

Parish Council of Coleford

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 12th February 2025

Present Cllr Ham (Chairman presiding), Allen, Banks, Douglas-Burke, Evans, Moulding, Paterson, Pearce, Swords and Townsend.

In attendance 1 member of the public present
The Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes

1. Public Forum

- 1.1 It was asked how Gladman have been allowed additional time to respond to points raised regarding the planning conditions. This would have been agreed with the planning officer.
- 1.2 It was asked if the bridge currently being worked on by Somerset Highways at Vobster was being widened? No, it is understood that the wall is being repaired.
- 1.3 A new entrance has been created at Tan Fam, Ham. Was this part of the planning permission?

Action: Cllr Townsend to investigate

- 1.4 Cllr Townsend confirmed that tomorrow he would be attending the Mendip Country Practice Patients group meeting. He asked if anyone had any points they would like raised. Several councillors said that it was unfortunate that it was no longer possible to see the same doctor each time you visit. Other councillor said that the service they had received had been very good.
- 1.5 Cllr Swords asked the Council if they would consider purchasing a female soldier for the Royal British Legion to be erected alongside the metal Tommy.

Action: Agenda item for the next meeting

2. Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

Cllr Bell, Somerset Councillor Barry Clarke and PCSO Will Mortimer sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

There were none.

4. Approve the minutes from the meetings held on the 15th January 2025

The Clerk had circulated the draft minutes prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Paterson and seconded by Cllr Pearce that the minutes accurately reflected the meeting and should be signed by the Chair.

Vote: 10 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

5. Actions arising from the minutes

All actions were completed or were dealt with as agenda items during the meeting.

6. Co-option of Councillors

There were no applicants to consider. There are currently 2 vacancies which the Clerk will promote.

Action: Clerk to continue to advertise the vacancies.

7. Reports

7.1 Somerset Council

Cllr Ham reported that work continues on the restructuring with 600 jobs already gone. Services will be cut, fees for all services will be increased to help bridge the financial deficit. Central Government have agreed that Somerset Council can increase the precept by 7% and will be working on providing a balanced budget for agreement at the full council meeting on the 5th March 2025.

A detailed report from Somerset Council will be attached on the website, parish council page as a report. [Parish Council Meetings](#)

7.2 PCSO

A report had been received which showed that there had been 2 crimes reported during January.

7.3 Climate Action Group

Cllr Moulding said that a representative from the group had been working with Mendip Country Practice to provide retrofit items to those who would benefit to help them to save energy and money. The group are also looking at whether they are able to open a Repair Café.

8. Planning Applications

2025/0185/TCA - The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Coleford, Radstock

Felling of Elm trees T1.

Provided for information only

9. Planning Updates

9.1 Consider submission by Somerset Highways to the Reserved matter on the Gladman application

Somerset highways have submitted a response to the planning office highlighting no less than 9 issues which they require to be addressed. It was agreed that the Council would submit a response to the planning office also highlighting that the highway matters have not been addressed by Gladman.

Action: Submit a response to the planning office

9.2 Discuss response for the Mendip Local Plan Part II, Limited update hearing session – Cllr

Townsend confirmed that the Parish Council will send a representative to the Hearing sessions on Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th March and on Thursday 13th for the afternoon session relating to the CL2 site at Coleford. A draft statement will be put together for submission by the 20th February.

Action: Submit a response by 20th February

9.3 Review previous applications - The Clerk provided an updated spreadsheet showing current status of active planning applications.

10. Highways including

10.1 Councillor update – Cllr Townsend said that the following issues were reported as follows:

- Anchor Rd - pothole by crossing at Beacon View - filled
- Kilmersdon Common - flooding at junction
- Charity Lane junction - flooding again - blocked by debris apparently
- Vobster Cross - 3 potholes reported
- Tinkers Lane - flooding reported again
- Cherry Gardens Lane - clippings flooded onto road
- Charmborough Lane - overhanging trees - cleared

- Kings Head bridge - date for repair requested
- Street Lights - Anchor rd/Brewery Lane - programme for repair requested
- Street Lights - Goodeaves/Stockhill - 7 defective lights reported
- Brewery Lane/Dark Lane junction - pothole reported and repaired
- Pitcot Lane - flooding and blocked drain reported at Barlake Farm
- Stoke Bottom - two potholes reported
- Gurney Slade - major pothole reported on Tape Lane

It was noted that since the closure of Mells Road at Vobster there had been a noticeable increase in traffic through the village.

