

Parish Council of Coleford

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

Newsletter for November 2020

Planning Applications

Resubmission of 2019/2345/OTS - Outline planning application for the erection of up to 63 dwellings Land Off Anchor Road Lipyeate Cross To Luckington Cross Coleford Frome Somerset

The repeat application by Gladman for 63 houses off Anchor Rd, Coleford is very unwelcome and the Parish Council confirmed its opposition. Residents from Coleford and Holcombe are encouraged to repeat their previous comments to Mendip. Some 320 objections were submitted to Mendip before, a record number in our experience, and it is important that we show that our resolve has not weakened. Harm to the countryside was the official reason for refusal. We need Mendip to understand that there are other key issues which affect all of us such as Highways, Sewerage, not in accordance with the Housing Needs Survey, and contrary to Mendip Council's adopted Corporate Policy of a Greener, Fairer Mendip.

Planning updates

2020/1377/VRC – The proposed Co-op store. Crossways Garage, Coleford

In response to a Parish Council objection to the latest revised plans showing a flat roof on the store, the Planning Officer had emailed to say that following additional review the LPA determined that the revised plans were detrimental to the existing street scene, considering the removal of the pitched roof. The applicant and agent have now agreed to revert back to the original plans, which had previously been approved by the Parish Council. Therefore the application will be determined under delegated powers and this will be explained within the officer report.

Highways

Two small edge erosion potholes on Charmborough Lane have been filled in as they are at a pinch point. There were reports of a recent incident on Charmborough Lane with the road blocked and vehicles turning to go back towards the village – If you have any further information relating to this could you please contact the Clerk on clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com

The issues with HGV restriction and horse warning signage at Dark Lane, the HGV incident on Church St and the continuing issues opposite the Co-op had been reported to Sara Davis of Somerset Highways and an urgent site visit requested. No doubt the lockdown will affect this but this will be chased up.

Footpaths

A list of repairs collated from the Footpath Wardens has now been sent to Somerset Rights of Way and the Ramblers and it is hoped that after the Covid restrictions are eased some of these will be actioned.

Councillor Resignation

The Council currently have a Councillor vacancy. If you're interested in finding out more about the role then please do get in touch with the Clerk who will be happy to explain what is involved.

Small Grants awards

The Parish Council had considered the applications which had been received and made the following awards:

Coleford Foodbank - Food for those in need £250.00
@ The Hub - Microwave oven/grill £300.00
@ The Hub – Dishwasher £300.00
Hucky Duck Carnival Club - Ceiling lights £200.00
Coleford Circuits - Gym equipment £100.00
Tuesday Afternoon Club – Catering £250.00
Coleford Revival Group - Christmas Hampers £700.00
Coleford Theatre Group – Lighting £250.00

Coleford Parish Council bid for Somerset County Council £1m Climate Emergency Community Fund

The Parish Council would like your comments on some ideas for the playing fields at Highbury and Coleford. We can make a bid to the Somerset CC Climate Emergency Fund, to fund projects that help communities to deal with climate change, eg by reducing carbon release, more sustainable living and waste reduction.

The Parish Council's first ideas are in the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November (Item 14) which can be found on the parish website www.colefordsomerset.info/meeting-minutes or see the village notice boards. Here is a brief outline:-

At Highbury Playing Field – Adult fitness trail, community orchard and wild flower grassland, a refurbished shelter and basket swing near the pump track to provide a wider range of meeting places for youngsters, and allotments, including community composting and a permaculture plot, on land next to Newbury (Dark) Lane. (The PC is currently asking landowners about other possible sites for allotments, so an alternative site may be found for these.)

At Coleford Playing Field – a community orchard and wild flower grassland.

We would like to hear from you if you think these ideas are good, bad or could be improved. A key part of living with climate change is community action. So we would also like to hear from people who would be interested in planting and looking after the orchards and wildflower areas, hedge planting, and allotments / community composting. Please reply by **4th December**. Sorry that time is tight, but we have a lot to do and a bid deadline to meet. Comment in writing or by e mail to the Parish Clerk, or you can e mail Andy Conn on connvexed@hotmail.co.uk.

Land for new Allotments

There are currently 8 people on the allotment waiting list. The Council has been considering whether there is a potential site that could be purchased or rented to facilitate the need for extra allotments. Do you have a plot of land that might be suitable, or know a local landowner that might be able to help? If so please contact the Clerk – details are at the end of the document.

Future Council meetings

In light of the recent announcements from Central government regarding the Coronavirus it was agreed that meetings would continue virtually via Zoom for the time being but would be reviewed at each meeting. Members of the public are welcome to join the meetings and just need to contact the Clerk to obtain the link.

