

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter for November 2017

Councillor Vacancy

We now have a second vacancy resulting from the resignation of Cllr Karla March. The Council is grateful for the time that Karla has given during her time with the Council. If you would like to find out more about the role of the Councillor then please contact the Clerk using the email address above.

PCSO report

PCSO Mike Storey sent the following report with the latest neighbourhood statistics for the Frome Rural North Beat during October were as follows:

- Criminal Damage - 8
- Dwelling Burglary- 0
- Non Dwelling Burglary - 9
- Theft from a vehicle - 2
- Theft of a vehicle - 2
- Anti-social behaviour - 5

A request has been made to the PCSO asking if statistics could be provided to show crimes solved.

There has been an increase of non-dwelling burglaries in our rural communities. Consider looking at the security of your sheds, garages and outbuildings. Possible alarms and lighting can be fitted. The local beat team are happy to attend and provide crime prevention advice if required. Please remain vigilant and report anything suspicious on 999 Emergency or 101 non-emergencies.

Somerset County Council report -County Cllr Ham gave the following report:

County Farms: I have been chairing several task and finish group meetings to investigate the policy, sale of, management and future of the estate. We need to understand the need of these farms, the support of the key core industry with in Somerset, its associated business and communities should we be using these assets to support other activities, but lose the revenue provided year on year?

Quarry Liaison Meetings: Whatley, Wainwrights, Torr and Colmans held this month, all doing well except Whatley have stopped night production as stock piles were getting to large this is due to the jetty at Hinckley C not yet complete. Wainwrights are awaiting on planning permission as tipping space of waste material is becoming a problem.

Highway Improvement Schemes (small): A scheme for Coleford has been submitted. Cllr Ham thanked Chris Pearce and Alan Townsend for putting the application together. A second scheme for the old Wells to Frome road from Mary's grave at Chantry to where the road meets the A37 at the Beacon cross roads. This scheme is about upgrading the road, signage, speed limits and just making it safer.

A third scheme to help Stoke St Michael cope with pedestrian movements due the poorly designed scheme put a few years ago.

Winter Road Treatment: SCC highways team monitors the weather forecast each day and treats the roads with salt to stop ice forming when road surface temperatures are predicted to drop below 1c. In previous winters SCC have used the @somersegritter account on Twitter to let people know when gritters are in action. However to keep it simple and to make sure all road related information can be found in one place, this year the SCC will issue winter weather updates along with all the usual travel information from the @TravelSomerset account. Anyone not on Twitter can find the same winter updates each day at www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritter

Somerset Rural Life Museum: South West Heritage Trust who operate archive and museum services on behalf of the County are proud to announce the re-opening of the Somerset Rural Life Museum at Glastonbury. The museum tells the story of Somerset's rich rural, family and social history with learning at its heart through a series of interactive displays. Please visit and tell everyone about the fantastic new venue. There are lots of opportunities to learn and many to reminisce

A303 upgrade: Highways England have announced their preferred route option for the crucial Sparkford to Ilminster section of the A303. This route is the Option 1, the on-line option which they consulted on. The choice is largely due to adverse landscape and severance of routes associated with the alternative option and this reflects public opinion expressed in the recent consultation.

The Great South West: Businesses, politicians and key education leaders from across the South West together in Exeter for a conference aimed at igniting future growth opportunities in the region. The objective of the summit was to encourage and enable collaboration and partnership working under the Great South West banner. This strategy would include the development of shared propositions to take government to attract funding, the attracting of inward investment and talking of barriers to productivity making the South West a more prosperous region overall.

SCC Children's Services: Ofsted's arrival for a full inspection of SCC Children's services is imminent and expected in November. Two years since the last Ofsted inspection found services to be inadequate, Essex County Council the Councils improvement partner and the Department for Education have both confirmed that real progress is being made to the point where a further inspection is now appropriate. SCC are very clear about the improvements that have taken place but know that there is an enormous amount to do in the future to deliver the excellent services across the board that everyone aspire to.

Somerset Scientific Services: Somerset scientific services a traded service of SCC provide expert asbestos, water, workplace and environmental testing in the Southwest to local authorities, public bodies, schools, businesses and the general public. They have just launched their new website www.somersetscientificservices.co.uk The team provide independent expertise and specialist advice of a range of matters including water supplies, suspected asbestos, swimming pools and hot tubs as well as air quality.

