

Parish Council of Coleford

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Gallant Hill Farm
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Newsletter for June 2024



Planning Applications

2024/0795/FUL - Land at Ash Farm Charlton Road Coleford Radstock. Construction of ground mounted solar farm, battery energy storage, ancillary infrastructure, access, security fencing and landscape scheme.

The Parish Council recommended approval.

Highways

The following items were reported and/or chased with Somerset Highways: -

- 31 Alfords Ridge - blocked drain
- Tinkers Lane - drainage
- Preachers Vale - overhanging trees at green space
- Kings Head bridge - severe damage to parapet
- Anchor Rd/Brewery Lane - inadequate repairs - Highways explain that only urgent safety defects were repaired, other items on list to be done.
- Stockhill - edge erosion/potholes
- Cherry Gardens Lane - potholes beyond Lipyeate Farmhouse.
- Church St - re-instatement of removed Weight Limit sign above Scout Hut



Plus, others out of Parish but of concern: -

- Pitcot Lane - flooding/blocked drain by Barlake Farm
- Stoke St Michael - potholes on Moons Hill

Update on Allotments



As we approach the first anniversary of the opening of Coleford Allotments, we continue to undertake the work to complete the project. This week will see footings created for the compostable toilet and installation of pipework for the additional water points. The order for the Woo-Woo toilet has been placed and the delivery date will be confirmed once the footings are in place. The connection to the additional storage tanks will take place at a later date.

Health & Wellbeing grant application

The Parish Council is in the process of putting together a bid for £35K to fund various pieces of equipment and services, which will enhance the health and well-being of our Coleford community. The Community Plan provides evidence that each element is desired by the community, which will go a long way to support the application. Further information will be given once the application has been finalized.

**Date of Next Meetings:**

26th June 2024 Planning meeting
10th July 2024 Council meeting

If you have any issues that you would like to bring to the Parish Council's attention, please contact the Clerk on 07971 516916 or email clerk@colefordpc.org.uk Check out the website www.colefordpc.org.uk

Philip Ham
Chair of Coleford Parish Council

Somerset Council

The following report had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting:

Voluntary redundancies update: In total 201 applications for voluntary redundancy have been accepted by Somerset Council. Within this number are 49 voluntary redundancies, where costs to the council exceeded £100,000 each. The total cost of the voluntary redundancies is £12.8m with an expected ongoing wage bill reduction of £8.2m. The Council needs to save around £40m from the pay bill by reducing the number of staff and managers, including senior directors, approximately 25% of staff in total.

Compulsory redundancies update: The Council has launched a 45-day consultation on restructuring which could lead to a significant reduction in Executive and Service Directors. The consultation runs from mid-May to June with those being made redundant leaving the authority between November and March 2025. Consultation on restructuring and any consequent redundancies at lower tier levels will take place later in the summer.

General Election Voter Registration: For residents who have recently turned 18 or just moved home, it is important to act to ensure that they are registered to vote in the General Election. The deadline to register is midnight on Tuesday 18 June. Applications can be made on line at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm Wednesday 19 June. Those who are registered to vote at the polling station but do not have an accepted photo ID can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate before the deadline at 5pm on Wednesday 26 June via: www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate The deadline to apply for a proxy vote is 5pm on Wednesday 26 June.

Safe disposal of small gas canisters: Due to the increasing number of gas canisters being put out with recycling, crews have had to manually check recycling ahead of the automated sorting process to avoid fires. This year alone, more than 1,000 gas canisters fires have been avoided. The small canisters, mainly used for camping gas stoves, are often mistakenly put in the kerbside recycling 'Bright Blue Bag'. The bag can be used to recycle empty aerosol bottles but should never be used to dispose of gas canisters. Gas canisters must be taken a local household recycling site.

Call for sites to offset future developments: Somerset Council is seeking submissions of land for the potential delivery of phosphate mitigation schemes and Biodiversity Net Gain to support the delivery of new development in Somerset. The "call for sites" aims to gauge the level of interest from landowners, land promoters and land managers, with sites put forward to be assessed through a transparent process and criteria. Prioritised phosphate mitigation sites will go on to negotiate a legal agreement and where eligible, a price for the Council to purchase the arising P-Credits using some of the £9.6m secured from the Government's Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund. Biodiversity Net Gain schemes will go on to negotiate a legal agreement, which can then be logged on the

national biodiversity gain sites register, and then sold on to developers. Further information can be found at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/environmental-call-for-sites/>

School Streets Trial: A trial aiming to reduce issues with parking and congestion around the schools and encourage more sustainable travel is starting with Otterhampton Primary school in Combwich, Bridgwater on 3 June. School Streets will be repeated across four other schools which are yet to be confirmed. The trial means there will be temporary road closures during school pick up and drop off outside the selected schools. There are two volunteer stewards to carry out the road closure with support of local PCSOs.

Road surface dressing: Somerset Council's new partner Kiely Bros are launching a programme of road repairs across the County's network this month. Kiely were awarded a four-year contract from 1 April to carry out a wide range of services, including surface dressing and will be introducing a new piece of machinery known as the Multipatcher, which is a vehicle that can carry out small scale surface dressing works, but also repair a range of other defects. Once preparation work is done, the surface treatments programme, which includes surface dressing, starts in July. Details of this year programme can be found at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/surface-dressing/>

Volunteer to help Home Library Service Users: Volunteers are needed across Somerset to help keep a vital library lifeline thriving. The Home Library Service (HLS) is looking for people who can lead teams of volunteers in Bridgwater, Wellington, Yeovil, Frome, Chard and Crewkerne. The HLS is free and available to anyone who cannot visit a library in person – the housebound, carers, or people vulnerable because of their health. The Lead Volunteers liaise with Somerset Libraries, keep in touch with local volunteers and arrange cover for sickness, and use their local knowledge to support customers and the Home Library Service

Highways Fine for Nextfibre Networks: Broadband provider Nextfibre Networks Ltd has received fines and charges totalling more than £11k after pleading guilty to two offences in Somerset which magistrates said posed a danger to pedestrians. Somerset Council prosecuted the firm following works carried out in Bridgwater. Nextfibre Networks Ltd admitted failing to install proper traffic management to ensure the safety of pedestrians while working in two of the town's streets in breach of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. Along with the two charges in Somerset, Nextfibre Networks Ltd also pleaded guilty to nine similar charges in Devon and had to pay a total of £30k in fines and charges.