

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter for September 2018

Truespeed



Mr Tony Najdoski attended to introduce Truespeed which is a local company supplying ultrafast broadband independent of BT. He explained that it is an uncontested and resilient service offering 200mb or your money back. An agreement is in place with Western Power to use their posts so there is no disruption caused due to digging up roads. The technology can easily cope with up to 10gig in the future.

Truespeed are currently promoting their service in neighbouring villages and are seeking the commitment of 30% of the parish before being able to go ahead with installation. They have already met the required level for Stoke St Michael, Oakhill and Chilcompton. The cost of the service is £47.50 including VAT which also provides a phone line. The first 30% of people signing up in each village can benefit from free installation, which is normally £120. The minimum contract is 18 month. Once the required take up is met, Truespeed are offering free broadband for life for Village Halls, Community Hubs or Village Schools.

Tony Najdoski explained that various events will be held throughout the village to raise awareness and seek the 30% take up and he encouraged residents to attend to find out more about the service.

New Councillor

Coleford Parish Council is pleased to welcome Mr Matthew Allen as our latest Parish Councillor who was co-opted at the September meeting. We now have a full team of 13 Councillors which is great news.

Proposed yellow lines on Anchor Road for the new Co-op

Somerset County Council has given notice that it proposes to install prohibition and restrictions of stopping, waiting, loading, unloading and on street parking between the hours of 7am to 10am and 3pm to 6pm from Monday to Sunday at Anchor Road, Coleford. Notices have been placed on posts in the vicinity, which includes an address of who to write to if you wish to make comment. The Consultation has been extended to the 7th October 2018.



It was mentioned that in the past the Council had asked the Highways team if parking could be restricted at the cross roads outside of the existing co-op and the response had been that there is not sufficient means to enforce it and therefore is not worth doing.

A response will be sent stating that the Council objected to the restricted parking. During the planning process the Parish Council had highlighted that the access to the site for unloading would be tight and that the plans could have been amended to address the problem. This was not done, which has now resulted on the problem being pushed out on to the road.

Roman Way Play Area



A draft plan and quote had been supplied by Big Wood Play Installations to improve the Roman Way play area, which now needs consideration.

The first step towards the improvements would be to remove the old safety surface which is in the center of the play area and either reseed or re turf the area. Quotes will be sought to have this completed ready for discussion at the next meeting.

Highways

Cllr Townsend raised the following points with the SCC Highways representative:

- Issue of signage 1) at Soho – poor visibility at junction, and 2) Dark Lane – cattle crossing. Signage will be covered by Chris Betty's replacement who's name who'd be passed on to Cllr Townsend.
- Temporary 20 mph signs – Requested their removal.
- Co-op footpath – Area has already been marked up for access to lower the kerbs to make it more wheelchair friendly and to repair the footpath across the entrance next door.
- Church St to Careys Mead pavement – noted that the surface was deteriorating and to be kept under observation
- Anchor Rd, pothole between RBL and old Post Office – this is a Wessex Water cover which has sunk and not been properly repaired. Highways department to pursue.
- Church St – Parishioners were pleased with the resurfacing work. It has been confirmed that the edge work will be completed shortly.
- Charmborough Lane – the prep work and surface dressing had been well received. One defect had been commented on by residents as it is on one's nearside wheel track – going north beyond Hill Farm, down the dip up the rise and as the road bears left there is a pothole opposite the public footpath sign. Inspection requested.
- Brewery Lane – surface defects at the junction with Anchor Rd, and also at the left bend entering Holcombe. Both already marked up for repair, and the triangular covers noted at an earlier meeting had been repaired.
- Charity Lane and Hoare's Lane – Surface dressing has been moved from the 2018/19 programme.
- Common Lane – Low hanging branches were accessed. Flint House will be requested to complete some trimming back.



It is expected that we will see a decline in the amount of highway repairs undertaken due to the financial cuts at SCC.

Finger post signs

The Luckington Cross sign post has been renovated and an invoice submitted for payment. It was agreed that during the 2nd phase of finger post renovations that the posts at Ham Cross, the junction of Church Street with High Street and Newbury Lane would be addressed. Quotes to be sought.

Report on the Cemetery Memorial testing

The Memorial testing to ensure that the headstones do not pose a risk to anyone visiting the Cemetery had been completed. There were only a few headstones that had a very small amount of movement, none of which posed a risk to visitors. The next of kin would be notified that the stability of the headstone could be improved.

Play area reimbursement of the Clerk for weekly play area inspections

Since a volunteer standing down the Clerk has been completing the weekly play area inspections on top of her contracted role during the last year without reimbursement. This is a requirement by the Councils insurance company. Cllr Conn and Townsend had put together a report and recommendations which were considered by the Council. A vote was taken which was unanimously in favour of the clerks contract being adjusted to include the new role and be paid for the additional weekly task.

The Post Office

The Post Office is now open at the Hub, Church Street on Mondays from 2pm til 4pm and on Wednesday from 9am to 11am. Please spread the word and encourage residents to support the service.



Date of Next Meetings:

Wednesday 26th September 2018

Planning Meeting

Wednesday 10th October 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 Check out the website www.colefordsomerset.info

Philip Ham, Chairman

Mendip District Council and Somerset County Council Reports for Holcombe & Coleford

Mendip District Council Report

District Cllr Ham reported that Mendip District Council has purchased the Saxonvale site in Frome. There have been many meetings to discuss how the area might be transformed in the future and once plans are agreed they will be circulated.

Two new assets have been secured, one in Frome and the other in Truro, which will help to bring in revenue over the coming years.

The decision on the Moorland Gypsy and Travellers case is expected tomorrow (13/09/18).

District Cllr Townsend reported as follows:

MDC Planning Board 15-8-18. An application for 8 new houses in Faulkland was approved after much debate about the mix of sizes, mainly 4 and 5 bedrooms. This emphasised the need for a Housing Needs Survey as we have recently carried out in Coleford. Also a modern porch was approved on a Listed building in Butleigh which the Board considered had the benefit of helping to preserve the building.

MDC Licensing Board 10-9-18. The Board was convened to review charges for the licensing activities with the new Animal Keeping/Breeding legislation which becomes effective from 1-10-18. The proposed charges will be cost neutral to the Council. The Mendip Licensing Team will be pleased to provide guidance on the new Licensing requirements.

Mendip Country Practice Patient Participation Group 30-8-18. Main points were:

- Mendip Country Practice (MCP) is fully staffed with 3 new Registrar trainees, and 1 head lost through natural wastage which meant no need for any redundancy because of the new pharmacy
- Cllr Townsend lodged the Parish Council's displeasure about the role of the new pharmacy. Dr Jennings explained the history and legal framework and the legal lengths MCP had gone through to try prevent it happening
- The new telephone filtering system appeared to be working well
- The 2018 national patient satisfaction survey showed of the 7109 Practices in England, Frome was rated 6079th, MCP 1062nd, Wells 1033rd and Oakhill 153rd (benefitting from its small size)

Cllr Townsend asked what would happen should the new pharmacy fail. The response is that MCP would be given the opportunity to apply for dispensing rights. They have been informed that such application would be successful, though timescales are unknown.

Somerset County Council Report

County Cllr Ham reported that a 114 notice will be issued unless drastic cuts are made immediately. A very difficult meeting was held where they discuss where the savings were going to be made.