Early Help Services: The consultation on integrated early help services consisting of family support workers, health visitors and school nurses continues until 1st of December. The consultation is key to getting this right and ensuring that the need for high end social care services is lowered is to get the early help service right www.somerset.gov.uk/familysupportandchildrenscentres

Dillington House Festive activities: Dillington House will be holding a number of events over the festive period, ranging from ice-skating on the 1st - 3rd of December to a masked ball on New Years Eve. Another addition to the Dillington Calendar is the Go Crackers Christmas Market on the 2nd and 3rd of December featuring festive stalls and food, local producers and local entertainment. Entry to the market is free so please do show your support if you are in the area. There is a charge for Ice skating. Limited tickets are available for a Christmas party night on the 22nd December and there will be a Sunday Carvery on the 5th

November, 3rd December and 14th January for those looking an escape to the country. Further info available www.dillington.com/page/christmas/22/

Flu Jabs: Don't put off getting the jab this year and help to protect yourself and your family from flu. Flu is highly infectious disease and can lead to serious complications which is why people who are over 65, have long term health conditions or pregnant are eligible for free flu jabs through their pharmacist and midwife. Children aged 2 and 3 can also receive their flu vaccine from their GP and school children from reception through to year 4 will receive the free flu vaccine at school. If you are eligible for the flu vaccine then it's the time to get it.

Mendip District Council report - District Cllr Philip Ham reported that during the month activities included:

Assets: Two assets have been purchased in the last couple of weeks which will return approx 780K per year to our revenue budget. One is a large warehouse and the other a national retail outlet. We have others projects in the pipeline.

Local Plan: Part 11 goes to Cabinet next Monday and final consultation for seven weeks finishing on 2nd February 2018. Housing numbers in the plan are to be expected to be increased by central government based on average wages and house prices within a given Local Authority.

Core contract review: This is proving difficult as the contract states a 1.5% savings per year on year but did not mention the living wage but only minimum wage. They say the difference is to be paid by MDC. Outcome to be decided.

YMCA 125 years celebration: District Cllr Ham attended this at Wells Cathedral. It was a brilliant experience and the highlight was the Coleford Youth Club leader Chiara who told her life story and how the YMCA had helped her, it was so moving that she got a standing ovation of 3000 people.

Cabinet away day: This was held in Street, we looked at budgets for the next five years which overall looked OK but some years better than others so thoughts were more about timing and smoothing the peaks and troughs. What sort of Council do we want to be? The local plan moving forward. Was the new structure of MDC working and could we improve it further? Were there any new ideas big or small? It all led to lively discussion.

CAPITA cabinet spent an evening with the chief executive Mark Chapman discussing services and to understand partnerships to make them work. It was interesting that Mark rarely meets elected members but nearly always officials of a Council. He praised Mendip in the way members and officers work together.

Mendip District Council report - District Cllr Townsend reported as follows:

- Planning Training for Parish Councillors- MDC are offering courses on 10 Jan at MDC, 6 Feb at Frome, 15 March Glastonbury
- October Planning Board-significant decision at Norton St Philip for the refusal of a backland development because of harm to setting of Listed Buildings
- Licensing - the decision has been made that for legal reasons the service will be retained in house at Mendip and not be part of the 5 Council contract, with the benefit that local knowledge will be retained
- Wells Christmas Market - The Council has agreed for the extended Market be held Wed 20th to Sat 23rd December.
- KeyRing Letting Agency - We still suffer from a shortage of landlords bringing property to rent at the lower end of the market. A new marketing campaign has been started involving the five Mendip towns to get more on board.

Housing Needs Survey - Approve publicity plan and agree timetable

Some 10 years ago a Housing Need Survey (HNS) was carried out in the village. It identified the need for more affordable housing. As no suitable site was available within the village Development Limits, planning permission was given for the construction of 28 Affordable homes, Mackintosh View, at the rear of Goodeaves on a Rural Exception site.

The current Mendip Local Plan Part 1 identified a need for some 70 new homes to be built in the village between 2006 and 2029. This number has been significantly reduced by the completion of Mackintosh view and other infill. The Parish Council has formally advised Mendip that we consider these numbers to be maxima due to the constraints of our local infrastructure - highways in particular. It is important therefore that the homes to be built should reflect what the village needs, not what some developer would like to impose on us. The HNS will become a material consideration in any planning decision.

A Working Group was set up to investigate how a HNS could be carried out. Mendip DC were keen to offer their support and produced a draft Questionnaire. This document was reviewed by the Working Group and a meeting was held with representatives of Mendip Housing to agree changes to the draft.

Mendip have changed the document accordingly and have confirmed that they will fund the cost of printing, posting out the document to every home in the village, the return postage, and the analysis. The analysis will be carried out by Mendip on a strictly anonymous basis and the findings reported back to Coleford Parish Council.

