

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter May 2019

Annual Parish Council Meeting

All Councillors were elected unopposed. At the meeting on the 8th May we elected officers and formed the working parties as follows

Chairman	Mr Philip Ham
Vice Chairman	Mr Andy Conn

Formation of Working Parties within the Parish Council

Working Party

Playing Fields, Play Areas and Pump Track
Environment & Cemetery
Finance, Pay Review & Small Grants

Lead Councillor

Cllr Barrett
Cllr Evans
Cllr Townsend

Team members

Cllrs Conn, Hanney, Harding and Drescher
Cllrs Turner, Harding, Allen and Townsend
Cllrs Ham, Pearce, Conn, Banks and Clerk

Lead Councillors

Public Footpaths /RoW
Highways
Open Spaces and Trees
Parish Plan
Young People

Cllr Barrett
Cllr Pearce and Townsend
Cllr Harding and Barrett
Cllr Conn
Cllr Ham and Banks



Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

@ The Hub	Cllrs Banks, Ham and Townsend
Bishop Henderson School & Children's Centre	Cllrs Drescher and Ham
Coleford Athletic Football Club	Cllr Drescher and Allen
PCC	Cllr Turner
PCSO & PACT	Cllr Banks
Somerset Association Local Council	Cllr Evans
Halecombe Quarry Liaison Group	Cllr Conn and Turner
Coleford Revival Group	Cllr Ham, Harding, Barrett and Banks
Mendip Country Practice Patients Group	Cllr Townsend

Highways



After monitoring the feedback resulting from the removal of the bars on the Church Street to Beacon View footpath it has been agreed by the Parish Council to reinstate a safety barrier along the edge of the highway rather than in the path where they were originally located. It is hoped that moving them to the new site will prevent children from being able to run straight onto the highway but will mean that access is still accessible to all. Quotes will be sought for the installation of a frame with 3-4 inch mesh.

Cemetery

Councillors have agreed to consider the installation of a new path to the rear of the Holy Trinity Church to provide a safe route to the Parish Council run Cemetery from the church. Quotes will be sought and then considered by full council.

Date of Next Meetings:

Wednesday 12th June 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

Somerset County Council and Mendip District Council

Somerset County Council Report

County Cllr Ham reported that it had been a quiet month for Somerset County Council due to the District elections. The results of which will affect the County and District Councils i.e. Somerset Waste Partnership. Districts have changed politically so leaders and deputy leaders along with the total administration are changing. Work continues on main offices at Taunton and property is being sold to pay for modernization with savings in years to come.

Other point of interest reported were:

- Somerset Day takes place on the 11th May. More details can be found on www.somersetday.com
- The first Somerset Education Business Partnership awards took place recently. Businesses, education and careers support teams came together to celebrate some amazing ways that businesses are working with education across Somerset to create understanding, opportunities and enthusiasm for their future workforce and leaders. A project to involve young people with special needs was a finalist in the awards. Last year a shop run by young people with stock created by pupils from special schools across Somerset opened in Taunton and this spring its running again in Yeovil. The project is a partnership between special schools and specialist provision within Somerset. Students are helped to set up the shop to sell their enterprise products and they are managing it with support.
- After several months of consultation SCC has developed firm proposals to improve and widen support to children who care for a family member. Under the proposal young carers will be identified and supported at an appropriate level, with specialist support from the County Council and the voluntary sector being widely involved.
- Nearly 98% of Somerset children were offered a primary school place at one of their top 3 choices for September 2019. Overall 97.7% of the 5664 applicants were offered a place at one of their top three primary school choices and 92.17% received their first choice.
- In the last 18 months Somerset Diverse Communities Small Grants Fund has distributed £5921 and a total of 22 grants. This has seen communities benefit from funding specifically to support black and minority ethnic community groups in Somerset. The application process is straightforward and can be used by community groups. Grants are a maximum of £500 and funded by Somerset Equalities Officer Group.
- Following an assessment of the state of the current building a temporary community library partnership agreement has been signed with Street Parish Council which will enable a library to open in the Street Parish Rooms later in May. This is excellent news and will deliver continuity for Streets much valued library service.
- The Librarian Theatre is touring Somerset Libraries this summer presenting The Green Ship by Quentin Blake. The theatre production of the book is their first ever stage adaption they are under taking an epic 50 show tour of the play between the 1st May and 30th June around UK libraries including four in Somerset. More details are available at www.librariantheatre.com/thegreenship
- BT have become the latest utility company to taken to court and will have to pay a total of £36237. Six counts dealt with at Taunton Magistrates Courts related to incidents in July last year. BT executed street works without the approval and the works were also deemed to be in contravention of the safety guidance.

- The Adult social care content of the successful Somerset Choices is being revamped and updated. The Somerset community connect website is an online information and advice guide and directory of services to manage their own health and wellbeing. By the beginning of June it will also provide information on what help and support is available at home as well as an equipment self-assessment.
- Few Somerset residents are aware that the County Council are the owners of the track bed of the West Somerset Railway but with that ownership comes responsibilities. Work is now ongoing to upgrade the Seaward Way level crossing in Minehead which has reached the end of its serviceable life and no longer fits the standards required. The work represents an investment of £1 million to upgrade the facility to comply with modern rail regulations.
- Over 1000 people visited Dillington House for the Easter extravaganza over the bank holiday weekend. The house is open for local visitors and hotel guests alike with afternoon tea and a Sunday carvery on offer, alongside beautiful wedding and conference settings and wider ranging adult education opportunities. More details are available on www.dillington.com

Mendip District Council Report

Cllr Ham and Townsend were both re-elected and are looking forward to working with everyone in that role for the next four years. Seats won on the Council were:

LibDems. 22 – 17 new
 Conservatives 10 – 9 new
 Greens. 10 – 1 new
 Independent 5 – 2 new

Making a total of 30 new members leaving only 17 of the old members. As 24 seats are required for a majority clearly the LibDems will need support from others. We have no news yet of any coalition or co-operation agreement, though it is clear from the Green leader's interview on Radio Somerset that he expects Green policies to be implemented. The dust will settle, new committees, new leaders and new groups.

There are many projects in the pipeline, it will be for the new administration to decide on how to succeed with them.

Outline planning for Saxonvale, Frome was submitted on 30/04/19.

A good balanced budget was produced for 19/20 and MDC was in good financial position before the election.

One significant item of Mendip business to report is a substantial contribution being awarded to the YMCA to assist with their work in preventing homelessness.