

Parish Council of Coleford

Miss V Watts, Clerk to the Council
Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB
Tel: 07971 516916 / 01749 880428 Email: clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com

Newsletter for July 2021

Renovation of the Highbury hard Courts

A meeting had been held with representatives of both the Parish Council and Football Club to discuss upgrading the hard courts at Highbury to create modern 3G astro style pitch which can be used for various sports. Initial thoughts have been given on how such a new facility could be managed to benefit Coleford residents and the community whilst bringing in revenue to cover the ongoing running costs and maintenance. A working party will be formed to agree the technical specification and establish costings so that we can apply for grant funding. It is hoped that an application can be submitted to Mendip District Council for their Community Grants which are currently offering grants up to £30K. The deadline for applications is the 30th September 2021.

PCSO Reports

A quarterly newsletter had been received which gave the following crime statistics for Coleford:

Arson and criminal damage	3
Public order offences	1
Sexual offences	1
Theft	2
Vehicle offences	1
Violence against the person	8



Planning Applications

[2021/1500/TPO](#) - Ash (A) - Reduce height by up to 6m and reduce the end-weight of all large lateral limbs by 20%, thin crown by 20%. 14 Preachers Vale Coleford Frome Radstock Somerset BA3 5PT Coleford Parish Council recommended that the application should be approved but that Mendip District Council should complete a site visit to take a look at other trees which are close by that also have Ash die back.

Coleford Royal British Legion application to be a Community Value Asset

Mendip District Council have agreed to the Parish Councils bid that the Royal British Legion, Coleford should be classified as an Asset of Community Value. This will make it much more difficult for the owners, the Royal British Legion headquarters, to sell it off without the village having a chance to raise funds to purchase it.

On the evening of Thursday 8th July Cllrs Banks, Ham and Townsend attended the Mendip Panel to promote the case. The Panel were impressed by the quality of the Parish Council's proposal, the many letters of support, the number of signatures on the petition and took on board the unique role the facility offers in the village with its wide range of uses. The absence of any representation from the owners was noted. They then went into closed session to make their decision which they announced on Friday. This will last 5 years – up to 9th July 2026.

Update on Highways including:

Cllr Townsend provided the following update:

1. HGV signage, Dark Lane and approaches. (Additional Signage to deter HGV Traffic)
Action: Forwarded to Sara Davis (Traffic Team) For consideration
2. Potholes, south end of Cherry Gardens Lane.
Action: Area Superintendent to monitor and action in accordance with Highway Safety Inspection Manual.

3. Charmborough Lane - edge erosion.
Action: Area Superintendent to monitor and action in accordance with Highway Safety Inspection Manual.
4. Stoke Bottom, potholes, edge erosion.
Action: Area Superintendent to action in accordance with Highway Safety Inspection Manual.
5. Soho, junction signage. Request for advance signage and refurbishment of existing lines.
Action: Forwarded to Sara Davis (Traffic Team) for consideration
6. Anchor Rd footpath, SIS.
Action: Noted. Parish to liaise with SIS team.
7. Co-op junction, SIS.
Action: Noted. Parish to liaise with SIS team
8. Holcombe, Duke of Cumberland, signage, Barlake Lane obstruction. Request for delineation markings between car park and highway.
Action: Forwarded to Sara Davis (Traffic Team for consideration) A site meeting to be held with Highways on 16th July
9. Verge Cutting, Charmborough Lane to Charlton Rd, plus Mells straight. Urgent visibility cut ordered for Junction.
Action: Emergency cut completed the next day. For information and awareness, the attached word document provides information for the Grass Cutting programme. This was done the day after meeting.
10. Ham Hill, potholes various.
Action: Area Superintendent to monitor and action in accordance with Highway Safety Inspection Manual.
11. Stockhill, overhanging foliage.
Action: Agreed that not a safety issue.
12. Farley Dell, hidden street name signage.
Action: Highways would not agree to the obscured sign being attached to the street light at Farley Dell. The suggestion is that the 2 signs for Farley Dell just inside the junction with Anchor Rd should be modified to add the road numbers for the left and right side of Farley Dell. The Clerk has already written to Mendip District Council.



Somerset County Council provide a drain cleaning service which includes road drains on all highways maintained by SCC throughout Somerset. As the Highway Authority they operate a planned maintenance programme for cleaning highway surface water drains.

A drainage cleansing policy / gully emptying cycle is undertaken on a risk-based approach, whereby gullies are emptied more frequently in areas where there is a risk of flooding, this is designed to allow flexibility to respond to need. The planned maintenance programme will be as follows:-

- Flood Susceptible Areas – Once a Year.
- Non - Flood Susceptible, Rural Areas – Once Every 2 Years.
- Non-Flood Susceptible, Urban Areas – Once Every 4 Years.
- Our records indicate that the majority of gullies within Coleford were cleaned in 2020 as part of the Four-Yearly programme. We will continue to respond to reports of blocked drains and action accordingly.



Coleford Parish Councils Facebook profile

Coleford Parish Council now has its own profile so that Coleford Parish Council business can be shared without the Clerk having to use her personal profile. Copies of the agenda, minutes and newsletters will be posted on Facebook as well as the Parish website to keep parishioners informed as to what is going on in the village.

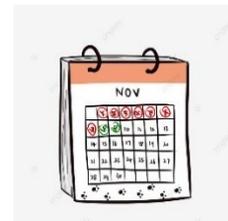
Allotments including considering other potential sites.



