

Parish Council of Coleford

Miss V Watts
Clerk to the Council
Tel: 07971 516916 / 01749 880428
Email: clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com

Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

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

Minutes of the Parish Council Virtual Meeting held on Wednesday the 8th April 2020

Present

Cllr Ham (Chairman presiding) Cllrs Allen, Banks, Barrett, Conn, Drescher, Evans, Hanney, Townsend and Pearce.

There were no member of the public present and the Clerk Vickie Watts taking the minutes

1 Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

Cllrs Turner, Talbot and Harding did not attend.

2 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

Cllr Drescher declared an interest in agenda item 6.2 application reference 2020/0663/HSE - Proposed 2 storey side extension and conversion of existing garage at 14 Roman Way Coleford Frome BA3 5PX

Cllr Evans declared an interest in payments as has submitted a receipt for payment.

3 Approve Minutes of last Parish Council meetings held on the 11th March 2020

The minutes for the meeting held on the 11th March had been circulated to all Councillors for consideration. It was proposed by Cllr Banks and seconded by Cllr Conn that they accurately reflected the meeting. Cllr Ham to sign the minutes at the next opportunity.

VOTE: 7 For 0 Against 0 Abstentions

Cllr Hanney joined the meeting

4 Matters arising

All matters arising had been completed or would be discussed as an agenda item later in the meeting other than:

- The Clerk and Cllr Barrett will prioritise the work on the Footpaths and arrange for either the Ramblers or the Community pay back to complete the work. VW/MB
- Consider the Clerk Pension Actuarial - This had been distributed previously in draft form but a legally binding version will be received before the end of March which will require action. VW
- Update on Coleford Parish Plan Questionnaire - It was proposed that a date be arranged to allow parishioners to drop in and consider the responses received from the questionnaire and the report collated by Cllr Conn. It was proposed that the drop in and meeting session be held on Wednesday 29th April from between 4pm and 9pm. Postponed until after the coronavirus AC

- Update on Allotments at Orchard Close - Cllr Townsend had done further research and recommended that professional advice be sought. AT
- Update on burial preparations at the Cemetery - Adjourned until the May meeting. CP/VW
- Report on recent defibrillator training - The recent defibrillator awareness training was well attended and very informative. Cllr Conn highlighted:-
 1. Should we have small info cards printed and distributed to parishioners providing information about where the Coleford defibrillators are located, what to do in the event of an emergency along with a QR Code which can be scanned with a smart phone which will then take you to information on how to use the defibrillator. It was agreed that the Clerk will ask Clive Setter of AED Locator Ltd if he is able to help supply the cards and seek quotes. VW
 2. Can we post a photograph of the inside of the defibrillator cabinet on the Coleford Echo / website to help familiarise residents of the set up. The Clerk will arrange for this to be done. VW
 3. Should we budget for the 4 yearly replacement of the battery packs which cost about £100 and for each machine? It was agreed that this would be included in the annual budget. VW
- Cllr Ham said that Mendip District Council have indicated that they might be prepared to pass over the ownership of the green at Preachers Vale. This could be used to improve the parking in the area, sell off to improve drive access, remove trees and replant with some more appropriate for the area. It was agreed that Cllr Ham will seek draft of Heads of Terms for consideration. This will be an agenda item for the May meeting. Outstanding due to coronavirus PH Ag

Cllr Allen joined the meeting.

5

Reports:

5.1 PCSO – No report was provided.

5.2 **County Councillor report** - County Councillor Philip Ham gave the following report: 'Covid-19' As of 03/03/2020, there were:

- 34,000 reported cases and 2,900 deaths nationally.
- 1,000 reported cases and 126 deaths in the South West.
- 68 reported cases and 9 deaths in Somerset.

Major incidents forums set up.

Most SCC employees working from home (7 days a week). National peak expected Easter Sunday until end of April. Somerset expected to peak end of April to the middle of May.

Services

Adult social care – safeguarding most important. Visits and reviews will lapse and relying on care homes to advise.

Children – Family crisis and safeguarding most important. Keeping schools open but numbers are low – will stay open through Easter holidays.