Date of Next Meetings:

Wed 9th December 2020 Parish Council

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 of Coleford Parish Council

Somerset County Council and Mendip District Council Report

Somerset County Council

County Cllr Philip Ham reported that

Corona Virus Update: Somerset is now in a period of enhanced lockdown measures aimed at stopping the spread of the Corona virus. The measures will be reviewed on or before the 2nd December. Whilst numbers in the County remain relatively low there has been a marked increase in the number of positive tests. As at 1st November, the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 2,738 and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 208. The rate per 100,000 currently stands at 65.5 for Somerset with Sedgemoor at 94.8 and SW&T at 70.6. The current number of total deaths across the County is currently 17% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 1.3 and 1.6. It is vitally important to remember at all times the Hands-Face-Space message.

2021 Primary School Places: Applications for Primary School places in 2021 need to be made through Somerset County Council's website: www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions The deadline for submissions is Friday, 15 January 2021.

Winter Gritting: Somerset County Council's fleet of 23 Gridders will be maintaining the extended gritting service of last year, with approximately 900 miles of road up for treatment in 2020/21. Somerset County Council treat over a fifth of Somerset's roads and the main priority is to keep the busiest routes clear whenever ice or snow is expected. For more information about Somerset County Council's winter service programme, including a searchable map showing all the roads treated, please visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritting and follow @TravelSomerset on Twitter.

Climate Emergency Strategy: The Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy which identifies key priorities to reduce the carbon footprint across the County and achieve Carbon neutrality by 2030 has been written with the assistance of over 5,000 residents who took part in the survey and drop in events. The strategy will now be presented to the Somerset County Council Full Council meeting on 18th November for endorsement.

One Somerset: The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick, has written to all council leaders in Somerset inviting them to submit their business cases for Local Government Reform by 9 November 2020 with final supporting submissions to MHCLG by 9th December. It is then expected that the Secretary of State will make a decision in early summer 2021.

Somerset Youth Parliament: Somerset Youth Parliament and Somerset County Council are encouraging schools, colleges and youth projects across the county to have their say, make a difference and ensure young people's voices are heard on key issues. The online British Youth Council survey encourages all young people aged 11 to 18 years to vote on issues which are most important to them. These top issues will then be debated and voted on by elected Members of Youth Parliament, helping create the next UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) manifesto. Individuals, schools, clubs and youth projects are able to register and find out more online at www.byc.org.uk

Family Safeguarding: A new way to support children and families in Somerset has been launched with the aim of strengthening families to overcome their issues and thereby reducing the number of children needing to come into care. Somerset County Council, in partnership with The YOU Trust and the Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service (SDAS), has created the 'Family Safeguarding Team' – a new way of working that will transform how support is given to children and families in the county. A really helpful YouTube video has been created to explain the approach, which can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/u2WMICx8KTY>

Stepping Stone Placements: More homes are urgently needed in Somerset to provide vital support to young people as they move from care into adulthood. With more than 300 young care leavers in Somerset currently the demand for placements far outweighs availability. 'Stepping Stones' providers receive a weekly fee, starting at £185 per week, plus a little extra for food and utilities (up to £27.50) paid weekly by the young person from their allowance. Providers are also eligible for the same tax exemptions and relief as foster carers, but have much more flexibility to work full or part-time alongside their care role. If you have a spare room and would like to help, please visit www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk or call 0800 5879900

Mendip District Council

District Cllr Townsend and Ham circulated the following joint report:

Climate and ecological emergency – An Extraordinary meeting of Scrutiny was held on 19th October to review the County-wide Climate Emergency Policy. The Climate Emergency was declared by the previous Council in February 2019 and a great deal of work has gone into preparing a strategy but Members were unanimous in that it was long on hot air but short of action. Parish involvement will be encouraged. The Strategy was endorsed by Cabinet on 2nd November and approved by an Extraordinary meeting of Full Council on 9th November. The main criticism was repeated that it lacked clarity and urgency.

Planning - Natural England have advised that the level of phosphates in the protected parts of the Levels exceed the internationally agreed (Ramsar) levels. As a result all new planning applications for dwellings or expanded livestock provision are on hold if they would drain into the Levels.

Cllr Townsends examination of planning delays continues.

Cabinet 2nd November

A plan for Mendip District Council to provide 160 affordable houses with a target of 60 for social rent was presented. These would be on Mendip District Council owned sites. Mendip District Council's partner in the enterprise is Aster. The Easthill site in Frome opposite ASDA aroused considerable controversy because it is a greenfield site. Also there was concern that the choice of Aster did not necessarily represent best value for money so the decision has been Called In for review by the Scrutiny Board.

A fuel poverty and carbon emissions paper was presented. It was agreed that resource will be made available for a promotional campaign with targeted interventions aimed at residents on lower incomes and those at risk of fuel poverty living in poor housing.