

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter for October 2021

PCSO report

The newsletter for the Frome Rural North has been released which provided an overview of the current issues and policing priorities. More information can be found at the following link: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/frome-rural-north/>



Planning

2021/2035/HSE - Erection of two storey side extension and demolition of conservatory
7 Orchard Close Coleford Frome Radstock Somerset

After consideration it was agreed that the application should be approved on the basis that it did not breach planning materials considerations and was in keeping with extensions completed on properties within the area.

The Community Payback team

The payback team will be returning to the village in November for 8 weeks. Councillors will put together a list of projects which need to be completed including some indoor projects for days when the weather is bad.

Highways

Councillor Townsend has reported:



- The poor surface dressing on Charlton Rd
- Mud needs to be cleared from Charmborough Lane
- The failed light on the crossing by the old Post Office.

6 surface patches were repaired on Charmborough Lane within a day of reporting them to Somerset Highways. This will not help with the width and alignment issues.

Update on the Mendip District Council Community grant application submitted for the improvements to the Highbury hardcourts:

The Chair thanked the Clerk and Sarah Halford who had jointly put together an application for £30K from Mendip District Council's Community Grant fund. If successful the money will go towards upgrading the hardcourts to create a new surface and fencing which can be more widely used by the parishioners and football clubs. We should know if the application has been successful by the end of October.

Allotments

Quotes to create a rainwater harvesting structure at Goodeaves Allotments are being sought. Grant funding will be sought to help to cover the cost. Regarding the new allotments, a letter has been sent to the agent for the land offered at Vobster to establish the cost of rent and how long the term could be. It is hoped that a site meeting can also be arranged.

Date of Next Meetings:

- 27th October 2021 – Planning meeting
- 3rd November 2021 – Small Grants Working Party
- 10th November 2021 – Monthly 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

County Councillor

The Clerk had previously circulated the report from County Cllr Ham, as follows:

Covid 19 – Rates are slowly falling back in Mendip and Sedgemoor. It is the younger population and those not vaccinated that have been affected and are high risk.

Bus Service Improvement Plan: This was scrutinised by Somerset County Council. It is a very ambitious plan. 200 plus pages with lots of ideas, lots of improvements and lots of data but contains no costings as yet.

It is a living document and will be going to cabinet for approval in 2 weeks. There will then be a bid for part of a 3 billion pot of money from Central Government.

Cllr Ham said that he spoken with the 184 service in mind – all that it lacks and its failures for not only Coleford but all the surrounding villages. His points were taken into consideration and were noted.

Trading standards: This is now a combined service with Plymouth and Torquay.

It was reported that during 2019/20 300,000 million was reclaimed from scams.

There has been a lot of work being done around the size and control of events.

The trading standards department is well run service. Many staff had been recruited to other jobs during the pandemic but it is now back to before and fully functional.

Unitary: Cllr Ham reported that during the next 14 days the change orders will be processed by Central Government. The timing will be agreed but if the process runs over they could run out of time which could push the election back to 2023. Over the coming weeks there will be more meetings and consultation with Parish and Town Councils to discuss how Local Community networks will be formed and work.

District Councillors

The Clerk had previously circulated the report from District Cllrs Ham and Townsend as follows:

Planning

Gladman - No result yet from the appeal. We sent the photo of the van on its side to the appeal inspector who responded that he was fully aware of the highway's issues.

Local Plan Part 2 was approved by Mendip's Cabinet on 4th October and will now pass to full Council for adoption. This should give it more weight for the refusal of the Gladman appeal.

Climate

Carbon Neutral - Mendip's understanding of the alleged emissions from agriculture is very curious and a consultant is being employed by Mendip District Council to consider the implications.