

# Parish Council of Coleford

Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

Miss V Watts, Clerk to the Council

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## **\*\*DRAFT\*\* Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

### **Present**

Cllr Ham (Chairman presiding) Cllrs Allen(Part), Barrett, Banks, Bell, Drescher, Evans, Pearce, Paterson and West (Part)

There were no members of the public present. The Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes

### **1. Public Forum**

- 1.1 Cllr Ham said that after 9 years Coleford Revival Group had disbanded. It was agreed that a letter of thanks would be sent to thank them for their hard work over the years.

*Action: Clerk to write letter of thanks*

- 1.2 Cllr Townsend reported that the trees located to the rear of Anchor Close are on the school ground and therefore the responsibility of the school.

### **2 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Townsend and Cllr Moulding, which were accepted by the Chair.

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

There were none.

### **4 Agree the minutes**

The minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> September had been circulated to all Councilors prior to the meeting. It was agreed that they accurately reflected the meeting and should be approved.

**Vote: 8 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions**

*Action: Clerk to upload to website*

Cllr West arrived 19.40hrs

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

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

- 5.1 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 Reports

7.1 PCSO – No report had been received.

7.2 Somerset County Council – The following report was given by Cllr Ham:

**Somerset County Council Finances:** As at the end of July (month 4) the overall projection was for an overspend on budget of £23.9m (up from £18.5m in June). The significant variances were: • Adult Services - £14.0m adverse variance against budget; a deterioration in position of £4.0m from month three.

- Children’s Services - £15.5m adverse variance against budget; a deterioration of £1.5m from month three.
- Economic & Community Infrastructure (Highways etc) has a £1.1m adverse variance against their budget. These figures are already 2 months out of date – the trend remains very concerning

**Future of SEND in Somerset:** Somerset County Council, NHS Somerset and Somerset Parent Carer Forum are inviting families as well as school leads, education, and health professionals to join a webinar this October to help shape the future of Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) in Somerset. The partnership is currently in the process of developing a Somerset SEND strategy for the next three years. This will outline the focus areas and action points that will inform SCC to develop their services. The two webinars (which are a repeat of one another) are on Friday 7th and Monday 10th October with no need to book in advance. <https://beta.somerset.gov.uk/events/the-future-of-send-discussion-group-3/>

**Innovation Zone:** The Chancellor has announced that the Gravity site, just north of Bridgwater, could be part of one of the first of the Government’s new Investment Zones. The former Royal Ordnance Factory at Puriton has been identified as a potential site for a Gigafactory. The 616-acre site has the potential for an onsite rail terminal and sits by J23 of the M5 motorway. The total project could deliver up to 7,500 skilled jobs in the County.

**Dillington House:** Somerset County Council’s Executive has confirmed that the council will seek to end its activities at Dillington House in Ilminster on 30th September 2023. The council has leased the 16th Century Grade 2 listed country house since September 1966 and has used it as a centre for Adult Education, conferences/business meetings and more recently for social events and weddings. It also currently accommodates the Somerset Centre for Integrated Learning (SCIL). The current lease has a break clause in March 2023 and the council is seeking to adjust the terms of the lease to enable it to continue activities until the end of September 2023, allowing it to deliver weddings already booked for next summer and minimise disruption to academic courses and other events.

**Public Health Nursing Team:** Somerset County Council’s Public Health Nursing (Health Visiting and School Nursing) team has been rated as ‘Good’ across all sections in a recent review of the service by inspectors at the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The service provides community care, delivered by health visitors and school nurses across the county of Somerset and this inspection marks their first since its transfer from the NHS to Somerset County Council’s Public Health in 2019

**Flu Jab:** This winter, it is anticipated that as this is our first flu season since 2019, we will all have less immunity and are therefore more likely to catch flu compared to previous years. The flu season in the Southern Hemisphere can often predict the potential for a similar experience in Northern Hemisphere countries. This year, Australia’s flu season started earlier and infected more people, particularly children aged five to nine. More information on flu vaccinations can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>

**Covid boosters:** Residents aged 50 years and older, residents in care homes for older people, those aged 5 years and over in a clinical risk group and health and social care staff are being offered a booster of coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine this autumn. Appointments are available from the National Booking Service. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirusvaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

**Stoptober:** Stoptober is back for its 11th year calling on smokers to kick the habit once and for all and join 2.3 million others who all quit since the campaign launched over a decade ago. Somerset smokers are being asked to seek support and join thousands of others across the country who have signed up to stop smoking this October. Over 6 million adults in England still smoke, and it remains the leading cause of premature death, with almost 75,000 preventable deaths a year. Stoptober offers a range of free quitting tools including: the NHS Quit Smoking App, Facebook messenger bot, Stoptober Facebook online communities, daily emails and SMS, and an online Personal Quit Plan. <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/>

7.3 Mendip District Council – Cllr Townsend and Ham provided the following report:

Planning:

Leigh on Mendip – application at Quarry Lane for 40 dwellings – Cllr Ham attended the Informal Appeal Hearing starting on 4<sup>th</sup> October to support the Parish Council’s objections.

