

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter for November 2024

Co-Option of Councillors

The Parish Council is thrilled to welcome Sarah Swords as our newest Councillor. Sarah brings a broad range of talents and experience along with a real enthusiasm for being involved with community life, which we believe will make her an excellent Councillor! Sarah, we look forward to working with you and really hope that you will enjoy the role.

PCSO

The crime report for Coleford showed that during the last month there had been 1 case of burglary and 1 public order offence. The next drop-in session will be run at the Hub on 25th November 2024 from 10am until 11am.

Planning Applications

2024/1915/APP - Playing Field Orchard Close Coleford Frome Somerset

Approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (Design and Layout), 4 (Management and Maintenance Scheme) and 5 (Surface Water Drainage System) on planning consent 2023/0492/FUL (Improvements to playing field).

Pennys planning agent had put in a lot of time consulting with Sport England and the Flood Authority to ensure that the submission for this application would have the best chance of success. The Parish Council supports the proposed submission and recommends that the application should be approved.



2024/1898/REM - Land South Of Suncroft, Lipyeate Cross To Luckington Cross, Coleford

Reserved matters approval for details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline planning permission reference 2019/2345/OTS (Application for Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved for the erection of up to 63 dwellings).

In light of the amount of detail that needs to be considered (74 documents), it was agreed that an extension of 2 months would be requested to allow thorough consideration of the reserved matters before submitting the Councils response.

Warm spaces for winter

The Clerk had approached well connected residents and many of the groups already prospering within the village to gauge whether there was a need for a specific warm space to be open over the winter. The groups consulted with their members and fed back to the Clerk that the overriding belief was that such a facility would not be utilized as there were already 'warm spaces' being provided, with the welcoming groups which were already established and meeting on most days.

After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would not open the Hub, but would actively promote the 'warm spaces' already running. This would be shared on village noticeboards, the community magazine, Mendip Country practice and the web.



Highways

The Council has been considering the use of AutoSpeedWatch (ASW) and whether to purchase. Holcombe already has the system installed and the local PCSO has been supporting them with drivers that have been highlighted by the ASW data as repeat offenders. Coleford Parish Council have agreed that the purchase of a ASW roadside unit (Approx cost £1000) would be discussed as part of the budget for the next financial year.

The edge erosion on Anchor Road between the last house and the 30mph signage and the pot holes and edge erosion on Tinkers Lane (Ref 826263) have still not been addressed, which Cllr Townsend would report to the Highways engineer.

Small Grant applications for 2024/25

The Parish Council received 8 applications for funding this year and after deliberation the following awards were agreed which will all go some way to benefiting the community:

Name of Group	Total cost of project	Description	Amount awarded
Tuesday Afternoon Club	£300.00	Transport costs	£250.00
Friendship Friday Club	£590.00	Cooker and soup bowls	£200.00
Coleford Climate Action	£232.96	Items to help save money to be given to members for the community to help save money.	£200.00
Coleford Theatre Group	£1,000.00	Upgrading to LED spot lighting and costumes	£450.00
Fabulous, Fun and Fit	£280.00	Hall hire & refreshments	£200.00
Huckyduck Carnival Club	£300.00	Circular saw	£150.00
Coleford @ The Hub	£4,100.00	Hall hire to help Voluntary Orgs	£990.00
Coleford Knit & Natter	£60.00	New bamboo knitting needles	£60.00
Amount requested:	£6,862.96	Total	£2,500.00

Somerset Council. Somerset Cllr Philip Ham reported:

A358 Dualling: A decision has been made by the Government to shelve the £328 million National Highways upgrade of the A358 between Ilminster and Junction 25 of the



M5 at Taunton. Confirmation came as the Chancellor announced a series of measures to balance the Government's books which included cancelling a number of rail and road infrastructure projects. The scheme to build a tunnel on a section of the A303 under Stonehenge was shelved in the summer.