Local Community Network – It was asked if a date has been agreed for the Highways Sub Committee meeting. It was agreed that we should request a meeting with Charlie Higgins of Somerset Highways

Action: Cllr Ham to confirm the Highways Sub Committee meeting date

Cllr Moulding asked why the footpath next to the bridge by the Mill was closed. The Parish Council Footpath Warden had inspected the damage to the bridge and due to the severity suggested that Somerset Rights of Way inspect, which they have done and subsequently closed the footpath.

10.2 Report of any new issues

Councillors raised the following additional items to be reported - Dores Hill - edge erosion plus potholes Charlton Road - 2 sunk drains near the Hackmead Farm entrance Haydon Road - large patches eroded.

The Clerk had received a complaint regarding the street lights that were not working at Stockhill but as mentioned above these have already been reported.

11. **Update on the Coleford Menshed**

The Clerk has created an event on Facebook and placed posters around the village for the open meeting planned for Saturday 1st March 2025 at The Hub starting at 10.30am. The meeting is open to men and women. Councillors are encouraged to help spread the word. Light refreshments will be available, which Cllr Ham is to organize.

Cllr Pearce and Cllr Townsend will meet with Patrick Abrahams (UK Men's Sheds Association-Ambassador) on 14th February to agree the agenda and marketing presentation material.

Action: Cllr Pearce & Townsend to meet with Patrick on 14/02/25

12. **Update on the Coleford Allotments**

The Clerk has invoiced all allotment holders and has been following up on the few that are outstanding.

Three allotment holders have nature ponds and they have each been asked to make them safe in accordance with the new rules before the end of the month.

The tree that fell during the storm and damaged the outer boundary fence has been cut down but the fence is yet to be repaired. This has resulted in muntjac deer entering the allotments. Amy from Vobster Quay said in December that they would repair the fence but it might be a few weeks before it could be completed. The Clerk has written again asking for an update on when it will be repaired but has as yet received a response.

Action: Clerk to follow up

13. **Update on the Emergency Plan meeting**

Cllr Moulding will be attending the meeting at Stoke St Michael Village Hall on Tuesday 4th March at 6.30pm

14. Finance

14.1 Agree bank reconciliation

To be checked at the next meeting.

Action: Agenda item for the next meeting

14.2 Accounts approved for payments:

The following invoices were presented for payment:

V Watts - Clerks Expenses	£ 95.97
HMRC – National Insurance & Tax due	£120.06
Water 2 Business – Changing rooms water supply	£119.09
West Monkton Parish Council Commonwealth War Memorial Plaque	£ 75.00
Starboard Systems Limited T/A Scribe Accounts, Annual fee for 2025	£414.72
Nippers Tippers – Maintenance repair to picnic table and gate hinge	£ 36.90

It was proposed by Cllr Allen and seconded by Cllr Banks that the payments should be made. The cheques were signed by Cllr Ham, Townsend & Banks.

Vote: 10 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

15. Meetings to attend / attended

27/02/25 – National Allotment Society Allotment Officers Forum

03/03/25 – time TBC @ Shape Mendip. Shepton LCN

11th to the 14th March @ 11am – Local Plan Part II Inspector Hearing

23/03/25 @ 10am – Village Litter pick, meeting at Highbury Playing Field

25/03/25 @ 10am via Teams meeting for Better Buses for Somerset. Cllr Moulding to attend

Various dates – Somerset Association of Local Councils training opportunities

16. Correspondence

01/02/25 – Email Dog Attack at Lipyeate – Agreed that information on dog attacks and how to deal with them which was recently published in the Farmers Guardian be provided to the writer of the email. No further action.

06/02/25 – Details of Mr Bradbury’s funeral shared with the Council

07/02/25 – Email from Stoke St Mary Parish Council regarding planning inquiry into the Brookfield Nursery site in Ruishton. No further action

Allotment magazine – Passed to Cllr Moulding

Email from Mark Asquith regarding Coleford PC attending next year’s Mells fete - the theme is Fields and Forest and they have invited someone from the allotments to be involved as demonstrator, seller or even speaker at the talks, which would be loosely themed around soil, water, produce and trees. Cllr Pearce has emailed to discuss the invitation.

17. Date of Next Meetings:

26th February 2025 Planning meeting and allotment working party meeting

12th March 2025 Parish Council meeting

The meeting ended at 20.53hrs