

Parish Council of Coleford

Miss V Watts
Clerk to the Council
Tel: (07971) 516916
Email: clerk@colefordsomerset.org

5 Upper Merryfield
Lipyeate, Coleford
Radstock, BA3 5PW

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th December 2015

Public Forum Period

The Footpath Warden Mr Robert Stanley attended and provided the 2nd report for the year. He announced that he was only in a position to continue to report on the footpaths on the South side of Highbury Street, with immediate effect. Mr Stanley said that he may know someone who would be prepared to take on the role for the North side and will keep the Council informed if this comes to fruition. The Chairman thanked him for the excellent quality of the reports compiled by Mr Stanley which were the best he had seen during visits to other Parishes. Clerk to put up an advertisement.

VW

He stressed that North of Highbury Street there are frustrations with the footpaths, in particular around Luckington and Cherry Garden's areas which have been difficult to walk and have been highlighted within previous footpath reports but sadly no improvements have been made which is a disappointment.

Present

Cllr P Ham (Chairman Presiding)

Cllrs Townsend, Gurd, Turner, Banks, Evans, Littlechild, Horler, Neesam, Conn and 5 members of the public.

1 Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

Cllr Talbot sent his apologies. Cllr Foot did not attend.

2 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations

There were none.

3 The Chairman agreed to take agenda item 10

Mendip Local Plan Part II – Coleford Parish Council response

Cllr Conn had produced a written report in response to the Mendip Local Plan Part II consultation which acknowledged that the Coleford Parish Council had already responded but not replied regarding specific sites. After much discussion it was agreed that Cllr Conn would include the following:

- That the Parish Council would want the opportunity to comment on any other sites that came forward.
- That the Parish Council wouldn't want to shut the door on planning applications for social housing.
- That the Parish Council want to maintain the village envelope.

All Councillors voted unanimously in favour of Cllr Conn drafting the suggested amendments and circulating to all Councillors for consideration.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against; 2 Abstained

4 **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 11th & 24th November 2015**

The minutes for the Parish Council meetings held on the 11th and 24th November 2015 had been circulated to all Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Conn stated that at minute ref 8 in minutes dated 24/11/15 it should be amended to read Andrew George rather than Adam George which everyone agreed. The Clerk corrected this by hand. It was then agreed by those present that both sets of minutes reflected accurately the meetings so the Chair then duly signed the minutes. The Clerk to forward a copy of the approved minutes for uploading to the website.

Vote: 10 For, 0 Against; 0 Abstained

VW

It was confirmed by the Clerk that any notes taken at this meeting had been destroyed.

5 **Matters arising from the minutes**

All matters arising from the minutes were completed or will be mentioned later in the minutes under the appropriate agenda item apart from:

- The grass cutting tender needs to be considered over the Christmas period by Cllr Turner, Cllr Ham and the Clerk. CT/PH/
VW
- The Clerk to investigate the costs to replace the information board proposed for butterfly bank. VW
- The Hire charges for the use of the changing rooms and hard courts need to be reviewed and discussed at a future parish council meeting. CT/PH/
VW
- The Clerk to establish ownership of the land adjacent to the steps at Underhill. VW
- The Clerk to make enquiries with the English Heritage as the Aqueduct was worthy of consideration due to its historical importance but there was general concern that this could be a high maintenance liability. Cllrs felt that it should be highlighted to English Heritage (or its successor). The Clerk was asked to approach English Heritage to see what options might be available. VW

6 **Reports**

6.1 PCSO

No PCSO attended but a report had been provided which read as follows:

Cllr Turner said that at the recent Steering group meeting, Sargent Rachel Clerk had said that in the future no police or PCSO's will be attending meetings which is really disappointing. PCSO's have been cut back from 10 to 4 in recent years so are under pressure to perform.

VW

It was agreed that the Clerk will write to Inspector Mark Nicholson, Sargent Rachel Clark and Sue Mountstevens to say that we are disappointed by this news.

6.2 County Councillor

County Cllr Ham confirmed that there has been much time spent on considering the budget and the current overspend of £7-8 million. Safeguarding children, Adult social care, Education and Health and well-being are all ring fenced which means other areas such as buses, highways, property maintenance, number of employees, libraries and even lollypop services are being squeezed.