It was agreed that we should ask Mendip to proceed with the survey but need to establish if there is sufficient time to send the questionnaire out before Christmas or whether it would be better to wait until the New Year.

Discuss Saturday Bus Service

There have recently been requests asking if there is anything that the Parish Council could do to reinstate a Saturday bus service. It was agreed that some investigations would be made with local companies to establish if they can put on a service. This will be discussed again at future meetings.

Dog Fouling Signage competition

Cllr Townsend attended Bishop Henderson School to present the prizes to the winners of the poster competition. It is hoped that a story and photograph will be submitted for inclusion in the local papers to promote the message that dog fouling is not acceptable. All of the posters created by the children will be displayed around the village to highlight the problem of dog fouling.

Website - Link to Radstock Museum website

The webmaster at Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum has been in touch and said that they have recently visited the Coleford parish website including the Local History page which details the connections that Coleford has with Somerset mining heritage. At Radstock Museum they hold a unique archive of documents and images especially those relating to the social and industrial heritage of the former Somerset Coalfield and within the digital archive they have over 17,000 photographs and documents available for research. Two volunteers in the Museum's IT group have made available a small selection of the Museum's catalogue entries, with associated thumbnail images, to browse and search on-line in a new website. <http://radstockmuseum.co.uk/pubcat/> The aim is to encourage people to use the Museum's Archive for personal study and research. The current set of 2700 entries and images are a broad spectrum including references to Coleford, its associated pits and many local surnames.

It was agreed that Coleford Parish Council website would include a link to the Museum's new research website, PUBCAT and they will also include a link to our website Local History page on the front page of PUBCAT

Progress report on BMX track to include agreeing financial plan and funding applications.

Mendip District Council Planning Office should have a decision on whether Planning permission is required by the 16th November 2017.

It appears from further conversations with the Quarries that the stone will be available for the project free of charge.

The project financial plan has been updated, to take account of:-

- i. the decision in October to choose a preferred contractor
- ii. revisions to the contingency allowance in the light of the decision that the project team carry out the planning determination / application process and
- iii. identification of the need for a landscaping works following completion of the main build contract.

Updated Financial Plan October 2017	Proposed Project Budget (at this stage) Net of VAT *
Costs	
Bike track works cost / Preferred Contractor's submitted estimate (Rounded)	£15,000
Estimate for materials (subject to FoC or reduced price offers by local quarry and building supplies companies	£ 7,000
Allowance for planning process / cost inflation / contingency	£ 2,000
Landscaping	£ 3,000
Working Total	£27,000
Proposed funding (Oct 2017):-	
County Councillor grant for project (held by Coleford PC)	£10,000
Proposed bids to Sport England and other grant sources *	£14,000
Local fund raising	£ 3,000
Coleford Parish Council reserves **	£ 0
TOTAL TARGET FOR PROJECT	£27,000

The Tesco Bags of Help application cannot be submitted until it has been established if Planning permission is required.

Sport England have confirmed that the project application has passed the first stage. The Case officer has been in touch and has requested further information which will be provided. They asked if £15K would be workable which Cllr Conn confirmed would be in-line with the Financial Plan. Confirmation of proof of tenure needs to be supplied and the team need to look towards forming a management committee.

The next meeting will take place on the 16th November at 7.30pm to be held at the British Legion.

Approve Small Grants Awards 2017

The following applications were approved as follows:

Name of Group	Description	Award
		£
Church Hall Holy Trinity Church	Clearance & repairs to guttering	120.00
Coleford Theatre Group	Costume hire	150.00
Coleford Flower & Craft Show	Help with expenses for the 120th show.	170.00
@ the Hub	Upgrade toilet facilities	200.00
Tuesday Afternoon Club - Coleford	Towards guest speakers & cost of trips	150.00
1st Coleford Scout Group	Burco boiler & pump air pot	220.00
Coleford Revival Group	Towards the cost of the village day	200.00
Age UK Somerset	Health & wellbeing session to reduce loneliness & isolation.	0.00
Coleford Dungeon & Dragons Club	Room hire for the first 3 x meetings	50.00
Coleford Athletic Under 7's Football Team	Coaching costs required to expand youth section	50.00
Huckyduck Carnival Club	Towards cost of an angle grinder	100.00
Court Café	Crockery and tea towels	90.00
		1500.00

Date of Next Meetings:

Wednesday 13th December 2017 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 clerk@colefordsomerset.org

Please check out the NEW website www.colefordsomerset.org

Philip Ham, Chairman.