

Parish Council of Coleford

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Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

Newsletter for January 2020

Planning

2019/2794/FUL – Use of Land to station holiday lodge and installation of sewage treatment plant. Edmunds Shipperidge, Stock Hill, Coleford.

Coleford Parish Council recommended that the application be approved.

2019/3016/FUL - The Eagle Inn Highbury Street, Coleford, Radstock, BA3 5NT. Change of Use and conversion of public house to 6 flats - Use Class (C3).

Coleford Parish Council recommended that application should be refused for the following reasons:

- Road safety for pedestrians and road users will be compromised with the influx of residential parking. It is also questioned whether there is sufficient parking spaces for the flats.
- It is believed that the applicant has not demonstrated that reasonable attempts to improve the viability have been undertaken as required by Local Plan DP17.

It was mentioned that if there was enough community support they could apply for the pub to be an asset of Community value. This would need to be done as an independent group rather than by the Parish Council although Cllr Ham could support and guide those interested in taking this action.



Decisions on Previous Planning Applications

Mendip District Council's decision date for the Gladman application was scheduled to be 25th December however Gladman requested an extension until 24th January. No reports have yet been submitted by Wessex Water or Somerset Highways which are being chased. A further update has been promised by 17th January.

Highways

- The junction of Charmborough Lane with Charlton Road will be marked up for the agreed safety improvements to be completed before March 2020.
- The request for cattle warning signs on Newbury Hill have been approved.
- The missing 'No Through Road' at Hippys Farm Lane will be replaced

Precept for 2020/21

After much discussion it has been agreed that the Precept for 2020/21 will be increased by 5% on last year making a total of £44,100. The increase is in part due to a large allocations of £5K for professional fees in case the Council is required to defend a large planning development, like Gladman's. The Parish Council is very aware that any increase is not good, but it believes that it is important to ensure that funds are available for this purpose.



It's worth noting that if the precept was to remain the same as last year, the charge on the Council tax for the Parish Council element to a Band D house would be £1.11 per week. For the 5% increase it would be £1.16 per week, which is 5p a week more.

Update on Coleford Parish Plan Questionnaire

Thank you to the 62 residents who took the time to complete the Parish Plan questionnaires. We are encouraged that there are lots of interesting and useful comments for consideration along with offers of help with the future plan.



Only those questionnaires with name and address information were included in the draw, as we proposed on the questionnaire. Each were numbered and those numbers were then placed into a bag. The Chairman pulled out number 24 which related to the form returned by Carol Harper who received the cheque for £100.

Cllr Conn is working on a full report of the information provided for review at the February meeting.

VE Day event planning

It is hoped that events will be held in Coleford to celebrate VE Day 75 over the weekend of the 8th, 9th & 10th of May 2020 but we need more volunteers. If you can help please come along to the next meetings on 31/1/20 and 19/2/20.

Date of Next Meetings:

Wed 22nd January 2020

Planning Meeting

Wed 12th February 2020

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, Chairman

Mendip District Council Report

District Cllr Townsend reported that activity has been low due to the election and the holiday however he was please to report that the Council has announced that Coleford charity, Time is Precious will be their Charity of the Year, which is great news.

Somerset County Council Report

County Cllr Ham explained that there has been much talk around the future shape of local government in the county. These include saving money, cutting waste and reducing duplication, ranging from councils simply working closer together to the abolition of all authorities and creation of one new unitary authority. The key findings are:

- All Councils working more closely together – a predicted saving of £10m - £32m
- Creating a single unitary authority – a predicted saving of £35 – £47m

Discussion will be ongoing for some time. The full report can be found at www.onesomerset.org.uk

County Cllr Ham also provided a briefing sheet which highlighted the following points:

- For those applying for their first school place the deadline for applications is the 15th January. Further details can be found at:
<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/apply-to-start-school/>
- Somerset's first Climate emergency strategy have been confirmed and will run by the Somerset Action Network (SCAN) on behalf of Somerset's 4 district councils and the County council. The strategy will identify ways for Somerset to work towards being carbon neutral by 2030 and adapt to predicted climate change impacts. The drop in events will be held 10am – 4pm as follows:
 - 18th January @ Taunton Library, TA1 3XZ
 - 8th February @ Bridgwater House, Bridgwater, TA6 3AR
 - 15th February @ Mendip DC offices, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BT
 - 22nd February @ Vicarage Street Methodist Church, Yeovil, BA20 1JB

This is open to residents, businesses, groups and anyone with an interest

- A Somerset team that provides advice, support and training to Governors, Clerks and Trustees in schools, colleges and other education providers has won a top award. SCC's Support Services for Education (SSE) triumphed over big budget, multi-nationals to win the prestigious Chartered Governance Institute Service Provider of the Year Award. SSE Governance delivers training as well as providing a helpline to governance boards. Topics range from inductions for new head teachers to safeguarding responsibilities.
- The List of support for grass roots projects for creative and imaginative grass roots dementia projects is growing. 4 new projects have started up which have benefited from SCC grant support, they are:
 - Age UK – Launching the first charity led Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST) project with 2 qualified Somerset practitioners offering therapy.
 - Take Art is setting up a 2 year programme of creative day time activities that provide dance and wordplay sessions to support people with memory loss or dementia and their carers.
 - Ark at Egwood based at Merriott provides land based activities as the therapeutic use of outside space and animals has been shown to help restore wellbeing, confidence and self-esteem with people of all ages.
 - The Find Your Voice Momentum projects will bring together people living with dementia and their carers and support them in music and movement group work across 39 ten week courses across Somerset.

Somerset CC is looking to invest more than half a million pounds in total to kick start and extend projects and groups that run day time activities for people with dementia and provide respite for their unpaid carers. This is on top of its major spend on support for people with dementia which includes around £3.5m in special residential care, £4.5m in nursing care, plus a portion of the £14m it spends every year on homecare.

- Shepton Mallet Library is set to keep its town centre location and be developed into a community hub as part of the regeneration of the Market Place. The decision includes an agreement which would allow the building to be open outside library hours to help develop its community role and accept significant contributions from the Town and Council and Glastonbury Festival founder Michael Eavis.
- Somerset residents looking for a New Year's resolution would be warmly welcomed to join the growing army of volunteers in the county. There are roles to suit everyone from supporting the local library to driving people to appointments or supporting the Duke of Edinburgh Award. All you need is a little bit of spare time, lots of enthusiasm and a 2020 vision to give something back to the community. Opportunities can be found at www.volunteering.somerset.gov.uk
- SCC is taking a trailblazing lead in the use of robot technology to help poorly children back into the classroom. In the biggest initiative of its kind in the country, the council has invested in 50 AVI robots to support children who can't be in school – whether it's because they are sick or overcoming physical or mental health challenges. The AVI robots take the place of the child in the classroom, letting them see, hear and contribute to lessons while they are out of school at home or in a hospital bed. School and colleges pay a rental fee that covers running costs with any profit being reinvested in more of the robots.