John Osman has been campaigning for fairer funding for Somerset.

Devolution bid. (17 Councils working together) A draft copy of the intended bid, which is a huge complex document is expected early January with the submission deadline being 10/01/16.

County Cllr Ham said that he has £5K available as part of the Health and Wellbeing grant. The deadline for applications is mid-January and applications from any groups or clubs will be welcome.

6.3 District Councillors

District Cllr Townsend reported that he had attended the recent planning board meeting where they were discussing the application for the Boyles Cross outside the banks in Frome, which was refused.

As part of the car parking committee a decision has been made to make parking free at Great Ostrey car park on market days in an attempt to encourage more visitors.

Cllr Townsend was involved with the Investigation Committee looking into the complaints regarding Mendip District Councils Bailiffs and whether they have been too keen in their actions to recover money.

District Cllr Ham reported that MDC has been working with Taunton Deane to see if there are any opportunities to work together and share services to save some money.

He has attended several meetings discussing the Syrian refugee crisis. The first family will be welcomed to Mendip after Christmas with the second in February. There has been lots of help and support on this matter.

34 Legacy grants were received with 18 successful of which Bishop Henderson School and Cranmore were the most local.

The Shape Mendip House Building Company have held their first meeting.

The work at Frome Leisure Centre has been delayed and is now expected to reopen in February.

Procurement for the 5 Council service contract – Final bids should be in next week with a decision expected by the end of January 2016.

Cllr Ham reported that an email has been received from Mr Roy Pinney which states that he expects to be in a position to issue his report on the Motion of No Confidence in MDC Planning and Enforcement Performance which Coleford PC issued by Friday 18 December.

6.4 Councillors – details of meetings attended this month

County Cllr Ham attended the following meetings at Somerset County Council:

18/11/15 – Full Council

25/11/15 – Halecombe Quarry Meeting

01/12/15 – Scrutiny

0.3/12/15 – Stoke St Michael

District Cllr Ham attended the following meetings at Mendip District Council:

16/11/15 – Leigh on Mendip PC

16/11/15 – Moorlands site (planning)

16/11/15 – Planning board

17/11/15 – Home building Company training

23/11/15 – Car Park review group meeting

23/11/15 – Scrutiny

24/11/15 – Moorlands group meeting

24/11/15 – Equalities and Diversity

25/11/15 – Fly tipping meeting

25/11/15 – Glyphosate weed killer meeting

27/11/15 – Legacy grants (final decisions)

30/11/15 – CMT Cabinet
01/12/15 – Migrants forum – Syrian refugees
02/12/15 – Task and Finish group “Bailiffs use of “
07/12/15 – Task and Parish engagement group
07/12/15 – Pre Cabinet
07/12/15 – Cabinet
08/12/15 – Pre Core Service Contract meeting
08/12/15 – Portfolio meeting – Transformation
09/12/15 – Core Service Contract meeting

Cllr Ham attended the following meetings on behalf of the Parish Council:

12/11/15 – Clarissa appointment at Holy Trinity Church
15/11/15 – Tapestries @ the Hub
21/11/15 – Collection of winter salt
02/12/15 - @ the Hub meeting

Cllr Horler and Neesam attended the following meeting on behalf of the Parish Council:

25/11/15 – Halecombe Quarry Meeting

Cllr Gurd, Townsend and Horler attended the following meeting on behalf of the Parish Council:

08/12/15 – Highways meeting

Cllr Turner, Townsend & Banks attended the following meeting on behalf of the Parish Council:

08/12/15 - PCSO steering group meeting

7 Planning Applications

7.1 Decisions on Previous Applications

2015/2261/APP – Grove View, High Street, Coleford, BA3 5LP

Application for approval of details reserved by condition 2 (schedule of external materials) and 4 (sample panel of external walling materials) on planning permission 2012/1353.

2015/2220/PAA – Cherry Gardens Farm, Newbury, BA11 3RL

Notification for prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (Class C£) and for associated operational development.

7.2 Complaints received by the Planning Enforcement Team, Mendip District Council

There were none.

