday let units (Retrospective) at Upper Vobster Farm, Upper Vobster Road. This was due to its close vicinity to the Coleford boundary.

*Action: Agenda item for August*

- 21. Date of Next Meetings:**  
10<sup>th</sup> August 2022          Planning meeting

The meeting finished approx. 22.20hrs