

Parish Council of Coleford

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Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

February Newsletter 2018

Planning Applications

2017/2091/FUL - Change of use from cattle yards to industrial units (retrospective). (Revised plans 03/11/17; additional info received 7, 15 and 23/01/18), Ash Farm, Charlton Road, Holcombe
Coleford Parish Council recommended approval

2018/3323/FUL - Proposed creation of BMX Pump Track.
Playing Field, Orchard Close, Coleford
Mendip District Council approved with conditions.

Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (external facing materials) 4 (external joinery) on planning consent 2017/0596/FUL
Hill Farm, Lipyeate, Coleford
Mendip District Council approved

Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (external facing materials) 4 (external joinery) on planning consent 2017/0597/LBC
Hill Farm, Lipyeate, Coleford
Mendip District Council approved



The Crossways Garage planning application will be heard by the Mendip District Council Planning board on the 21st February 2018.

The Mendip District Council enforcement team are seeking information that will lead to finding the owners of the dilapidated building located to the rear of the Kings Head public house. If you can help then please contact the Clerk on 01749 880428 or clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com who will pass the information on.

Licensing application

A Street Trading Pitch application had been received for a mobile Pizza van to attend the Kings Head, Underhill, Coleford, BA3 5LU on a Sunday and Monday evening.

The Parish Council responded stating that they have no objections, but with the proviso that litter and food waste is scrupulously managed in the interests of neighbour and neighbourhood amenity. It is understood that the applicant has a very good reputation.



Coleford Playing field

The Council have agreed for a contractor to make good the rutted ground which the badgers had damaged last year at the Coleford playing. It is hoped that the use of a flail mower with a roller behind will be sufficient to improve the ground to a state where it will again be fit for purpose.

Councillor Vacancies

The Council was sorry to receive the letter of resignation from John Fisher this month, but was grateful for the effort he has put in during his time with the Council. We wish him well for the future.

This now means that we have 3 vacancies! If you think you could spare some time each month and would like to find out a bit more about how you can make a difference to the Parish then please get in touch with the Clerk on 01749 880428 or email clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com

PCSO report

Mike Storey did not attend the meeting but provided the following report for Coleford during January:

- Criminal Damage - 2
- Non Dwelling Burglary - 5
- Theft from a vehicle - 1
- Anti-social behaviour - 5
- A nuisance vehicle was seized by the beat team within the village of Coleford on Thursday 01/02.

There were 19 logs created due to various calls from the village of Coleford. These calls cover numerous matters - ASB, road related, RTC, suspicious sightings, enquiries. There were 2 calls for ASB, Theft of a trailer.

Progress report on BMX Pump track

We are really pleased to announce that the Planning permission has been granted by Mendip District Council which means this project WILL happen!



We have also received additional donations of aggregate from local companies and received a grant of £1500 from the Avon and Somerset Police Community Action Fund which is great news.

The Contract has been agreed so once this is signed and the contractor is ready then the work will commence - How exciting!



Litter Pick

A litter pick has been arranged for Saturday the 10th March at 10am, meeting at the Highbury Playing field. Please come and help! There seems to be an awful lot of litter strewn across our village at the moment and the more people that turn up to help then the less time it will take and the cleaner the village will be.

Date of Next Meetings:

Tuesday 20th February 2018 Planning Meeting
Wednesday 14th March 2018 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

Please check out the website www.colefordsomerset.info

Philip Ham, Chairman

County Council and District Council Reports

Somerset County Council

County Cllr Ham reported that:

- The Budget is likely to be 5.99% i.e. 2.99% plus 3.00% for Adult Social care. Full Council will take place next week when this will be finalised.
- Small Improvements Schemes (Highways) - There is no update as yet on the Coleford schemes but they are still working through programmes. The work at Terry Hill cross roads is due to start at the end of March.
- The work the Task and Finish Group undertook on the County Farms has been received and terms agreed around the way forward. This could be via innovation centres, training education through colleges and universities. Small farms to be kept as starter units
- Somerset County Council is in a position to propose a balanced budget on the 21st of February but not yet finalised so detail is not agreed. An extra £2m was announced last week for Rural Councils which was gratefully received.
- The Ofsted report into SCC Children's services was published at the end of January. The report followed 2 inadequate ratings in 2013 and 2015 and represented a critical re-assessment of the services provided to the most vulnerable children in the County. The report found improvements across all areas of work and gave a rating of 'Requires Improvement to be good' with adoption services rated as 'Good'. Focused attention must keep up the pressure to ensure that improvement continues to ensure that a 'Good' rating is achieved at the next assessment and 'Outstanding' shortly afterwards.
- SCC have recently launched the biggest investment programme in education for generations with 24 new or replacement schools and 19 other major building projects to existing schools over the next few years. The £140 million of investment will be focused on Primary level but also includes secondary, nursery and early year's provision. The first major announcement will be a £9 million investment in Selworth Secondary school providing a large number of specialist placements for pupils with complex health issues.
- Library Consultation is now available for communities, businesses and individuals to participate. Drop in sessions are running across the network during the consultation period to enable information sharing. It's important that as many people as possible are encouraged to engage with the consultation as possible to provide comprehensive feedback from those who may be affected by any potential changes to the service. No decision will be taken until the results of the consultation have been fully analysed. The consultation runs until the 22nd April and further details can be found at <http://somersetlibraries.co.uk/consultation/>
- Somerset Road Safety Strategy - in 2017 22 people were killed in fatal collisions on the Counties roads and although it is the lowest annual total each death represents a personal tragedy. Analysis shows that of these collisions 60% involved cars, 19% motorbikes, 5% pedestrians, 11% HGV's and 5% agricultural vehicles. This illustrates that all road users need to consider how they can safely use the highway. The consultation on road safety runs until the 8th of March and can found at <http://www.somersetconsults.org.uk/consults.ti/system/home>

Mendip District Council

District Cllr Ham reported that

- Crossways Garage planning application will be heard by the Planning board on the 21st February 2018. Councillors were asked if anyone wished to attend the meeting to speak on behalf of the Parish Council but there were no volunteers. District Cllr Ham and District Cllr Townsend will both attend the meeting.
- Transformation has been a bit flat through January but is starting to pick up again now with around 7 schemes being pursued at present.
- There will be a total review of the markets.
- Public Space Protection Orders - at the recent Cabinet meeting it was agreed a 3 year order on Berkeley/Gypsy Lane closure. There is one objector who is threatening to take this to the High Court.
- Mendip District Council has a balanced budget with no cuts to service or redundancies. There will be a £5 rise per Band D house which equals 3.4% or 9p per week.
- The 5 Council Contract - the reviewed contract has now been signed with all 5 Councils agreeing the changes around copy shop, printing and licensing.

District Cllr Townsend reported:

- Scrutiny Board - The Board's programme of reviewing Strategies and Policies has proceeded with Members and Officers jointly reviewing the following Enforcement (Environmental) Policy - One specific area of interest is that Mendip's Parish Councillors may be given delegated powers to issue on the spot dog fouling penalties. This raises a number of issues, not least being training.
- Homelessness Strategy - Mendip have a very good record in this area, and the well-respected local centre on the Mendips featured recently on local TV. A key feature to be addressed is that the biggest single demand for housing in Mendip is for one bedroom properties - we await with interest the results from the Coleford Housing Needs Survey later this month.
- Coleford Housing Needs Survey - Mendip report that 195 questionnaires were returned, an 18% response rate which is considered to be really positive for this sort of survey.
- Planning Board - At last month's Board 4 of the 5 applications presented were resolved contrary to the Officer recommendation, showing the value of the Board.
- Planning Training - The two sessions held so far by Mendip have been well attended. These are an opportunity to meet the two main men, Ian Bowen and Sim Manley, who gave a very helpful review of what are and are not material planning considerations which Parish Councils should consider when making their recommendations. A final session is being held in Glastonbury Town Hall on 15th March at 6-30pm.