

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter for May 2020

Parish Council business



In line with government guidance, recommended social distancing and self-isolation rules, Coleford Parish Council conducted its May meetings using 'Zoom' video conferencing technology. It is assumed at this stage that the Jun meeting will also take the same format. If you wish to join the meeting please do contact the Clerk using clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com or call 07971 516916.

Annual Parish Council Appointments

Chairman	Mr Philip Ham
Vice Chairman	Mr Andy Conn

Working Party

Playing Fields, Play Areas and Pump Track
Environment & Cemetery
Finance, Pay Review & Small Grants

Lead Councillor

Cllr Barrett
Cllr Evans
Cllr Townsend

Team members

Cllrs Conn, Hanney, Harding and Drescher
Cllrs Turner, Harding, Allen and Townsend
Cllrs Ham, Pearce, Conn, Banks and the Clerk

Lead Councillors

Public Footpaths /RoW	Cllr Barrett
Highways	Cllr Pearce and Townsend
Open Spaces and Trees	Cllr Harding and Barrett
Parish Plan	Cllr Conn
Young People	Cllr Ham and Banks



Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

@ The Hub	Cllrs Banks, Ham and Townsend
Bishop Henderson School & Children's Centre	Cllrs Drescher and Ham
Coleford Athletic Football Club	Cllr Drescher and Allen
PCSO & PACT	Cllr Banks
Somerset Association Local Council	Cllr Evans
Quarry Liaison Group	Cllr Conn and Turner
Coleford Revival Group	Cllr Ham, Harding, Barrett and Banks
Mendip Country Practice Patients Group	Cllr Townsend
PCC	Cllr Turner

Highways

Two potholes have been repaired on Charmborough Lanes but a further 5 still require attention, which have been reported to Highways. The two worst appear at the narrow passing places and reduce the road to less than 4 metres wide.

Inspections were made by Councillors of Charmborough Lane to support the case that the highway is already unsafe and cannot take the further traffic that the Gladman housing development would generate. They discovered that the supporting masonry to the bridge over the stream is starting to bulge. They found that of the 33 width measurements along the Lane at only one place did it reach the 6 metres which Somerset Highways said was required for Anchor Rd. Generally it is between 4 and 5m wide, much less than the Design Manual for Roads recommendation of 5.5m where HGVs are expected. To illustrate the dangers of the road, a resident had recorded 4 traffic incidents at the Lipyate end of the lane in the last 3 weeks - 2 separate piles of broken rear light glass, a BMW wheel trim, and 2 wheels going a metre over the bank of the visibility splay at Hill Farm.



Somerset County Council Highways team have again repaired the footpath opposite Anchor Close at the entrance to Springwater Farm, which was done very quickly after it was reported as a safety issue. A letter of thanks will be sent thanking them for acting so quickly however it was agreed that it would be highlighted that the damage resulted from the passage of HGVs and that the landowner and contractors should pay for the repairs, rather than the public, as it has already deteriorated and will no doubt require further repair.

Planning Applications

2020/0871/HSE & 2020/0872/LBC - Montrose High Street Coleford Frome BA3 5LS.

Demolition of conservatory, erection of single storey rear extension, new external door opening and internal alterations Coleford Parish Council recommended approval for both applications.

Update on the Gladmans planning application

The Parish Council has sent 2 letters and received 2 replies from Tracy Aarons the Deputy Chief Executive of Mendip District Council regarding Parish Councils concerns over the Gladman application and the MDC Local Plan. The latest response stated that she would ask the Senior Team Leader to comment on the questions that the Parish Council raised. It was agreed that no further action would take place for the next week to allow a full response to our recent letter from MDC.



District Councillors have been invited to meet with representatives of Gladmans to discuss how the development could benefit the village IF approved. It was noted that if this opportunity was declined then the application could be approved with no Section 106 benefits for the village, which would be a double blow.

Year- end accounts 2019/20



The year-end accounts had been closely inspected by the full Council. The accounts show that the reserves have been reduced as intended to a more appropriate level during the last 12 months. The total of the bank accounts after all committed spend for the year end 31/03/20 was £30,710.04 which compares to £52,927.78 at 31/03/19.

Multipurpose bin at the Church Hall

It was agreed that a new litter bin will be installed next to the dog waste bin at the Church Hall, on Church Street. This will provide a place for litter half way up the hill which will hopefully go some way to helping to keep Coleford litter free.

