

*Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter for November 2018

PCSO report

During October it was reported that within Coleford there were no burglaries, no criminal damage, 1 report of theft / handling stolen goods and 2 cases of anti-social behavior. It was good to hear that PCSO 6742 Lucy Gumm has joined the Frome Rural North beat team.



Planning

20182608/HSE – Conversion of existing garage and outbuildings to residential use. Erection of a conservatory and replacement garage. Ferndale, Harris Vale, Coleford, Radstock. The Parish Council approved the application providing that it did not increase traffic using the lane.



Small Grants

9 applications had been received seeking funding from the Coleford Small grants, which this year had a total amount of £2500 to be divided. The working party met and considered each application and it was agreed by full Council that the fund would be allocated as follows:

Court Café	£150.00	Towards outings and expenses on food etc
Tuesday Afternoon Club	£150.00	Towards cost of annual outing
Coleford Athletic Group	£200.00	To buy junior football posts
Coleford Revival Group	£250.00	Money to assist Pensioners Christmas Dinner costs
1st Coleford Cubs & Scouts	£350.00	Replace badly worn crockery, H&S risk
Coleford Flower Show	£150.00	To purchase new technology
Coleford Youth Club	£250.00	Pool table renewal and extra funding if repaired
Coleford @ The Hub	£600.00	New door for Post Office entrance & fire escape
Coleford Theatre Group	£400.00	Also used by School as old kit gives feedback problems

Parking

Inconsiderate parking is a long standing problem throughout the village. It has been reported that parking on hatched areas adjacent to the pedestrian crossing near the school has become a regular issue causing concern over safety of pedestrians walking to and from school. The PCSO will be asked to be vigilant when visiting the village and address the problem throughout the village.



Highways

It was noted that the work had been completed by Somerset Highways to improve the dropped kerb outside of the Co-op. Councillors felt that a good job had been done making access much easier. A letter of thanks would be sent to the department acknowledging the work done.



Meeting dates for 2019

The meeting dates for 2019 were agreed and will be displayed on the Parish noticeboards as well as on the Parish Council website using the following link: <https://www.colefordsomerset.info/> All meetings are held at the Hub on Church Street, start at 7pm and are open to the public to attend.

Dog Fouling

This continues to be a most unpleasant problem throughout the village. The Parish Council in conjunction with Mendip Enforcement team have created a Dog Fouling Incident form, which enables residents to report anyone known to be offending directly to Mendip Enforcement who WILL issue warning letters and fines. The form can be downloaded from the Parish Website using link <https://www.colefordsomerset.info/notices> Alternatively, contact the Parish Clerk on clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com or call 07971 516916. Please use the form and help to make people realize that it is simply NOT acceptable to be an irresponsible dog owner.



The Council agreed that a mail drop to include a copy of the Dog Fouling Incident form could be delivered to each house in the village to highlight what can be done and to show the offenders that this problem will not be tolerated.

Date of Next Meetings:

Wednesday 12th December 2018 Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 9th January 2019 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

County and District Council reports for Coleford and Holcombe

County Council Report

County Cllr Ham attended the meeting and reported that it has been agreed that Somerset County Council will now provide salt for grit bins throughout the County but it is not known at this stage whether a supply will be made available for Parish Councils as an emergency supply as has happened in the past.

District Cllr Ham attended the meeting and reported that information relating to the roll out of broadband – connecting Somerset & Devon has shown that Gigiclear are not progressing well. There have been changes in senior personnel, they are 9 months behind schedule and simply not performing. Truespeed are gaining traction in the area and can offer a solution depending on individual locations.

SWP (Somerset Waste Partnership) have presented their new business plan, including the creation of an incineration plant in Avonmouth, as they are pulling out of sending anything to landfill. They are working hard on reducing single use plastics and trying to reduce waste especially black plastic which is the worst.

Halecombe Quarry's application went to the Board on 08/11/18, the report being 120 pages long. The process was started over four years ago and no one mentioned Bath hot springs until 8 months ago. Halecombe have not changed anything over the last 13 years so the drop in water level is not due to them. The application was approved for another 12 years works for the tar plant (£9m), and they will review the impact on the hot springs at each drop in level.

District Council Report

District Cllr Ham reported that:

The sale of Saxonvale has taken a lot of work. A sale and overedge agreement has been signed. There is still lots of work to do and it is hoped that planning applications will be submitted by Easter with building to start late 2019. There will be lots of consultation over this on a commercial basis. Frome Town Council owns a small plot within the area and some negotiating is still to be done on how this will move forward.

Cllr Ham's portfolio of Transformation has so far spent £25m on assets that will raise £1.1m in revenue per annum. £6m has been spent on a derelict site in Frome and 3 more acquisitions are under review in Bristol, Frome and Plymouth, and another is under consideration in the Mendip area, but its location cannot be announced yet, all of which will result in £2.5m receipts each year.

MDC's Planning Enforcement team has been increased to six members, and fines have been increased to £150 per time.

The reinstatement of the railway from Frome to Radstock is starting to make progress with Central Government possibly looking towards contributing towards the cost.

A new Changing Places facility has been agreed at the main entrance at the Bath and West Showground and will hopefully be open by Spring 2019. This will be open 7am to 7pm every day. Street have also agreed to install this important facility.

Cllr Ham had attended a Mendip Citizen Advice Bureau presentation on Monday night. £100k has been cut from their county budget. For every £1 of funding gives £50 to the local economy. They are looking to District Councils, Parish and Town Councils to help bridge the funding gap. Reorganisation will also take place within the CAB.

District Cllr Townsend reported as follows:

Mendip Planning Board - The Board was able to agree to two new dwellings outside development limits, but only because very specific justification was provided. In one case to provide onsite security to a shooting facility at Haydon Drove near Wells.

Local Plan Part 2 - The final draft will be presented to Cabinet and Council prior to submission to the Inspector in January for final examination and approval. This provides details of locations for housing development and identifies Local Green Spaces. I had a meeting to try to secure agreement to our additional list of LGS, but was advised that they are too large to qualify, e.g. the landscapes surrounding the Old Canal. Nevertheless our comments will go to the Inspector.

Scrutiny Board - The work of the CAB was reviewed. It receives some 420 enquiries a week and The Council are keen to continue supporting its work. The Somerset Waste Partnership are well aware of the issue of plastic food containers. They are accepted for recycling at the Frome and Dulcote centers. They are looking at siting bins at supermarket car parks.

CPRE AGM - The theme was rural affordable housing. The regeneration of Radstock was quoted as a prime example having achieved 30% affordable. The importance of understanding local needs was stressed and the Housing Needs Survey for Coleford is a key part of the jigsaw.

Somerset Highways have agreed to an urgent meeting to address the road safety issues at the Co-op. They are listening to our concerns over dangerous parking outside the shop and opposite the pharmacy, and the hazards of crossing the road.