Waste – New contract started with new vehicles but have delayed 'recycling more' until normality is resumed.

Public Health – SCC have taken control on all infections other than Covid-19.

Busses – Continue to subsidise busses on bus routes and looking for more support from the Government due to less people travelling, many routes are losing money.

Resilience Forums

PPE – very short, just social care/community nurses in Somerset will need over 40,000 pieces alone of equipment per week.

Excess Deaths – Army on standby.

The peak will last 4 weeks.

30 agencies working together daily in different forums.

Facts

Somerset is closed for tourism.

Domestic violence is on the increase.

Spitting at key workers a problem.

Community tension on the rise.

Support cells have been formed:

1. Community cell – to support 1.5million people that need shielding.
2. Single Covid-19 hotline no. 0300 790 6275
3. PPE cell
4. Getting people out of hospital and setting up extra care homes.
5. Business recovery.
6. Business needs.
7. Safeguarding.
8. Early year funding for young children increased.
9. Re-deployment of staff – over 2,000 SCC employees have taken on new roles while epidemic continues.

Finance

Year end 19/20 SCC recording £1.2m underspend.

Government have allocated SCC £15.6m towards Covid-19. However draft estimated costs are nearer £17m.

Business grants and disabled grants being dealt with by District Councils with money from SCC. Everyone is working hard, many volunteers are doing fantastic work. Cllr Ham said that he was very proud of all his Parishes; the community support is evident everywhere. By everyone supporting each other, we will get through this. Keep well, stay safe.

5.3

District Councillors

District Cllr Alan Townsend provided the following report:

Actions from the meeting held on 11/03/20

7.2 - The centre of the road at Lipyeate Cross and the edge erosion on Charmborough Lane have been reported to Highways. One eroded area between Hill Farm and Lipyeate House has been marked up for filling, but nothing else. Cllr Townsend will request a more detailed inspection together with any new arising Councillors may wish to raise.

AT

10 – Allotments. At the March meeting Cllr Townsend mentioned that the disposal of Allotments raises a whole new set of issues about finding replacements etc. The Conveyance document does not refer to Allotments. Unless anyone has any specific evidence that the area was ever an allotment we should drop the word and call it something else, perhaps Playing Field Extension? The next step is to get a professional valuation.

PH

Highways - Temporary Skid Risk signs have been erected by Owls Nest.

Residents have complained about the relentless passage of HGVs on Anchor Rd and question whether these are “essential” in the current climate.

Truespeed - Have advised that the cabinet has gone live in the bottom of the village so customer connections will follow shortly. Applications for new connections are still welcome with free standard installation. Once the current crisis is over they are looking to see if there is an appetite to connect up to the rest of the village.

Mendip – Due to the Coronavirus Mendip offices are closed to the public and site visits for staff are cancelled.

Cllr Townsend reported to Mendip complaints he had received about the closure of recycling centres. Their response is that the contractor is suffering from staff sickness/isolation at the moment so resources have to be focused on the street collections.

Arrangements are being put in place to assist with Council Tax rescheduling and further relief, and also Business Rate relief.

All car park payments have been suspended and MDC markets are now closed. Mendip are nominating a staff member for each area of the District to help Ward Members, community groups and residents find the correct communication channels to seek support from the Council in the current climate.

Planning - Anchor Road - The latest advice from Mendip Planners is that Gladman have agreed to an extension to the determination date until 24th April to allow them to respond to the issues raised by Somerset Highways. These relate to the access onto Anchor Rd from the site, the difficulty with the proposed pavement and an implication of criticism of the width of Anchor Rd.

6 **Planning Applications**

6.1 2020/0552/HSE – Application to drop kerb to allow for off road parking 31 Mendip Vale, Coleford, Radstock

Councillors had considered the plans for the abovementioned application using the Mendip District Council planning Portal. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Hanney and seconded by Cllr Conn that as there was no objection to the application the Council should recommend approval.

VOTE: 6 For, 0 Against 3 Abstentions (2 District Councillors)

Clerk to notify the planning department of the decision.

