

# Parish Council of Coleford

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## Newsletter for March 2019

### Highways

Last month the Chairman and District Councillor met with representatives from Somerset Highways to discuss the safety concerns outside the Co-op around the junction with Church Street. Somerset Highways have agreed to explore the options of double yellow lines outside the Co-op and at the top of Church Street and also introduce a 20mph limit. A consultation process has commenced by the Highways team and if agreed it would be a minimum of 2 months before any scheme would be implemented.



It had been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that the rails at the start and end of the footpath leading from Church Street to Beacon View are too narrow for wheelchair access and the new modern pushchairs. It was noted that if this footpath was more accessible it would give a direct route for pedestrians to the primary school, which would be a safer route.

### Litter Champions



Are you fed up with the litter in the village? If so then please come along to support the annual litter pick which is taking place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March meeting at 10am at Highbury playing field. Come along and help make Coleford a cleaner village.

The Parish Council is looking at ways of providing litter picking equipment in strategic places around the village to enable parishioners to complete mini litter picks as and when they have some spare time. Look out for further information on this in the near future.

### Police Report:

PCSO Michael Storey did not attend but provided a report which highlighted that there had been 16 service calls received for Coleford during January. The following crimes were reported as follows:

Burglaries – 0  
Non – Dwelling Burglaries – 0  
Criminal Damage – 1  
Theft from a motor vehicle - 0  
Theft of a motor vehicle - 0  
ASB – 0



### Update on the Elections 2019 and the Annual meeting of the Parish

The Annual meeting of the Parish is scheduled to take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> April but Somerset Association of Local Councils have advised that this meeting should not take place during purdah which (24<sup>th</sup> March and the 2<sup>nd</sup> May). The meeting will therefore be postponed to take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May. This meeting is an opportunity for the village groups and clubs to come together and give an update on what they have been up to over the last year. Light refreshments will be provided.

Nomination packs are now available for anyone wishing to stand as a Parish or District Councillor. If you would like more information about the role of the Councillor then please do contact the Clerk on [clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com](mailto:clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com) Nominations papers are to be submitted by hand to Mendip District Council before the deadline of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.

The Annual meeting of the Parish Council will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> May, this will be when the new Councillors will take office and the Chairman elected.

### **Parish Cemetery rules**

The Council has reviewed and amended the Cemetery rules, which now states that NO grave boundaries will be allowed in any materials from this point in time. May I remind you that all headstones and inscription must be referred to the Parish Council for approval prior to installation. The Cemetery rules are available from the parish website.

### **Date of Next Meetings:**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Planning Meeting

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 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](mailto:clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com) Check out the website [www.colefordsomerset.info](http://www.colefordsomerset.info)**

*Philip Ham, Chairman*

## **County and District Council Report for Coleford and Holcombe**

### **Somerset County Council**

Cllr Ham reported that:

Council Tax - This has been agreed at 2.99% plus 1.00% increase to cover Adult and social care to total 3.99%.

Somerset Rivers Authority - There is a bill going through parliament to become a precept body. The bill is under David Warburton MP for Frome and Somerton.

Climate Change Emergency – A motion has been passed by Full Council with SCC putting £25K into a fund to look into how the Council could improve its carbon footprint. A Scrutiny Task and Finish group is being set up to take this forward. District Councils are also passing the same motion with Mendip District Council putting £100k forward for officers to work with members to bring forward ideas to help the situation.

Budget – A full balanced budget for 2019/20 has been voted through Full Council which includes building reserves back up to around 15 million.

Halecombe Quarry – The planning permission 106 agreement has now been agreed with 2p in every ton leaving the quarry being paid into a Community fund. The parishes of Coleford, Mells, Whatley and Leigh-on-Mendip will be able to apply annually for grants from this fund.

### **District Council Report**

District Cllr Townsend reported as follows:

14<sup>th</sup> February – Mendip Country Practice Patients Participation Group

- Winter footfall some 50% higher than last year, probably due to Mendip Flu
- Very few complaints about the new telephone triage system

#### 20<sup>th</sup> February – MDC Planning Board

- Wookey development of 9 houses approved
- Launcherly near Wells, wedding events operation approved

#### 25<sup>th</sup> February – MDC Full Council

- Leader update on the last 4 years, including maintaining services in challenging times, promoting local economic growth e.g. Charlie Bigham and Wild Beer, supporting Youth Services and the CAB, protecting Mendip's interests in the Local Authority reorganisation debate.
- Climate Emergency Motion – emotional public speakers, anything from glyphosate to packaging to rising sea levels to crop failures were mentioned, agreement that something practical should be done, funding allocated to examine, including the implications of “carbon neutral” including the contribution of Hinkley B and C above
- Council Tax, formally agreed the £5 (3.26%) increase for Mendip. Levels of services will be maintained despite the complete removal of the Central Government Rate Support Grant as a result of the Council's efficiency measures and commercial operations.

#### 28<sup>th</sup> February – Parish Forum

- The nomination period for Councillors for the May elections opens on 19/03 and closes on 03/04
- New levels of Planning Training are proposed
- Are we interested on being on the SRA Flood Network?
- Brexit – limited impact expected at local council level, a Local Resilience Forum has been set up
- Better attended with c30 there

#### 12<sup>th</sup> March – KeyRing Lettings Director's Meeting

- Two additional properties let
- A challenging large family in Frome successfully rehoused

District Cllr Ham reported that:

Saxonvale – The 2<sup>nd</sup> consultation has taken place and a masterplan has been signed off as a step in the sale and overage agreement with the developers. Outline planning permission application will be submitted in April. A huge interest in the commercial element and enquiries being dealt with. £70 million pound build to which hopefully Frome and Mendip will be proud of.

Feasibility Funding – A sum of £380K has been agreed to include improvements to infrastructure as follows:

- Glastonbury (Chickwell Street) bypass
- Walton Ashcott bypass
- Shepton Parkview railway – to link Cranmore Merehead to Frome, Westbury, London. James Heaphy spoken on this topic in the House of Commons this week.

Shape Mendip Community Lottery Awards – There were 36 applications received and 22 winners, each collecting £500 and a certificate. Winners included:

- Coleford @ the Hub
- Holcombe Gala
- Stoke Music Festival
- Cranmore Village Hall roof repairs

The Lottery has raised around £30K towards community funding to date. It is hoped that with this first round of funding other community groups will support the lottery. Information can be found online on how to sign up and buy tickets where you can support the Coleford Hub.