Since the decision to no longer pursue Highbury Playing Field as the location for new allotments it was agreed that the Planning application should be withdrawn. A working party will visit the potential new sites at Vobster, Newbury Lane, Beacon View and behind the Legion to establish if they could be suitable for allotments. This will then be discussed at the August Parish Council meeting.

Grass cutting

LSJ Gardening Services has accepted the grass cutting contract. Although more expensive than our original budget, Jamie has made an excellent start on the cutting and considering how long it had become the areas already look much tidier. The total to pay for the rest of the cutting year is £7300 with the following 2 years agreed at £10950. This would include the annual strim of the butterfly bank and pump track.



Date of Next Meetings:

11th August 2021 – 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 01749 880428 or email clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com Check out the website www.colefordsomerset.info

Philip Ham

Mendip District Council report

District Cllr Ham and Townsend submitted the following joint report:

Cabinet: The meeting scheduled for 5th July was delayed to 12th due to 'technical issues'. The long-awaited response regarding the offensive spoof website promoting Stronger Somerset was considered to be a whitewash. The issue of compensation for harm done to the Council's reputation is being pursued. The Secretary of State's decision on the Unitary way ahead is expected by 22nd July.

The 2020/21 Year End Outturn is expected to show a deficit of some £700k largely due to the reduced income and extra costs due to Covid, which have not been totally compensated by HMG. This will be covered by management of reserves, as will the expected shortfall for 21/22. Despite large borrowings at low interest rates in the year no new commercial investments have been made to compensate for the shortfall.

Planning: The Planning Board is considering 3 large applications for 345 houses on the Keyford side of Frome. If approved they will contribute significantly towards rectifying Mendip's 5-year housing shortfall.

For the updated Local Plan Part 2 the Inspector's Final Report is scheduled for the end of July with formal adoption at the end of September. Confirmation of these timescales has been requested from Mendip. The Gladman appeal is programmed to start on 18th August on a virtual basis. Contact has been made with Mendip to see how we can best work with them to defend the appeal. We need to contact our planning consultant to co-ordinate our approach.

Somerset County Council report

Coronavirus infection rates: As at 25th June the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 20,982 (up from 20,455 on 28th May) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 799. The rate per 100,000 stands at 47.1 (5.5) for Somerset with Mendip at 40.7 (5.2), Sedgemoor at 74.7 (8.9), South Somerset 20.8 (3.6) and SW&T at 58.7 (5.2). The number of total deaths across the County is currently 19% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 1.0 and 1.5.

Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline: A single phone number continues to be available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. **0300 790 6275**, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm.

Vaccination programme roll-out: Somerset continues to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the country with the latest figures showing over 700,00 doses (both 1st and 2nd) Take up rates of both doses is very high: 80+ (96%), 75-79 (100%), 70-74 (98.3%), 65-69 (90.4%), 60-64 (95.2%), 55-59 (91.7%) and 50-54 (84.5). First dose rates are currently 45-49 (84.9%), 40-44 (90.4%), 35-39 (81.6%), 30-34 (71.5%) and 25-29 (44.2%).

One Somerset: An announcement on the future of local government in Somerset is expected from the Government before the Parliamentary summer recess on 22nd July. For more information visit: www.onesomerset.org.uk

Consultation on A38 Burnham to Bristol airport upgrade: Proposals to make improvements to one of Somerset's key roads are being shared with the public. Somerset County Council and North Somerset Council are working in partnership on a number of proposed schemes on the A38 Burnham-on-Sea to just outside Bristol. The scheme seeks to improve journey reliability times, road safety and better connect local communities – whether by car, public transport or active travel. The public are invited to comment on these plans using the interactive map on the engagement website <https://a38mrn-engagement.com> The feedback will help inform the A38 Major Business Case that will be submitted to Government for approval later in the year.

Tackling Somerset's Childminder shortage: The number of registered childminders in the county has decreased by over 31% since September 2015. In response, Somerset County Council has been working hard to boost numbers and is tackling the shortage of childminders across the county. In addition to a Golden Hello' grant worth £250.00, guidance and training is being offered to newly registered childminders which supports them through Ofsted registration and beyond. Anyone interested in attending an information session on Wednesday 21 July (6.30-7pm) is urged to register through: <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/childminding-in-somerset-virtual-information-session-tickets-157986252133>

Pioneering Climate adaptation website: A new web-based app gives the opportunity to explore the impacts of climate change on the Somerset Levels. The app, created as part of the Adapting the Levels project to help local people turn individual ideas into plans for collective action, focusing particularly on the challenges of flooding and drought. Adapting the Levels has worked with SCC, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Parish and Town councils, businesses and communities to create draft pathways, which are available to explore online. Everyone is invited to view the pathways, comment and add ideas, by visiting www.adaptingthelevels.co.uk

Investing in Children and Young people: An ambitious and innovative approach to improve the life chances of Somerset's highest needs children has given the green light. The ten-year programme will deliver a new way of working which will address the needs of Somerset's most complex children and young people who are cared for by the Council. The council will be seeking a strategic partner(s) to provide up to 10 new small homes in Somerset, linking these to foster carers and therapeutic education to provide a seamless service that will help children and young people to grow and flourish. Combining foster care and small homes will offer young people the experience of a stable home environment and the opportunity to live with a family when they are ready. Skilled therapists from different agencies and teachers will work together to provide wraparound support designed to meet their individual needs.

Special Educational Needs Survey: Parents, carers, children, young people and practitioners are being asked to complete a short confidential survey to help shape services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Together with NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and the Somerset Parent Carer Forum, SCC are keen to hear views of children and young people who have SEND, their parents, carers and families, and the practitioners who support them. The short survey will close on Friday 9 July. www.somerset.gov.uk/360survey