7.3 Present Applications

2015/2714/LBC – Lipyate House, Lipyate Lane, Coleford, BA3 5EN

Minor alterations to a previously consented scheme

After consideration it was proposed by Cllr Horler that the decision should be left to the listed building officer which was seconded by Cllr Turner. It was agreed that a comment should be included within the reply to say that Coleford Parish Council are amazed that an attachment of this nature has been allowed to a listed building in the first place.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against; 2 Abstained (as they are District Councillors)

8 Finance

8.1 Accounts Approved for Payment

The Clerk read out the proposed payments which were all agreed:

Clerk Expenses (November) inc 3 mnts back pay of £119.55	£130.93
Cartridgesave.co.uk – 4 x laser print cartridges	£174.08
Apollo Technology – printer service	£20.00
Noel House – Repair to electrical box doors	£65.00
Bill Grant – Website	£120.72
Kaz Woodbury – Great expectations small grant	£100.00
EDF Energy – Changing room electricity	£65.23
Tony Cross – Grass Cutting	£2325.00
John Webb – Key holding and play area inspections	£117.50

Vote: 10 For, 0 Against; 0 Abstained

It was agreed that the following invoices which had been received after the agenda had been issued should also be paid.

Noel House – Installation of the litter bin at Preachers Vale	£65.00
Darren Wilkins Electrical Contractors – Changing room showers & heater	£366.00

Vote: 10 For, 0 Against; 0 Abstained

8 Highway and Footpath update by Lead Councillor Townsend to include:

Cllr Townsend met with Charlie Higgins and Andy Fountain along with Val Horler and Tony Gurd earlier that week to take a look at issues within the village and he reported as follows:

- The Drains have been cleared on Charlton Road.
- The erosion to the edge of the highway at Lipyeate and further along Charmborough Lane have been marked up for repair.
- The road at Cherry Gardens needs a scheme to be implemented.
- The gullies at Stockhill will be dug out to help alleviate any issues with flooding.
- The areas of resurfacing which have already started to come away on Highbury Street will be addressed in the spring.
- The 2 worst potholes at Goodeaves have been filled but the issues noted at the entrance are considered cosmetic. It was put forward that there were in fact problems with levels which meant that pooling of water was a regular occurrence.
- The problem with the new pavement leading to Macintosh View has still not been addressed but was highlighted by Councillors during this visit, as a concern.
- The concerns with parked cars on Church Street was also discussed and whether a 20mph zone was the answer. Mr Higgins said that implementing such a scheme would take time and money. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Chris Betty to officially register the concerns and seek a solution. VW
- The pavement in Farley Dell will be replaced in February.
- It was noted that the sunk gully on the road to Mells has already been repaired.

Cllr Horler confirmed that she and another resident had cleared the path at the back of the Kings Head to The Green of rotten leaves etc.

- 8.1 Items Reported by Councillors
The recently patched pot holes on Springers Hill have already started to breakdown, Cllr Townsend to report. AT
- 8.2 Relocation of the Grit Bin outside 47 Mendip Vale
Cllr Evans will remove and relocate the grit bin at the earliest opportunity. KE
It was reported that the grit bin which is located on Hippies Lane has become lost in the overgrown hedgerow although it was noted that it was full of grit. Cllr Evans to cut back to make it more easily accessible. KE
- 9 Coleford Athletic Football Club**
- 9.1 Agree Letter of Indemnity
All Councillors had been given the opportunity to consider the letter of indemnity which had been drafted by Cllr Gurd. This was intended to offer the Parish Council protection from any incident related to the serving of hot drinks from the Highbury changing rooms. It was agreed that the Coleford Athletic Football Club manager should be asked to sign and date the letter and return a copy to the Parish Council. VW
- 9.2 CAFC and the Highbury Ground
An email received from CAFC dated the 24 and 27th of November asking what they would have to do to request that when any future housing development plans are submitted for the village whether a section 106 clause could be included for the club to fund improvements to the level and surface of the Highbury playing field. He also requested that any Village day celebrations should be held during May rather than as currently the case, in August. This is to prevent damage to the playing surface just prior to the start of the season, especially if money has been spent on improving the field during the break from playing. He went on to say that he thought that the deeds gave the football club first say on what takes place on the field. He also said that they hoped to join the County league for season 16/17 and will be writing to the Parish Council once the Ground Grading Committee have visited and have made their recommendations to make the venue suitable for senior football.
It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr Hansford and say:
- He will need to speak with MDC regarding the section 106 funding.
 - To include a copy of the deeds, which state that the field is to be used for recreation and in particular for use by any football club in the said parish.
 - That the Parish Council will await a copy of the report from the Ground Grading Committee.
- 10 Application for Memorial**
The memorial application received from Radstock Co-operative Funeral Care for the additional inscription to the memorial for Sylvia Spencer was approved. Clerk to notify the Co-operative Funeral Care. VW
- 11 Update on drainage at Rose and Crown car parking**
Cllr Gurd attended a meeting with Mrs Ongaro and Julian Haines of Mendip District Council to discuss the drainage issues at Rose and Crown Cottage car parking. Mr Haines agreed that the Parish Council had no responsibility to resolve the drainage problem. Mr Haines did then take time to advise Mrs Ongaro of how the situation could be resolved by implementing a soakaway.
- 12 Correspondence – Items for Consideration and / or Decision to be Taken**
Email dated 09/12/15 from Mrs Perry asking for the outstanding Invoice to be paid for the cutting and removal of the trees. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would ring VW

