

# Parish Council of Coleford

---

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

Gallant Hill Farm  
Foxcote  
Radstock  
BA3 5YB

## Newsletter for January 2019

### PCSO report

PCSO Michael Storey reported that the crime figures for Coleford were as follows:

- Burglaries – 0
- Non – Dwelling Burglaries – 0
- Criminal Damage – 3
- Theft of a motor vehicle - 0
- ASB – 1



### Mendip District Council Report

District Cllr Ham reported as follows:

- Council tax – The tax base figures have been agreed by Mendip District Council and can now be used by Parish Councils to help calculate the precept and how any changes will impact on residents.
- Saxonvale – There have been numerous meetings since the start of December regarding the development. The first consultation with the public will take place this weekend.

District Cllr Townsend reported that a lot of time had been spent on the Scrutiny review of the draft Somerset Housing Strategy 2018-2023. Along with partners in the County and other Districts they are drawing together a Strategy which addresses the Housing needs of the county drawing together the three aspects of The Economy, our Health and Housing impacts. For Mendip District Council this will be converted into a Mendip specific Action Plan. Infrastructure, especially Highways and Broadband are key issues.

### Somerset County Council Report

County Cllr Ham said that the budgets for Somerset County Council is coming together which shows no cuts that will impact directly on Coleford. There is still talk about salt bins but any changes are likely to happen in next year. The immediate issues have gone as a buffer has been received resulting from a rates pool. Extra money has also been provided to help with adult social care. The number of looked after children is sadly at a 12 year high. The Unitary talks continue and the appraisal results are due back at the end of January.

### Highways

Following the Parish Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December the following defects with the Highways department:



- Small tree across the road on Springers Hill
  - Surface defects on Hippias Lane
  - Flooding at junction of Charity Lane and Mell's Road
  - Pothole on Mell's Rd by Diving School
- The Highways team undertook to inspect all.

The issue of careless drivers parking over the newly lowered kerb at the Co-op was raised and it was suggested that a white line would clearly delineate the edge which will be pursued.

### Village Defibrillator

The Council had been asked to consider funding a second defibrillator to be installed at the lower part of the village. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak with the representative of the Rotary Club who supplied the defibrillator at the Co-op to see if they would help fund an additional unit to be located possibly at the Kings Head, or nearby. It is hoped that a response will be available for next meeting.



### **Hedge planting at the boundary fence at the BMX track**

The new hedge needs to be planted at the rear of the BMX track. It was decided that this will take place on the weekend of the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Volunteers would be welcome – please contact the Clerk nearer the time find out what time the group will meet.

### **Grass cutting contract 2019 – 2020**

Ben Brenton had met with the Clerk and ran through the questions which the Council wanted clarified. He confirmed that he had a team of men (who had used in the past) that he would be able to call on to support him in the event of him becoming incapacitated. He also said that he had machinery that he could fall back on in the event of mechanical failure, although he confirmed that he was constantly maintaining and servicing his equipment himself. He confirmed that he had visited all areas within the contract and was confident that there would be no issues with access to sites. The equipment that he has would be able to cope with animal rutting as experienced in recent years and he said that he owned a roller which could be used to rectify the issue. The Clerk believed that Mr Brenton was confident and ready for the contract and it was agreed that the Grass Cutting contract should be awarded to Brenton Landscaping.



### **Review 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Review**

The finance working party had met up and run through the budget review. The Clerk went through the figures and there were no comments regarding the income and expenditure to date. All agreed that the figures reflected the situation as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.



### **Agree Precept 2019/20**

Consideration was given to the proposed budget for 2019/20 and how it would affect the precept requirements. After discussion it was decided that the precept for 2019/20 be set at £42K.

### **Coleford Scout Group**

Cllr Ham outlined that the 1<sup>st</sup> Coleford Scouts had signed a 25 year lease for the Scout Hall at Church Street, Coleford. The hall needs much work which will cost considerable amounts. It was proposed that £6K be donated to the 1<sup>st</sup> Coleford Scouts as one off payment to be restricted for the use of church hall renovations.

### **Play Area update**



At the end of last year a questionnaire was sent out to residents in Anchor Rd, Lipyeate, Beacon View, Merryfield, Farley Dell, Coal Barton and Mendip Vale. The questionnaire had been put together to gather feedback as to whether residents would support the creation of a new play area within walking distance of these properties. 18 responses had been returned from the 350 questionnaires that had been delivered. The results were conclusive in that there was very little support for the Council to invest in a new play area at that end of the village.

### **Litter pick**

The Great British Litter Pick is taking place nationally from 22<sup>nd</sup> March to the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. It was agreed that Coleford Parish Council will hold a litter pick on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> March. Please pop this in your diary and come along to help give the village a spring clean.



### **Date of Next Meetings:**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 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](mailto:clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com) Check out the website [www.colefordsomerset.info](http://www.colefordsomerset.info)**

*Philip Ham, Chairman*