

# Parish Council of Coleford

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In line with government guidance and recommended social distancing and self-isolation rules for those who are vulnerable, it was agreed that this meeting would be conducted as a virtual meeting using Zoom video technology.

## Minutes of the Parish Council Virtual Meeting held on Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### 1. Present

Cllr Ham (Chairman presiding) Cllrs Allen (Part), Banks, Barrett, Conn, Evans, Hanney (Part), Pearce, Talbot, and Turner. 4 members of the public attended.

### 1. Public Forum

There were no points raised.

### 2. Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

Cllrs Drescher and Townsend both sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

### 3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

There were none.

### 4. Presentation

#### By Nicky Edwards on the work of the Community Agent

Nicky explained that in March she took up the role of Village Agent with the Community Council for Somerset. The role of the Village agent is able to provide support for individuals as well as organisations, buildings like village hall committees.

*Cllr Hanney arrived 19.10hrs*

The agent acts as a first point of contact and will sign post to other support agencies, help with completing applications forms and connect people to hopefully help resolve the issue. They also run Talking Cafes.

The Community Council for Somerset also have:

Community Agents work with people following a referral from Adult Social Care. They cannot be contacted directly without a referral.

- They offer free, confidential practical support and refer or signpost to relevant agencies and service providers
- They explore a holistic range of solutions and support for people and develop a package to help the individual
- They can find, apply for and secure grant funds for individuals to help meet a wide range of issues

Homefirst Agents can support you or a loved one's transition home from hospital

- From health and housing to finance and transport – advice and support is here for you
- Our Homefirst Agents host weekly Talking Cafes within Musgrove Park Hospital and Yeovil District Hospital.
- These are friendly & informal
- NHS staff who would like to discuss discharge options & support available for their patients are welcome to attend

Macmillan Agents can help you access practical, financial and emotional support within your local community, tailored to when you and your family need it. Examples of how the Macmillan Agent can help are with:

- Transport
- Benefits guidance
- Practical help
- Emotional support
- She can also put you in touch with a team of dedicated volunteers who offer help with practical household tasks and someone to talk to.

Nicky explained that the good neighbour and car scheme are currently being rolled out across the area, including in Coleford.

It was asked whether the Village Agent overlapped with the citizen advice service. Nicky explained that it didn't but they would refer people to their service for professional guidance on certain matters.

Nicky is using On the Map, the village notice boards and Facebook pages as well as the Community Council for Somerset website and the Doctors surgery to advertise the service. The Community Council for Somerset is funded by various sources.

The Clerk asked Nicky to provide some literature about the Village agent for publishing on the Parish website.

The Chair thanked Nicky for giving the presentation which outlined the service and how she is able to help within the parish.

*Action: Clerk to update the Council website with information about the Village Agent.*

## **5. Planning Application**

2020/2157/FUL - Meadow View Farm, Charlton Road, Holcombe, Radstock

Erection of agricultural building for storage of hay, straw and machinery and part lambing shed.

The applicant attended the meeting and explained that livestock is not allowed to be kept at the same site as the rural business park which is why Meadow View Farm has been created. There is already a large shed in use which is accessible via a purpose built, independent entrance, which joins Charlton Road. The applicant explained that the new agricultural building would be used to store hay, straw and machinery which is currently being stored outside. More indoor space is required for lambing as it is not possible to lamb outside due to the inclement weather and the number of crows which can peck causing injury or even death.

Discussion took place between Councillors when it was noted that the visual impact of the new building would not be too great as it was some way off the road and would sit against the existing shed.

Cllr Evans asked how many breeding cattle were already on site. The applicant confirmed that there were currently approximately 100 and this could increase by 50% with breeding.

Cllr Banks proposed that the application be approved but with an agricultural tie to ensure that it remains for agricultural use for the future, which was seconded by Cllr Pearce.

*Cllr Allen arrived at 19.42hrs*

*Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 2 Abstentions  
(1 District Councillor)*

Action: Clerk to notify the Planning office

This planning application is located in the parish of Leigh on Mendip however could impact on Coleford which is why it is being considered at this meeting.

