

Parish Council of Coleford

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th March 2016

Public Forum Period

1. Veryan Conn attended the meeting and introduced the “Walkers are welcome” scheme and explained that Frome Town Council has applied to become a “Walkers are Welcome” town which might open up opportunities also for Coleford.

As part of the WAW scheme towns offer excellent walking opportunities in their area and publish good quality information on the routes. Veryan explained that there are not many countryside footpaths within the Frome Town Council boundary so it is inevitable that the routes will inevitably extend into surrounding countryside. Given the quality of the environment and availability of footpaths local to the Coleford area should be a prime candidate.

The advantages for Coleford would be that the footpaths would be maintained, improved and well signposted so are likely to be prioritised and that the use of public transport is encouraged (eg buses out of Frome to get to and / or from good walking routes).

Walkers are Welcome have a website that gives information about not only walks but also local services the might be of interest including pubs, holiday accommodation etc so there can also be a boost to local economy by an unobtrusive form of tourism.

Veryan explained that Coleford may be a bit small to apply for accreditation in its own right but it should express an interest in hosting some walking routes in the proposed WAW Frome Scheme. Veryan offered to help in any way that she can to support this scheme.

It was agreed that Coleford Parish Council felt that this was something that they would like to get involved with and that the Clerk would contact Frome Town Council to express an interest. VW

2. Mr Neil of 4 Rose and Crown cottages asked what was happening about the drainage issues experienced at the parking area to the rear of Rose and Crown cottages. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Councils stance had not changed since the meeting with Mr Julian Haines of Mendip District Council, which was held back in December. The Clerk agreed to forward the email correspondence sent to Hannah Ongarro on the subject. If there were other points that Mr Neil wished to raise then that should be done in the first instance in writing. VW

3. There was a report that the entrance to rear of 2 Mendip Vale has been blocked between no 1 & 5 Mendip Vale and CCTV has also been installed. Councillors were asked to review the access ready for discussion at the next meeting. Agenda item for next meeting.

Ag

Present

Cllr P Ham (Chairman Presiding)

Cllrs Banks, Conn, Evans, Fisher, Foot, Gurd, Horler, Littlechild, Neesam, Townsend, and no members of the public.

1 Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

Cllr Turner and Talbot had sent apologies.

2 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations

There were none.

3 Reports

3.1 PCSO

PCSO Mike Storey did not attend but sent a report as follows:

Neighbourhood statistics / recorded crime for February were:

- Criminal Damage – 4
- Dwelling Burglary – 2
- Non Dwelling Burglary – 0
- Theft from a vehicle – 5
- Theft of a vehicle – 1
- Anti-social behaviour – 3

There has been a rise in thefts of land rovers in recent months in the rural areas. Many are stolen for parts others are stolen to order and exported. This may increase again now the defender has been discontinued. Owners are advised to take steps to protect their vehicles. People are asked to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious on 999 Emergency or 101 non-emergencies.

The next PACT meeting will be held on Friday 6th May at 7:30pm at Nunney, Dallimore Mead hall.

- Current PACT priorities:
- Anti-social behaviour within our rural villages
- Speeding through the villages
- Inconsiderate parking

These priorities can be seen on the Frome Rural North Beat pages on the force website - www.avonandsomerset.police.uk clicking onto your area. The Beat team contact details are:

Beat manager – PC 2783 Greg Power, Gregory.power@avonandsomerset.police.uk
Mobile – 07889659218

PCSO 8755 Mike Storey, Michael.storey@avonandsomerset.police.uk mobile – 07889655371

Beat surgeries continue monthly –

- Coleford Saturday 12th March 9:30 – 10:30 at the Community Hub.
- Rode Post Office – 12th March 11:00 – 12:00.
- Standerwick Mole Valley Farmers – 23rd March 11:00 – 12:00.

The Clerk to ask the PCSO if it was possible to receive follow up figures on conviction rate and also for him to investigate the smashed glass around the Eagle Inn. The Clerk will also write to the landlord.

VW
VW

3.2 County Council report

County Cllr Ham reported that the budget was agreed as per last months' report. Government have found 2.9million which has really helped. It transpires that Somerset County Council receives from Central Government the 2nd lowest amount paid per person in the Country which is being challenged.

Hinkley Point back on again today.

Somerset County Councils vision for 2016/20 has just been published and will be passed around to all Councillors for perusal along with the Devolution bid and the Future ICG strategy.

On the 1st March Scrutiny considered the supply for SAP (coordinate software).

3.3 District Council report

District Cllr Townsend reported that:

17/02/16 – at the recent Planning meeting the application for a Premier Inn on the site opposite Morrison's supermarket, Wells was approved. The application for the village shop at Kilmersdon was also approved.

