

Parish Council of Coleford

Miss V Watts
Clerk to the Council
Tel: 07971 516916
Email: clerk@colefordsomerset.org

Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

Newsletter for March 2017

Crime

Unfortunately there have been 2 burglaries during the last week. One from a workshop and the other from a new van which had been damaged and contents removed. Please be vigilant and keep your property safe. If you are a victim of crime then please remember to report the offence using the non-emergency number 101 or 999 if you require an emergency response team. Cllr Ham said that it had been reported that burglaries across Mendip had increased by 35%.



Sadly the village has also seen an increase in anti-social behaviour again. As mentioned before please ensure that ALL incidents are reported and a crime reference is sought. This is essential as it will help the Police to get a picture of what's going on in the village as well as having a direct result on the police presence the village receives.

Somerset County Councillor report

County Cllr Ham reported that:

- Of the £311 million budget there has been an over spend of £7 million.
- The Council tax was increased with 2% allocated for adult social care, 1.99% for general and 1.25% for Somerset rivers association.
- SCC are spending £100K a day in interest on loans taken out by the Liberal Democrats that cannot be paid back early and were at relatively high interest rates. There was no business plans in place and some still have nearly 40 years to run.
- Devolution is progressing slowly. Terms are difficult but Devon and Somerset are still working together. The bid is on the table at Central Government.
- Local Enterprise Partnership - 25 million has been awarded by Government and is the third award bring the total to approx. £80 million that our LEP has received.

Mendip District Councillor report

District Cllr Townsend reported that:

- From the £15 million budget there will be a slight underspend for the year.
- For 2017/18 there will be an increase of 1.99% to the Council tax.
- Mendip District Council handles £15 million a year but it also manages Housing Benefit on behalf of Central Government which equates to a further £28 million.
- At the Scrutiny meeting held on the 27th February the role of the committee was discussed along with its future roles. 87% of key performance indicators have been achieved.
- The Chief Executive of Mendip District Council agreed to a Peer Review Challenge from senior Council Officials and Local Government Association figures from outside our area... They came and questioned 150 members of staff examining roles and how members thought they were doing etc. Initial review was positive in particular the way they have reacted positively under new working arrangements to maintain services despite Government funding changes
- Stoke St Michael Parish Council have commissioned a traffic consultant to investigate options for traffic calming. He has proposed that a raised platform be situated at the centre to slow traffic. A consultation with parishioners will now take place.



District Cllr Ham reported that:

- There is a website which can help with any queries regarding business rate calculations. Google rates valuation agency and if you enter the postcode it will be able to give the rates.

- Shape Mendip Lottery has been launched. Coleford @ the Hub has registered and will receive 50% of the ticket price. Tickets can be purchased online www.shapemendiplottery.co.uk
- The closure of certain roads around Frome has saved approximately £80K in clearing fly tipping although an additional £20K has been spent on clearing other sites. The closures therefor have saved £60K. If you have any information regarding fly tipping please report directly to Mendip with number plates, names etc
- The changes in rules surrounding horse fly grazing will be considered by Cabinet at the next meeting.
- Mendip District Council have no disabled adult changing facilities in the district whereas Wiltshire has 14. The scheme "changing places" will provide safe and well equipped facilities including hoists particularly geared towards adults. There have be a couple of offers of locations in the area. Somerset County Council has agreed to help fun as a pilot.
- The March Frome Independent market was cancelled due to adverse weather. The next will be held on the 2nd of April.

Decisions on Previous Planning Applications

The following applications have been approved by MDC:



2016/3118/HSE - Mendip House, Coleford, BA3 5RR
Two storey oak framed extension
Approved with conditions

2016/1960/APP - Nathaniels Barton, The Barton, Coleford
Application of details reserved by condition 3.
Approved with conditions

Highbury Playing field

Contractors have been selected to replace the small post and rail fence around the car parking area and also to make the repair to the fencing surrounding the Under 9's playground. It is hoped that the work will be completed soon.

Progress report on BMX track

A site meeting will take place to consider an appropriate site and style of track, which will be best suited for the potential users of Coleford. Once this is agreed a designer will be instructed to draw up plans to be submitted to Mendip Planning department.



Memorial inspection training

There will be an inspection of the Coleford Cemetery when particular attention will paid to the condition of all memorials, ensuring that they are secure and pose no risk to the Cemetery users. The survey has to be undertaken every 5 years and any unsafe memorials will have to be made safe and marked with a notice. The next of kin will be contacted and asked to make the memorial safe. Lying the memorials flat will be a very last resort. If anyone has any concerns or would like to talk about the inspection then please contact the Clerk on 01749 880428.

Annual Meeting of the Parish - 25th of April

This annual event is a wonderful opportunity for the Parish clubs, groups and parishioners to get together to share information about what they have been up to during the last year. The meeting will be held on the 25th of April @ the Hub, Church Street and will start at 7pm. Refreshments will be served so please do come and join us!

Date of Next Meetings:

Tuesday 21 st March 2017	Planning Meeting
Wednesday 12 th April 2017	Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 25 th April 2017	Planning Meeting & Annual Meeting of the Parish

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 clerk@colefordsomerset.org

Please check out the NEW website www.colefordsomerset.org

Philip Ham, Chairman.