Update on the Coronavirus and the support in Coleford

Support continues to be provided via the volunteer group Coleford Angels who are regularly shopping for approx. 6 residents. Prescription requests appear to be fewer than in recent weeks.

The Foodbank is set up and is supporting those that need assistance with no questions asked.

Dagaroo continues to provide daily hot, home cooked meals delivered throughout Coleford. Special discounted rates are available for the vulnerable. Full details can be found on Facebook, search **Dagaroo Local Food Delivery** or call 07515 636501 for more information.

Mendip Country Practice surgery is very much open for business as usual, the doors are not shut which is what some patients have thought. Working practices have been adapted and most consultations can be dealt with either by telephone or video link. If the doctor or nurse needs to see a patient then they attend the surgery. They will see the patient whilst wearing the required PPE. The patient will also be asked to wear a face mask, which is provided when they attend the surgery. On Monday mornings they are holding a 'Restricted Surgery', these are for people who have been Shielded. This means that the door is closed and we only allow in those who have a pre-arranged appointment. The doors reopen to all other general enquiries again at 2.00pm. However the Reception telephone line remains open as normal.



Somerset County Council now has a single Covid-19 hotline number 0300 790 6275. This should be used for anything related to the pandemic. The Coleford Echo Facebook page is also updated regularly with lots of useful information.

Date of Next Meetings:

Wed 27 th May 2020	Planning Meeting
Wed 10 th June 2020	Parish Council meeting

Somerset County Councillor report

County Cllr Philip Ham reported that he is receiving Covid 19 updates two or three times a week, 26 million extra money from central government to deal with crisis in just Somerset, the forecast is looking that this will not be enough. 7 million on PPE alone. Last year accounts are looking as if SCC have around 6 million underspend so that will help this coming year. Recycling centres re opened this week and the new kerb side contractor is doing well as due to lock down we are witnessing a 50% increase in tonnages collected, with food waste and cardboard seeing the highest increase.

Cllr Ham said he had received many complaints about poor broadband speeds due to so many people working from home. Registration services are struggling with the extra deaths, but have had 197 marriages cancelled and 1900 plus births not registered yet, but arrangements have been made so child benefit can be claimed for new born babies. Road repairs and resurfacing have continued at pace due to the quieter roads.



Most meetings are continuing at SCC through Microsoft Teams and work continues as ever with Adult social care, Childcare and Education which with Covid 19 has proved very challenging.

Mendip District Councillors report

District Cllr Townsend reported as follows:

The Council continue to provide regular updates in this emergency which the Clerk circulates. Mendip's offices remain closed to the public in this lockdown period. Much of the business continues as normal though site visits are not happening. Considerable resource is being spent on providing financial support to local businesses through funding by the Government. Some public meetings such as Audit Committee, Planning Board and Cabinet are being held via Microsoft Teams. However the Annual Full Council meeting scheduled for 18th May has been postponed.

The reopening of recycling Centres was welcome and no real problems have been reported. The re-opening of markets is much more difficult and will not happen for a while.

A new Village Agent has been appointed, Nic Edwards who lives in Newbury. It will be good to work with her.

District Cllr Ham reported as follows:

District Cllr Ham thanked Cllr Townsend and Cllr Banks for all the work they have done on Charmborough Lane relating to the Gladman planning application. He also thanked Cllr Conn for his work on the end of year accounts.



District Cllr Ham stated that he had several enquiries about obtaining loans and grants from Covid funding at MDC, the process is backlogged so getting answers to individual circumstances is slow. Normal work is continuing behind the scenes so hopefully things will slowly get back to a new norm.

Enquiries have been made about grass cutting in the village and it seems they hope to resume this week, it had been deemed as unnecessary work, and with two men being needed (health and safety), two men in a van social distancing and with men self-isolating this sort of work had been stood down.

Cllr Ham thanked the Clerk for all her hard work especially over the last few months where she had gone that extra mile so many times to keep the Council up to speed, and produce such well-informed end of year accounts. Cllr Ham finished by thanking the residents of Coleford for the Community spirit that has been created by the Thursday clapping for the NHS, Coleford Angels, Dagaroo hot food, Food bank, VE Day celebrations and so many more examples of people helping each other. He said "Thank you, you make me proud as your parish council chair".

**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, Chairman