Winter Fuel Payments: In a move to safeguard vulnerable older residents, Somerset Council overwhelmingly passed a motion to oppose the Government's changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance. The motion, brought forward by Conservative Leader, David Fothergill called for the government to reconsider its recent decision, which will see millions of pensioners lose vital support for heating this winter. The Council highlighted the vital role that Winter Fuel Payments play in helping Somerset's 110,000 older residents afford heating during the colder months, preventing 'heat or eat' dilemmas. The Council also pledged to raise awareness about Pension Credit uptake to ensure all eligible pensioners in Somerset receive the support they are entitled to and to work with Voluntary Charity Faith and Social Enterprise (VCSFE) partners to ensure a substantial portion of the Household Support Fund, is directed toward helping Somerset pensioners struggling with fuel poverty.

Mendip local plan: Somerset Council has submitted proposals to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to update the Mendip Local Plan Part II (LPP2) which runs to 2029. The LPP2 site allocations plan was adopted by the former Mendip District Council in December 2021 but was subject to a successful legal challenge. The Council has now met the Court deadline to submit proposals which identifies 9 sites capable of delivering 569 dwellings by 2028. A new Somerset wide plan is in preparation which will consider future housing sites after 2029.

Safeguarding adults: A series of recommendations have been made by the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) following the death of a resident. The recommendations were shared in a report which documents an elderly lady's life leading up to her death from a COVID-19 infection whilst being treated for injuries arising from an accident. There were also concerns about how money was being used. Highlighting weaknesses in the way agencies were able to communicate with the lady has been assessed and the information recorded and shared across the health and social care system, the report also makes various recommendations.

Wells Christmas Market: 'Christmas in Wells' will take place on Saturday 14th December, 9am-3pm, in Wells Market Place and on the Bishop's Palace Green featuring over 100 stalls.

Community Heroes: Forty-eight Community heroes and organisations from across Somerset have been recognised for their service with a Somerset Council Chair's Award. The awards were presented by the Somerset Council Chair at a ceremony in Taunton Rugby Football Club attended by the nominees and their guests. The award recipients were nominated by their city, town and parish councils in recognition of their outstanding contribution to their communities.

Recycling: Somerset Council has been given the green-light to roll out the collection of plastic bags and wrapping to more than 25,000 households. The county has been part of the national FlexCollect trial since May 2023 with around 3,500 residents in Frome having plastic bags and wrapping added to their weekly recycling collection. From October 2024 a further 25,000 residents in and around Wells, Draycott, Frome and Chilcompton will benefit from getting these hard to recycle plastics collected from home.

Dunball roundabout: Construction on the multi-million pound Dunball Roundabout (J23) scheme begins on the 11th November. The project will see the roundabout improved with signals introduced and the addition of a 'through about' lane which allows traffic to flow through the middle of it for greater capacity. This will ease peak traffic flow through this crucial route which links the town to Junction 23 of the M5, along with the Gravity Smart Campus in Puriton, site of the Agratas Gigafactory which is set to create 4,000 jobs.

Winter Gritting: Highways partner Kier are working to keep roads safe this winter with the gritter fleet ready to head out when freezing temperatures or snow are forecast. Road users need to be ready too for adverse conditions. As the winter season approaches, it is vital that you travel according to the conditions and your vehicle is suitably maintained. You can find out more on driving in adverse weather conditions here, from Somerset Council's Road Safety Team at www.somersetroadsafety.org Preparation of the Council's depots, and filling of its salt barns has taken place throughout the summer and the winter team will also be topping up gritting bins across Somerset.

Sale of Disposable Vapes: Under recently published legal guidance the sale of disposable vapes are to be made illegal from 1st June 2025. Whilst rechargeable vapes are a good way to give up tobacco smoking there has been increasing evidence that young people are using disposable vapes as a lifestyle choice. There are currently 5 million sold weekly, each of which contains a lithium battery which cause frequent fires in recycling trucks and centres. The move to ban disposable vapes has received widespread support from Teachers, Waste Contractors, Public Health and even the RSPCA who have been concerned about the impact of vape waste on wildlife.

Date of Next Meetings:

27th November 2024 Planning meeting

11th December 2024 Parish 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
Chairman
Coleford Parish Council