6.2 2020/0663/HSE - Proposed 2 storey side extension and conversion of existing garage. 14 Roman Way Coleford Frome BA3 5PX

Councillors had considered the plans for the abovementioned application using the Mendip District Council planning Portal. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Hanney and seconded by Cllr Conn as there was no objection to the application the Council should recommend approval.

VOTE: 5 For, 1 Against, 3 Abstentions (2 District Councillors)

Clerk to notify the planning department of the decision.

Cllr Pearce joined the meeting.

7 **Accounts approved for payments:**

V Watts - Clerk expenses	£84.54
Keith Evans – Community Payback expenses	£17.35
HMRC – National Insurance	£30.64
Citizens Advice Mendip - Donation	£1000.00
Steve Burdett – Tarmac work at Highbury playing field car park and the installation of the monohinge gate	£696.00

Councillors all agreed that the payments should be made. Cheques are to be signed by the Clerk, Cllr Ham and Cllr Conn at the earliest opportunity.

**VW/PH/
AC**

VOTE: 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

The Clerk confirmed that the cheque for Dagmar Hewell, 'Dagaroo' for £500 was signed on 27th March by Cllr Ham, Cllr Conn and the Clerk and delivered the same day.

8 Approve Business Continuity motion

The Clerk had circulated the draft business continuity motion prior to the meeting. It was agreed that Councillors Conn and Townsend would stand in for the Clerk in the event that she was unable to perform her duties. All Councillors voted in favour of adopting the motion.

VOTE: 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

9 Agree purchase of the Careys Mead telephone box

The Clerk had circulated the draft agreement provided by BT for the purchase of the Careys Mead phone box at a cost of £1. There was much discussion as to whether the kiosk might end up being a burden to the Council. It was mentioned that it could be relocated to a more appropriate site and could be used for a variety of different purposes. The Clerk did say that if the Parish Council did not want the kiosk she would be happy to purchase it. It was proposed by Cllr Drescher and seconded by Cllr Ham that the kiosk should be purchased.

VOTE: 9 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention

Clerk to progress with the agreement for sale.

10 Update on support for parishioners during the Coronavirus

Some 60 volunteers have signed up to help with errands including shopping and the collection of prescriptions. A mail drop to those that attended the pensioner's meal received a letter offering support with the Doctors surgery and Pharmacy also handing out the phone numbers of the coordinators to people who need support.

A group of residents have set up the Coleford Angels who are offering the same type of support and have completed a mail drop to some 500 houses.

There has been less requests during the last 7 days but the support will continue to be there for those that need it.

County Cllr Ham reiterated that Somerset County Council has a single Covid-19 hotline number which is now live and should be used for anything related to the pandemic 0300 790 6275

The agreement between Coleford Parish Council and Dagmar Hewell was circulated to all Councillors for information. The home cooked hot meal service which includes delivery is now being appreciated by many residents.

11 Update on VE Day event

Cllr Ham confirmed that all events for the May VE Day 75 celebrations have been cancelled until further notice.

12 Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman's Discretion

There were none.

13 Public Forum

- 1 Cllr Banks reported that the post office will now be open at the Hub from 10am to 12 noon on both Monday and Wednesday until further notice. Clerk to put posters up around the village to notify residents. VW
- 2 Cllr Evans reported that people parking cars outside of the Co-op whilst shopping was causing issues in maintaining 2m when social distancing. It was agreed that some cones would be placed in the road to prevent parking. The Clerk will highlight the issue to the PCSO. VW
- 3 Cllr Allen said that the gate post at Beacon View needs attention. Cllr Allen to discuss with Nick Ham. MA
- 4 Cllr Allen reported that there is a drain blocked on Anchor Road opposite the Circle. Cllr Townsend to investigate and report to Somerset Highways. AT

- 5 Cllr Drescher reported that the dog waste bin at the Grove was completely overflowing and a notice had been placed asking dog owners not to use the bin. The Clerk will request that Idverde empty the bin as a matter of urgency.

VW

14

Date of Next Meetings:

Wed 22nd April 2020

Planning Meeting

Wed 13th May 2020

Parish Council meeting