19/02/16 – Cllr Townsend visited Wyke Farm to see the anaerobic digesters. It's a carbon neutral set up and very impressive.

25/02/16 – Safeguarding vulnerable people training and Mendip Full Council meeting where they discussed:

1. Setting of Mendip Council tax which resulted in an increase of 1.76% which was the first in 6 years.
2. Request for short term loan for Shepton Town Council as they are £40K short. MDC have agreed to help which will be claimed back from precept in April on the proviso that Shepton Town Council has its finances audited to ensure sufficient budgeting is in place.

03/03/16 – Tracy Aarons Built environment has invited District Cllr Townsend to join the Letting Agency which looks after the lower end of the Letting market in Shepton Mallet and Glastonbury. It is a community interest company and is a not for profit organisation.

07/03/16 - MDC Cabinet Meeting

District Cllr Ham reported that:

- Keyrings are now available advertising On the Map in Coleford.
- Shepton Mallet Town Council – SW Audit partnership have completed the audit.
- Work continues to prevent fly tipping.

- “Clean for Queen” seems to have been a success with 2 Saturday sessions taking place in Coleford.
- It is 1 year since the elections at Mendip District Council. Reorganisation are expected.
- There has been some problem turning land charges around in a timely manner. Extra staff have been recruited to help get back on track and manage the additional workload which has resulted from the changes in stamp duty due to take effect in April.
- Wells Leisure Centre is now open and the Frome Centre is hoping to be open for Easter – pending inspection.
- EU referendum election falls the same week as Glastonbury which could cause staffing issues. Leave has been cancelled and it is hoped that the local villages will take up the option of postal votes but this cannot be enforced.
- Police & commissioner elections will take place on the 05/05/16.
- Citizens Advice Bureau report shows that funds are down by £98K so have had to lay off 3 members of staff and have also restructured.
- Frome independent market hopefully will be open for April.
- There were many reports given at Cabinet on 07/03/16 which will be circulated to all Councillors.

3.4 Councillors – details of meetings attended this month

County Cllr Ham attended the following meetings for Somerset County Council:

17-02 Full Council

01-03 Scrutiny

District Cllr Ham attended the following meetings for Mendip District Council:

11-02 transformation meeting

15-02 Mendips Query advisory

16-02 Leigh on Mendip PC

16-02 Fly tipping

16-02 Moorlands site

19-02 Frome Independent market

22-02 Scrutiny MDC

25-02 Full Council

27-02 Clean for the Queen

29-02 Cabinet / CMT

03-03 Core Service management

03-03 Portfolio meeting for Transformation

07-03 Cabinet

07-03 Fly tipping meeting

District Cllr Townsend attended the following meetings:

15-02 Mendip Quarry Liaison, chaired by James Heappey

15-02 Leigh on Mendip Parish Council

17-02 Mendip Planning Board

19-02 MDC Councillors visit to Wyke Farms

22-02 MDC Scrutiny Board

25-02 MDC Training - Safeguarding

25-02 MDC Full Council

27-02 Queen for the Clean

01-03 Holcombe Parish Council

03-03 MDC meeting re KeyRing Letting Agency

05-03 Clean for the Queen
07-03 MDC Cabinet Meeting

Cllr Ham attended the following meetings for Parish Council:

16-02 Playing fields
22-02 Youth Club Fire emergency check at the Hub
24-02 Hub meeting

4 Planning Applications

4.1 Decisions on Previous Applications

2014/0501/OTS - Proposed new dwelling house in the grounds of 1 Anchor Rd, Coleford to include the creation of new access
Application withdrawn.

2015/2863/LBC – Hill House Fam, Lipyeate,
To be considered at the Planning board meeting on 16/03/16.

4.2 Complaints received by the Planning Enforcement Team, Mendip District Council

There were no new updates from Mendip District Council.

The Building Control team had been asked if the chimney recently fitted on the house adjacent to the Kings Head is at the permitted height. They have said that contact needs to be made directly with the approved inspector. It was noted that this chimney was not included on the original plans which will be highlighted to Tracy Aarons.

4.3 Update on the Motion of No Confidence – Enforcement contact and team

It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a letter in response to the report given by Mendip District Council prior to the last meeting along. Cllr Townsend to draft a list of current enforcement cases. VW AT

4.4 Present Applications

There were none

5 Approval of the Minutes for Parish Council Meeting on 10th & 23rd February 2016

5.1 The minutes for the Parish Council meetings held on the 10th and 23rd February 2016 had been circulated to all Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. It was agreed by those present that they reflected accurately the meeting so the Chair then duly signed the minutes.