Stoke St Michael – Still have no formal confirmation that the Informal Appeal hearing for the development of 40 houses along Coalpit Lane will be heard in November

Gypsy and Travellers – Mendip have lost their appeal against a site for 9 pitches at Emborough, The Inspector ruled that as Mendip have failed to allocate enough formal sites there are no grounds to refuse. A cross party proposal has been submitted to the Head of Planning to urge them to issue Certificates of Lawfulness to the dozens of acceptable sites already in existence around the District. This would immediately rectify the shortfall and remove at a stroke the risk of random settlements being approved without defence. At Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> October there was a disturbance when they approved the Public Space Protection Order to provide a simpler means of removing offensive illegal dwellings.

The application for the concrete products site near Torr Works to provide material for the track bed for HS2 is being considered by the Planning Board on the night of the meeting. The contract has already been awarded and this will provide some 300 new jobs.

Full Council 26<sup>th</sup> September:

The meeting endorsed the Climate and Ecological Emergency Plan. It still envisages 31 x 450 ft high wind turbines in the District by 2030 with 10 in place by the end of 2023. There was concern that a change in policy on fracking could harm this “delicate and beautiful area” – no such concern was expressed about wind turbines, except by myself. The Plan also envisages that freight emissions will be reduced by a “10% increase in use of waterborne transport”. The real world?

There were three emergency motions. The first was to promote better public transport in Mendip with County support. The second was a requirement to amend planning procedures so that Wessex Water are required to address the impact of major developments on watercourses and treatment works. They were both passed despite multiple objections. The third sought to impose a vegan culture on our local agriculture – this was withdrawn at the last minute without explanation.

Glastonbury – It was announced that the town has been successful in obtaining a Town Deal Grant from the Government of £23M to provide a facelift, improve its attractions and car free routes.

Notification had been received from Mendip District Council of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Greenspace. It was agreed that the council would ask Cllr Townsend to review the document and report back at the next meeting.

*Action: Agenda item for October Planning meeting.*

## 8 Planning Applications

2022/1976/LBC & 2022/1975/HSE - Erection of orangery to side of dwelling, and minor external and internal alterations. Page House Farm Tinkers Lane Newbury Frome

All Councillors had considered the planning application prior to the meeting. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Banks and seconded by Cllr Evans that the decision on this application should be left to the planning officer.

*Vote: 8 For; 0 Against and 1 Abstentions (District Councillor)*

*Action: Clerk to notify the planning office*

## 9 Planning updates including enforcement issue

There were none.

Cllr Allen arrived 20.00hrs

## 10 Unitary update

### 1. Review of the Local Community Networks Consultation

Cllr Ham reported that:

The consultation is not mandatory so does not have to run for six weeks. They will allow responses until 31/10/22. Responses should include dislikes, likes, and proposals. The next meeting of the Parishes will be held on 20/10/22 at Doultling with a Senior LGA /LCN Officer Alan Jones attending.

Cllr Ham will work up proposals D and E over the next few days to show the positive and negatives of each proposal which can then be discussed on the night so that a group response can be submitted.

*Action: Agenda item for October planning meeting*

## 11 Update on the Community Review Project.

The Clerk explained that a Steering Group had met and were progressing as directed by the Smart Communities advisers. The next meeting will take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

*Action: Provide and update at the October Planning meeting*

## 12 Highways including:

1. Councillor update – No report was provided.
2. Update on SIDS & Speed watch – The Clerk to progress.

*Action: Clerk to progress*

### 3. Report of any new issues to be reported:

- Road closure at Hatchet Hill – Clerk to publicise on Facebook
- Complaint received about parking in Farley Dell – Cllr Townsend to investigate
- Loose kerbstone in Beacon View – Clerk to report.
- Complaint about the lack of dropped kerbs from Preachers Vale to the Co-op - Cllr Evans to investigate

*Action: Clerk to ensure all matters are completed*

## 13 Finance

1. Bank Reconciliation – The bank reconciliation was checked at the last meeting.
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter budget Review – This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

*Action: Agenda item for October planning meeting*

3. Accounts approved for payments:

The following invoices were presented for payment:

V Watts - Clerks Expenses	£543.89
Cam Valley Wildlife Group annual membership	£ 5.00
Royal British Legion – Wreath	£ 21.50

It was agreed that the above payments should be made.