Cllr Conn explained that he was concerned over the implications for Coleford if this application was to be approved. It is not included in the Local Plan and is a large development for Leigh on Mendip. He explained that the plans show parking spaces for 80 vehicles and therefore would propose objection on the grounds of highway implications. Leigh on Mendip has no bus service. The winding nature of the highway from Leigh on Mendip via Doors Lane into the narrow Church Street is a concern as this could be perceived as the direct route to the co-op, pharmacy and doctors surgery. With many houses opening straight onto Church Street and parked cars make passing very difficult and therefore the application should be rejected. There are also many horses regularly using this route.

It was noted that Leigh on Mendip primary school and some residents are supportive of the applications.

Cllr Conn proposed that the application should be refused on the grounds that the amount of traffic which would use Doors Lane and Church Street to access Coleford amenities would be dangerous. These are narrow roads with houses opening straight onto the highway and lots of on street parking making it difficult to negotiate. This route is also regularly used by riders who stable their horses on this road. This was seconded by Cllr Turner.

*Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 2 Abstentions  
(1 District Councillor)*

**Action: Clerk to notify the Planning office**

## **6. Finance**

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter budget review – The Clerk had prepared the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter budget review which had been initially reviewed by the Chair and Vice Chair. It was agreed that it would be circulated to all Councillors for comment ahead of the November meeting when it will be discussed and approved.

Cllr Ham said that there is a fund being made available to compensate for loss of income resulting from the corona virus. Cllr Ham to find out more about how the Council can apply for a grant.

**Action: 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter budget review to be agenda item for November  
Cllr Ham to further investigate loss of income fund resulting from corona virus**

## **7. Correspondence**

Somerset County Council Highways have confirmed Brewery Lane, Holcombe will be closed from 12<sup>th</sup> November and will last for 7 days.

Mendip Community Transport – Clerk to scan to all Councillors

Bollards for Beacon View – The Clerk has purchased the bollards for Beacon View at a cost of £213.60. It was agreed that a cheque would be written to reimburse the clerk at the earliest opportunity.

## **8. Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman’s Discretion**

1. Somerset County Council have now said that they will pay towards lunches during half term for children that are entitled to school dinners. The foodbank have paid £200 to top up the fund to provide a shopping bag of food geared towards feeding children during the holiday. The food bags were taken to Bishop Henderson school for collection by the families. Cllr Ham proposed that the Parish Council or Somerset County Council should support.
2. The Clerk had contacted Time is Precious charity to offer support to the Christmas Lights event to encourage the parishioners to get involved. There has been no response as yet but the Clerk will follow up.
3. The Clerk will set up a Zoom meeting on Weds 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm for the Small Grants working party to consider the applications received. The Clerk to ensure that each member has a copy of the applications.

4. Cllr Ham confirmed that he has spoken with the team who run the Coleford British Legion regarding securing it as an asset of community value. This can be done by the Parish Council or a community group. If secured this would offer security to the legion for 5 years. It was agreed that Cllrs Pearce, Barret, Banks, Ham and maybe Townsend would form a working party to consider. Further information can be found on the Mendip District Council under Committees and meetings / Asset of Community Value.
5. Remembrance Sunday – The Coleford British Legion are not planning anything. On Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> November at 11am people will be invited to lay crosses in the garden of remembrance. The Parish Council has a wreath which could be laid then or during the church service on the 8<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am. The wreath could then be taken to the memorial outside of the Legion building. Remembrance Day will be marked nationally on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11am with a 2 minute silence. Cllr Banks will investigate the best option and report back so that others can attend if able.
6. Clerk to print the asset list for Cllr Evans to complete the street furniture audit.
7. The extension being built at 1 Mendip Vale appears to have permission granted in July without consultation of the neighbours or the Parish Council.

**9. Date of Next Meetings:**

Next Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020

The meeting concluded at 20.43hrs