Vote:11 For, 0 Against; 0 Abstained

The Clerk to forward a copy of the approved minutes for uploading to the website. VW

5.2 Matters Arising from the meetings held on 10th and 23rd February 2016

All matters arising from the minutes were completed or will be mentioned later in the minutes under the appropriate agenda item apart from:

Cllr Gurd will liaise with the church and organise a working party to cut back the cemetery hedge and seek an appropriate place to burn the waste. TG

The Clerk to chase up Somerset County Council to ensure that the grass will be cut at Underhill VW

Highway and Footpath Issues

6.1 Lead Councillor Townsend reported as follows:

Church St Parking – Several visits have been made to the site in question but there has been no dangerous parking to record on camera. All Councillors are asked to be vigilant and take photos when appropriate to help support claims. ALL

Farley Dell Footpath - The left hand side completed, Highways advised that the right hand side is still budgeted and will be confirmed when the programme has been agreed.

Flooding - all issues raised by Councillors at 10th February Meeting were reported to Highways. The response was:

- "I have asked our Area Superintendent to look at the areas you have kindly identified when he is next in the area.
 - The gully emptying cycle is carried out on a risk-based approach, whereby gullies are emptied more frequently in areas where there is a risk of flooding; this is designed to allow flexibility to respond to need. The planned maintenance programme is as follows:
 - Flood Susceptible Areas - Once a year
 - Non Flood Susceptible, Rural areas - Once every two years Non Flood Susceptible, Urban areas - Once every four years.
 - I can confirm that the majority of areas you have mentioned are on our planned maintenance programme for 2016"
- Charnborough Lane Missing Reflectors - reported to Highways and now replaced.
 - Lay by opposite Post Office - 3 potholes repaired
 - Potholes at Tweed and Hippy's Farm - reported to Highways. Update from Cllr Horler suggests action inadequate.
 - No 1 Crossways - blocked drain reported to Highways and action appears to be in progress.
 - Anchor Rd / Highbury St resurfacing - to be discussed with Highways at next meeting.
 - Vobster - pothole by manhole cover at junction by Vobster Inn reported and actioned.
 - Holcombe - south of Duke of Cumberland - flooding and ice hazard reported to Highways. Ice warning signs have been placed and Highways confirm "The site is on our drainage improvement programme for this financial year".

Additional items to be reported-

1. Pothole/edge erosion at Stockhill just before Edmunds Shipperage entrance AT
2. Mells, Holes Lane, two new potholes growing.
3. Mackintosh View - propose that we request Mendip to add to the Goodeaves Close sign the words "Leading to Mackintosh View" - otherwise there is no indication of its existence from Highbury Street! Clerk to write request. VW
4. Goodeaves Footpath - Wyn Bevan at Aster has confirmed that the highway and footpath are not adopted, but the design and implementation of the whole works including the dangerous high pavement were agreed and accepted by Somerset Highways. Charlie Higgins from SCC Highways has been asked for his comments.

6.2 Outstanding issues

Cllr Horler reported that the potholes outside Tweed Farm have grown very large and the one outside Pinkacre on Doors Hill has not been filled although now big enough. The ones by Tweed Farm had been painted red but since all the flooding it has been washed off

Road erosion by Edmund Shipperage on way to Vobster

Erosion around the drain cover on Holes Lane, Mells (recently repaired) along with some pot holes which need attention

6.3 Items reported by Councillors

It was reported that there is a wall which is in a poor condition on Springers Hill after the last house on left but before stile. There is a concern that if it fell it could block the road. Clerk to write to owner to ask if they can look at securing the wall.

VW

Fly tipping one Bennet's Hill both sides of the road – Clerk to notify Mendip District.

VW

6.4 Update of Footpath Warden

Clerk to arrange meeting with the 2 new volunteers and Mr Russell Stanley to give handover and advice re the Northern footpaths.

VW

7 Finance

7.1 Review of Sub-Committee Expenditure 2015/2016

The report remains unchanged since last month. Continue to monitor.

7.2 Internal Audit Arrangements for 2017

The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken with Neil Smith who confirmed that he was happy to undertake the internal audit for this year. All Councillors agreed that Mr Smith should be instructed for this year.

Vote taken: 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained

7.3 Accounts Approved for Payment

The Clerk read through the proposed payments which were all agreed.