*Vote: 10 For; 0 Against and 0 Abstentions*

**14 Consider the grant funding available to create Warm Spaces in Somerset**

The Clerk to research the grant funding and report back at the next meeting.

*Action: The Clerk to research. Agenda item for October planning meeting*

**15 Update on the Allotments**

Cllr Pearce reported that the working party had met with Allan Cavill of the National Allotment Society. The following points were discussed:

1. The Parish Council should not create paths across/around the individual plots just the wide, main route through and around the perimeter of all allotments. This approach ensures that any paths created on each plot will be the responsibility of the tenant and not the Parish Council thus minimising risk and maximising growing space.
2. The plots should be provided with the grass mown short for the tenant to decide how to proceed using either dig or no dig methods.
3. It was agreed that plots could be split between organic and non-organic and would be approx. 10m apart. Allan confirmed that it was unlikely that plots would ever get organic status but could follow organic principles.
4. Weed killer – For those wishing to use pesticides etc they would be restricted to shop bought only.
5. Water – A bowser system would be provided feeding into a trough with a ball cock to regulate refilling. Allan said that Allotment holders may be more successful than Parish Councils in obtaining funding/grants for rainwater harvesting systems.
6. It was agreed in principle that the Parish Council would manage the plots for the 1<sup>st</sup> few years but with the intention of an allotment management committee being formed to run the allotments.
7. It was agreed that The National Allotment Society will provide free legal advice, help to draw up the accurate plans showing the plots and help with model agreements etc

The next working party meeting will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> October. It is hoped that:

1. A draft Tenancy Agreement will be agreed which can then be used to promote the allotments.
2. Cllr Drescher to follow up on the quotes for fencing.
3. Look to plant the orchards either side of Christmas.
4. The lease will start on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022

The Clerk reported that a tenant of a Coleford Playing Field allotment had raised concern over an ash and beech tree which bordered the plot. It was proposed by Cllr Ham and seconded by Cllr Pearce that a professional report would be obtained up to a value of £180 + VAT to establish what work was required if any.

*Vote: 10 For; 0 Against and 0 Abstentions*

*Action: Clerk to obtain quotes for tree survey and action*

**16 Consider quote to complete rainwater harvesting at Goodeaves Allotments**

A quote was presented for consideration. It was agreed that in light of the increase in the cost of materials the Clerk would seek a grant to help with the cost.

*Action: Clerk to seek grant funding*

**17 Discuss & agree whether to purchase and plant 2 oak trees to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee**

Cllr Ham had sought quotes for 2 oak trees for planting alongside the footpath FR4/28. The trees will cost £35 each from Trees Direct. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Ham would seek a quote for 2 galvanized metal guards to protect the trees.

*Vote: 10 For; 0 Against and 0 Abstentions*

*Action: Cllr Ham to seek quotes*

**18 Playing Fields and Play Equipment**

Update on the levelling of the main football pitch at Highbury playing field

A representative from Penny's has confirmed that they would be happy for the Parish Council to pay £2500 to show commitment to the project with Penny's funding up to £7500. If fees get to £10000 then both parties will meet to discuss how things should proceed.

It was agreed that a meeting of the working party would be arranged with representatives from Penny's to discuss the project.

*Action: Clerk to establish funding situation with Pennys*

**19 Discuss how to protect items from Coleford Industrial Heritage**

It was agreed that the Clerk would speak with Steve Hodges regarding the methods suggested by Mendip District Council

*Action: Clerk to speak with Steve Hodges*

**20 Meetings to attend or attended**

13/10/22 @ 18.30 on Teams Parish Forum Climate & Ecological Meeting  
20/10/22 am & pm Site visit to Somerset Wildlife Trusts Honeygar Reserve  
20/10/22 @ 7pm @ Doultling VH for Unitary discussion. Cllr Ham to attend  
05/11/22 10am – 4.30pm SCOP II Climate Conference at Edgar Hall, Somerton  
Various SALC training dates shared to all Councillors

**21 Correspondence**

09/10/22 – Email from a member of the public challenging decision made by the Parish Council on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 regarding purchasing a Table Tennis Table and further questions relating to whether there is a need for more allotments and how much time and money had been spent on the allotment project to date.

*Action: Clerk to seek advice from Somerset Association of Local Councils.*

**22 Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman's Discretion**

Cllr Evans said that the Payback team will be returning to the village on the 28<sup>th</sup> November. Councillors to consider what jobs need to be completed.

**23 Date of Next Meetings:**

26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 @ 7pm for Planning meeting  
9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 @ 7pm for Parish Council meeting

The meeting finished approx. 22.20hrs