

Parish Council of Coleford

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October Newsletter

PACT meeting

PCSO Russell Ford has confirmed that the next PACT meeting will take place on 29th October starting at 7.30pm at Batcombe Village Hall. This is a great opportunity to meet up with our policing team and find out what there policing priorities are and ask any questions that you might have. They would be delighted to see you.

Planning

2019/2334/FUL - Land At 369881 149693 Tinkers Lane Newbury Frome Somerset.

Erection of 5 no. stables and outdoor arena for private equestrian use

Coleford Parish Council considered the abovementioned application and recommended approval subject to the following conditions:

1. The roof is a natural grey or green colour
2. That trees be planted and a hedge be reinstated to replace the one that has already been removed to help reach MDC's green targets.
3. That there be no light pollution.

2019/2345/OTS - Land Off Anchor Road Lipyeate Cross To Luckington Cross Coleford Frome Somerset

Application for Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved for erection of 63no. dwelling houses.

The Parish Council have arranged a special Planning Meeting in the Royal British Legion, Coleford at 7-00pm on 24th October to discuss the application and agree what recommendation to make to Mendip Planners.

Due to the views expressed at the very well attended public meeting at the Coleford British Legion on the 25th July and the large number of technical reports that form part of the planning application the Parish Council has decided to engage consultants to assist with overall Planning issues, Ecology and Transport.

Highways

Cllr Townsend continues to work closely with the Somerset Highways to improve our highways through the village and confirmed that SCC Highways have confirmed inspections of the following issues:

- Charmborough Lane/Charlton Rd junction – request put in for foliage to be cut back around the finger post to help awareness of the junction from vehicles travelling from Holcombe. Sara Davis of SCC Highways has recognized the dangers with three accidents in the last couple of years – She is preparing a scheme of signage.
- Lipyeate Cross – The gap filling in the middle of the road was inadequate and still presented a danger to those on two wheels.
- Stockhill –complaints received that all along the length of the Crescent, mainly on the north side, there is a whole series of 'potholes', the majority appear to be sunken iron works of various types.
- Soho – coming from Leigh and turning left towards Coleford the inner edge has been badly eroded again.
- Preachers Vale – junction markings have been worn away and drivers are emerging in an unsafe manner.
- High St – Complaints received about drains overflowing, at the junction under the old Rose and Crown and further to the west.
- Whitehole Lane – Cllr Townsend said that 1) It would be a helpful indication of the bend and the edge of the highways if there were simple reflectors on the new woodwork of the bridge. 2) The diversion of traffic through Stoke caused issues and there were comments that no prior notification had been given.



Somerset Highways have given updates on the following issues:

- Footway – Is there a programme for the Highbury St section to be resurfaced? *SCC Highways confirmed works are programmed for the 25/11/19 for 10 Days.*
- Surface Dressing – there were adverse comments about the signage around the Charity Lane and Hoares Lane works which did not allow some residents to access their property. Was Cherry Gardens Lane work delayed by weather? *SCC Highways have confirmed they are aware of concerns regarding traffic management and have raised this with the operations team. All programmed surface dressing has now been completed.*
- Stoke Bottom – Cllr Townsend asked if progress had been made regarding the making good of the eroded edges with Penny. *SCC Highways confirmed they have a meeting planned with Penny's 4/10/19.*

Cllr Townsend was asked to report that

1. There are 2 drains blocked on Anchor Road and another on High Street.
2. The road signs used for road improvements at Newbury are yet to be collected

A request will be made to Somerset Highways to refill all of the grit bins ready for any deterioration in the weather.

Conclusion of external Audit for financial year 2018/19

The external auditor has confirmed that the audit of the Parish Council accounts for the year end 2018/19 have been completed and are all in order. The notice of completion of order had been placed on the notice boards and the website.

Review 2nd Quarter budget review

The Council reviewed the accounts as at the end of the 2nd quarter of 2019/20. Some areas were showing slight overspends and others under. There has been a planned overspend relating to environment however lots has been achieved including the purchase of 2 new grit bins, a dog waste bin, a new gate to increase pedestrian safety on the footpath from Church Street to Beacon View plus addressing the hedge at Church Street Gardens. Income is slightly up on the budget. It was agreed that all Councillors were content with the current financial situation and for the predicted year end which will see some of the reserves utilised.

Coleford Parish Plan Questionnaire

A questionnaire survey of all Coleford Parish residents is planned, to find out whether residents would like to update the 2009 Plan, what they think the key opportunities and problems are and whether they would like to help. The last plan was produced by residents and the Parish Council together. The questionnaire will be circulated in late October, with a return date of 30th November. Everyone, young and old, will be invited to send in their views. More information will be made available soon.

Update on Play areas

Lots of improvements are in the pipeline including later this month surface repairs will be completed in several of the play areas all ensuring that the play areas are in good order and safe for users.



Date of Next Meetings:

Thursday 24th October 2019

To be held at the Coleford British Legion - Planning Meeting starting at 7pm

Wednesday 6th November 2019

Small grants working party

Wednesday 13th November 2019

Parish Council meeting starting at 7pm

**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 Report for Holcombe & Coleford

District Cllr Ham said that the Norton St Philip Neighbourhood Plan had been approved to go to referendum but a developer has taken it to the High Court who have put a stop on the referendum to allow for more research to be done.

District Cllr Townsend said that there was allegedly many issues affecting health resulting from the roll out of 5G. Scrutiny will be giving this consideration at its next meeting.

Cabinet are keen to pursue mental health champions within each Parish. This is a priority for Mendip District Council.

An update from the Inspector reviewing the Local Plan Part II has submitted an interim report. In his view MDC had not collaborated with BANES to provide 500 houses. Villages need to be sustainable to support the additional housing. This is something that will need to be focused on with the Gladman's application at Lipyeate. MDC have to respond to the interim report, which could delay the formal response. The modifications are about to go to the public for consultation.

If the housing plan number drops below the 5 year supply figure it becomes very difficult for MDC to refuse any housing application. This would result in a free for all developers.