Clerk Expenses – February	£17.90
EDF Energy – Changing rooms	£85.16
Colin Turner – weed killer sprayer	£9.99

Invoices were checked for payment by the Cllr Ham, Cllr Horler and Cllr Townsend

Vote taken: 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained

8 Environment committee Lead by Councillor Report – Keith Evans

Cllr Evans reported:

1. Want to move concrete pipes to plant spring flowers to create a summer display. The pipe is currently in Lower Coleford play area and Cllr Evans would like to relocate the pipe to go between Highbury Street and phone kiosk at Careys Mead which will also prevent lorries from driving on the grass. Cllr Ham to arrange.
2. The Clerk to ask for permission to paint phone box

PH

VW

8.1 Discuss & agree complaint received re Careys Mead to Church St Footpath and flower beds at Highbury car park

A complaint has been received regarding the footpath between Church Street and Careys Mead. Cllr Evans has inspected the path but cannot see what the problem is. The Clerk will ask for clarification. The condition of the flower bed was also raised as a concern – Clerk to pass on the complaint to Landscape group.

VW

VW

8.2 Clean for the Queen Update

The two litter picks had received a poor turnout considering the size of the village but nonetheless a good job was done with the volunteers that did attended. It was suggested that CAFC should help with litter pick as the litter was very bad behind the goal mouth. This will be raised at the next Playing Field meeting.

CT

8.3 Grass cutting contract placement

The Clerk has written to the successful candidate Mr S Hill asking for him to sign the contract and return for our records.

9 Playing Fields update by Lead Councillor Turner

Cllr Turner had sent his apologies but provided the following report:

a).Mrs Webb is unable to trace the playing field keys that were held by her late husband.

b).The review of hardcourt and changing room charges is underway but John Hansford has been unable to make any of the meeting dates that I have so far suggested to him. He was unaware of the additional usage of the hardcourt and floodlights and has replied saying that CAFC have been replenishing the rebound boards on the hardcourt whilst allowing younger lads to have a kick about at the same time. Councillor Gurd has carried out a further inspection of the site but does not believe that much repair work has been done. Councillor Littlechild has been asked to monitor future usage and keep a diary on same.

c).We await the 'Bags of Help' organisers result on the voting at Tesco Stores.

d).Councillor Gurd has very kindly taken on the temporary role to undertake Play Area inspections.

e).Tony Cross has returned to me the keys for letting down the bollards at Beacon View and these will be passed to our new grass cutting contractor.

9.1 Review hard court and changing room charges

Adjourn until the next meeting

9.2 Update on the Tesco's bags of help award

Currently standing in 3rd place at the moment. It was agreed that the Clerk would highlight that address mentioned in store for our application is in the Forest of Dean, which we believe would have an impact on how local people vote/

VW

9.3 Report on play area inspections and agree action if required

Everything currently ok. It is hoped that once funding has been secured the installation of new equipment should take place at the earliest opportunity.

- 10 Youth Club**
 There are now about 23 youths attending each week with 2 full time members of staff and 1 volunteer. It costs £7K a year to run and £5250 of funding from Somerset County Council has already been secured for the next financial year. Long term funding needs to be found. AT/VW
 The zero tolerance on bad behaviour has helped inside the club but there are issues when youths leave the premises where staff are unable to respond. It has been noted that behind the hall lots of nitrous oxide canisters have been found. PCSO has said that he will include on his patrols and keep an eye on what's going on.
- The Clerk read out the quote received from Barnardo's for hosting the Play Ranger sessions for a 10 week period over the summer. It was noted that the budget had included the initial 10 weeks but it was agreed that the Clerk would pursue grants as a way of funding any additional sessions. VW
- 11 Hub Update**
 Everything is progressing well. The store room needs to be sorted but the office is coming on well. A grant of £2750 has been received from District Cllr Hams Health and Well Being grant. All of the clubs seem to be doing very well.
- Toolkit and Rural Communities Tackling Rural Isolation and Developing Community Based Services has been drafted which has used Coleford as an example highlighting how it set up the Hub.
- The minutes from future meetings are to be sent to all Councillors. TG
- 12 Correspondence – Items for Consideration and / or Decision to be Taken**
 Play rangers quote – Clerk to seek funding opportunities to help support the scheme. VW
 Coleford Revival group – request for funding. Clerk to notify Mr Hamblin that the small grants are allocated annually in November. VW
- 13 Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman's Discretion**
 Queens 90th Birthday Beacons planned for 21/04/16. We have brambles to burn – shall we make it a social event? Cllr Conn to liaise with Jane Mense and ascertain if she would be interested in getting involved. If not this maybe something that the CRG would like to take on. Agenda for planning meeting. AC
 Ag
- 14 Date of Next Meetings:**
 Tuesday 22nd March 2016 Planning Meeting
 Wednesday 13th April 2016 Parish Council Meeting