Mr Perry to offer £150 in full and final settlement.

Emails received during November:

11/11/15

FW: Being a Good Cllr @ 22.21

FW: Bus Survey and New Minibus for Mendip @ 22.37

FW: mobile coverage-not spots Coleford @ 22.43

12/11/15

Fwd: Trees @ 14.43

Fwd: Trees @ 14.59

14/11/15

I'm sleeping rough so others don't have to. Please support my efforts on 14th November 2015. @ 14.40

Grassland restoration day 7th Nov @ 14.42

Bus Survey and New Minibus for Mendip @ 18.36

17/11/15

Interpretation panel printing quotation 19780 @ 11.20

18/11/15

Bus surveys and protest tomorrow @ 8.41

Agenda for Coleford PC meeting 24/11/15 @ 22.06

19/11/15

Reference EC9CD39563928 Re: Dangerous Car Parking in Coleford @ 14.32

21/11/15

Sing for Somerset 2015 at Wells Cathedral @ 23.23

Thefts @ 23.39

Agenda & Green Spaces Opportunity Funding @ 00.17

22/11/15

Coleford Detecting @ 17.29

John Forrest Pocketwatch @ 17.30

23/11/15

Halecombe Local Liaison Group Meeting (Order of Proceedings, Agenda and Minutes of Previous Meeting) @ 18.14

IMPORTANT – are you missing out on money for your local parish? @ 18.16

26/11/15

FW: Somerset Rivers Authority Dredging Briefing re-sent 7.59

27/11/15

Somerset Community Foundation eNewsletter @ 10.29

Free Dementia Awareness Training @ 10.30

Play Rangers Autumn Term Report @ 10.41

Meeting at Rose and Crown Cottages, Coleford @ 10.45

FW: Land to Rear Rose and Crown Cottages, Coleford. @ 10.48

Planning Application Consultation 2015/2714/LBC @ 10.50

Somerset County Council Bus Cuts Consultation @ 10.51
Highbury Ground @ 10.54
Highbury Ground @ 11.28
Fwd: Grit bin at Mendip Vale @ 21.27

01/12/15
Love Somerset? Donate to CCS @ 14.46

02/12/15
CAFC letter of indemnity @ 20.18
FW: Storage and parking @ 20.19
NEW Training Session - NEGOTIATE A BETTER OUTCOME IN PLANNING @ 20.20
Fostering in Somerset - Can you help? @ 20.23

04/12/15
Parish Council Information Bulletin - December 2015 @ 12.13

06/12/15
Countryside Voice reader survey - we'd love to hear your feedback @ 11.03
Coleford PC meeting 09/12/15 and Mendip Local Plan Part II response @ 20.00
Minutes from the Planning meeting held on the 24th November @ 22.46

08/12/15
Motion of No Confidence in MDC Planning and Enforcement Performance @ 20.52

09/12/15
Parking @ 13.19
Tonight's PCSO Steering Group @ 13.20

13 Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman’s Discretion
Nothing was raised.

14 Date of Next Meeting:
Wednesday 13th January 2016 Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 26th January 2016 Planning meeting

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights