Parish Council of Coleford

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

Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

In line with government guidance and recommended social distancing and self-isolation rules for those who are vulnerable, it was agreed that this meeting would be conducted as a virtual meeting using Zoom video technology.

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Virtual Meeting held on Wednesday the 8th July 2020

Present
Councillor Philip Ham (Chairman presiding)
Cllr Allen, Banks, Barrett, Conn, Evans (Part), Hanney, Pearce, Townsend and Turner.

There were one member of the public present and the Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes

Public Forum

PF 1 A member of the public spoke regarding his concerns over the potential Gladman development. He said that the village already had potential sites within the village development line which could be utilised for development rather than using the green field which is outside development line and would extend Coleford into the neighbouring hamlet of Lipyeate.

He explained that some years ago there had been a similar situation in Nailsea. The Nailsea Parish Council put forward an application in principal for a crematorium on neighbouring land adjacent to the site of the proposed development. On this occasion the impact of a potential crematorium was enough for the developers to withdraw their application for development as the overall profitability would have been greatly reduced making it not viable. It was suggested that the Coleford Parish Council might wish to consider a similar approach.

The Chairman thanked the parishioner for his suggestion which the councillors would consider.

PF 2 Cllr Conn confirmed that the new litter bin has been installed on Church Street next to the Church Hall.

PF 3 Cllr Turner reported that the street lighting at Preachers Vale is still not working. Cllr Townsend confirmed that it had been reported and engineers had been spotted in the area so it was hoped that a resolution is imminent.

1 Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)
Cllr Drescher and Harding sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

2 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting
There were none

3 Approve Minutes of last Parish Council meetings held on the 10th & 24th June 2020

The Clerk had circulated to all Councillors the minutes from the abovementioned meetings. It was proposed by Cllr Conn and seconded by Cllr Banks that both sets of minutes accurately reflected the meetings.

Vote for 10th June minutes: 8 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions
Vote for 24th June minutes: 7 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions

The Chair will sign the minutes at the earliest opportunity. PH
The Clerk to upload the minutes to the website. VW

Cllr Evans left the meeting at 19.30hrs

4 Matters arising

All actions had been completed or would be discussed under the agenda item later in the meeting apart from:

- Orchard Close allotments will be carried forward Ag
- The Clerk has made enquiries for information to produce small information cards to explain about the Coleford defibrillators and what to do in the event of an emergency. These would be printed and distributed to parishioners. This could include the QR Code which can be scanned with a smart phone which will then take you to information on how to use the defibrillator. Clive Setter of AED Locator Ltd has provided some information and the Clerk now is able to progress the design of the cards and seek quotes. VW VW
- Cllr Allen to arrange for the work to be done on securing the gate at Beacon View. MA
- Cllr Ham explained that MDC are aware that Coleford Parish Council are interested in taking ownership of the green at Preachers Vale / Careys Mead but they are yet to respond due to the coronavirus becoming priority. PH VW

5 Reports

5.1 PCSO report – No report had been received,

5.2 Somerset County Councillor report

County Cllr Philip Ham had circulated a detailed report by email. The key points of which follow:

Corona Virus Update: Whilst every death is undoubtedly an absolute tragedy, the situation in Somerset has been throughout the pandemic relatively quiet compared to the rest of the Country. As at 26th June, the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 795 and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 195. At 0.6, the R Value for the South West was the lowest of all English regions, with the national average being 0.7-1.0. Of Somerset's 200 Care Homes, only one currently has any Covid19 cases within it.

Outbreak Management Plan: Somerset's Outbreak Management Plan has been developed, agreed and will shortly be posted onto the SCC website. The Plan outlines the measure in place and the actions which will be taken should a local outbreak of Covid 19 occur in the County including Test and Trace. Public Health England rated Somerset's plan as exemplary and it will be used as a benchmark nationally.

SCC Financial outcome for 2019/20: Positive financial results and a major boost to reserves have put Somerset County Council in a strong position. In the last financial year, SCC increased its reserves to £76.2m across the board and delivered efficiencies that enabled a £6.4m underspend on the total budget.

SCC Covid19 Finances: SCC estimates additional costs of around £47m to help communities deal with coronavirus. To date the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group have reimbursed approx.. £6 million and the Government have allocated an additional £26m to Somerset. It is expected that a further Government award to help close the small shortfall will be made shortly. Major expenditure has included: Paying a 10% increase to all care home providers to help them stay financially viable through the crisis – £3.1m; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Government provides just 22% of the PPE required by schools, nurseries and key workers in Somerset,

Somerset County Council is funding the remaining 78% – predicted cost £6m; Setting up and running a new care homes in Yeovil – £1m each; Supporting nurseries and childcare settings to enable them to financially survive – £2.1m; Running social care services seven days a week – £1m; Supporting District Councils with additional homelessness costs – £0.8m; Supporting our supply chain on major building projects – £2.3m. Plus a whole host of other costs that add up!

Climate Change: SCC have become founding Members of a new network which been established by UK100 to campaign on climate change. The 21 councils involved in the Network represent 14.3 million people in total, a quarter of the population (25%) and two fifths (41%) of England by area. The network is to focus on rural communities who face unfair barriers in trying to decarbonise – it is often harder to attract funding for projects which don't fit traditional cost benefit analyses and which often favour urban concentrations with less overall carbon reduction impact.

One Somerset: The business case to move to a Single Unitary authority across Somerset will be available on www.onesomerset.org.uk from 7th July and will cover in detail the reasons for the recommendations and the substantial benefits to the residents of Somerset. The business case will pass through SCC's Scrutiny Panel and Cabinet before being considered at Full Council on the 29th July. Engagement and consultation activities will continue through July and into the Summer.

Registration Services: Birth registrations are now making a phased return in Somerset following the gradual easing of coronavirus restrictions. The service, run by Somerset County Council, had to be put on hold in March at the start of the nationwide pandemic lockdown due to Government instructions but now parents can book appointments to register the birth of babies born before 31 March 2020. The number of appointments will be limited at first, as safety measures must be put in place in buildings to protect the public and members of the registration service staff. With the service suspended for many weeks, there is a large number of births to be registered and parents of babies born after 1 April are asked to stay patient for now until more offices are open. Further updates will follow – please check www.somerset.gov.uk/births-ceremonies-and-deaths/register-birth

Library Services: Somerset Libraries are planning the phased re-opening of library buildings with the aim to start welcoming people back in July. It won't be business as usual straight away, however, and Somerset County Council's library buildings will look and feel quite different, as some processes temporarily change. Social distancing measures will be in place and a 'personal shopper' service will be available as customers will not initially be able to browse. Staff will be available to select items for customers based on popular titles, specific interests and favourite authors. Full details of which libraries are planned to open and when that's finalised will be available soon via the Somerset Libraries website (www.somersetlibraries.co.uk) Importantly there will be no overdue charges as a result of items borrowed just before buildings closed on the 19th March due to COVID-19!

Commonplace: A new interactive online mapping tool has been launched to enable members of the community to flag up areas of concern in a specific area where changes to walking, cycling and travel could make a positive difference. This work aimed at building on a number of temporary measures, including pedestrianised high streets which have already been introduced to encourage social distancing and positively support the safe movement of pedestrians and cyclists. The map can be accessed at https://somersetcovidactivetravel.commonplace.is/ An indicative figure of £482,000 for Somerset has also been published from the second tranche of funding where further new schemes will be considered.

5.3 Mendip District Councillors report

5.3.1 District Cllr Ham had circulated a detailed report by email as follows:

As chair of Scrutiny the last few months have been difficult, all meetings on line, empty offices, officers doing unfamiliar jobs, millions of pounds being paid out in grants and loans, however some companies who don't have rateable premises or work on the back of others have been unfortunate . I.e. Marquee companies, events and hospitality businesses. We have managed to rescue some but not all.

Scrutiny has continued its work around deprivation and Covid 19 has meant this work has become more important recently. The access group have been taking cycling and walking path paper through to encourage usage going forward into the new norm. We are also looking at the missing links on the old rail links Frome to Radstock and the Strawberry line from Cheddar through Shepton Mallett and on to Evercreech. We are also looking at Bus services, Mendip community transport with a survey going out to all parishes. All this work is being done so we have schemes ready to implement when government transport money comes forward promised for late autumn. Gypsies and Travellers arriving in Mendip during lockdown has caused a lot of work, concern, and due to a letter from the Secretary of State confusion, as we all know none of us could travel, but they could and MDC had to provide drinking water and mobile toilets....they had them come from Sussex and Surrey and stayed 12 days before moving on. It put local communities and doctors surgeries at risk, arguments are still going on!

Kilmersdon school has stayed open for key workers and vulnerable children all the way through including Easter holidays, recently joined by reception and year one. These classes with social distancing, classroom size and a split site meant the school was full! We are now looking how to get everyone back in September, it looks like it will be split times for different year groups, and updates will follow through weekly newsletters.

Eagle Inn at Coleford has withdrawn its planning application as the applicant has now challenged the Value of Community asset put on the establishment by MDC.

After lengthy negotiations I managed to get NO PARKING outside Coleford Coop on the grounds, with social distancing queuing and the increase in car movements as lockdown started to ease, those leaving the shop with parked cars they had nowhere to go safely.

And lastly Monday night MDC agreed to give the land known as Boyles cross back to Frome Town council after 46 years and said they are only too willing to return other assets anywhere in the district.

5.3.2 District Cllr Townsend had circulated a detailed report by email as follows from the Mendip Cabinet meeting held on the 6th July:

Finance - an overspend for 2019/20 of £95k is expected. This is easily funded through reserves. This year will be a challenge with a forecast £4.7M overspend, with some £1.85m spent on COVID, and it is not clear how much will be covered by central government.

Local Plan - the Local Plan Single Review is scheduled to be submitted in September 2023. There will be a further hearing on Local Plan Part 2 by the inspector in September 2020 to review the allocation of 505 houses in the north west of the District.

Social Housing - It is planned to provide new properly affordable greener homes to rent. Funding was allocated for a due diligence exercise to examine Mendip owned sites for the potential to develop 4 or 5 for quick wins in partnership with a housing association.

Weed Management Plan - The policy to ban Glyphosate is not proving easy to implement as it is clearly the cheapest most effective solution. The search for alternatives continues, including involving Parish Councils in a community weeding programme.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points - Feasibility studies are to be carried out by potential suppliers to establish the best locations from a user and a power supply perspective. Initial plans are to install 4 across Mendip car parks. A wider County strategy is expected to be published in September.

Parish Liaison - a new head is being funded to work closely with Town and Parish Councils "to identify ways to work together to address local needs and aspirations" and to help deliver on objectives such as:

- creating a network of local walking and cycling routes
- encouraging carbon absorption, e.g. tree planting schemes

- encouraging people to buy local food
- develop Neighbourhood Plans and Village Design Statements

6 Discuss and agree response to Cognisant Research One Somerset survey & LGR report

After discussion it was agreed that this would be carried over to the planning meeting when it was hoped that Cllr Philip Ham would have further information from County Council and District Council.

7 Planning Applications

There were none

8 Planning updates including:

8.1 Gladman's planning application

Cllr Townsend said that the Parish Councils earlier consultation response has now been uploaded in full on the planning portal. He also explained that if the planning officers was going to recommend approval then today would have been the cut off point for the application to have been referred to the next Planning board.

Cllr Townsend confirmed that he has been asking parishioners for information on any road traffic accidents on the Anchor Road / Charmborough Lane which can be submitted to the Highways department to support the Parish Councils view that despite there being very few accidents reported to the police it doesn't mean that there haven't been any. He went on to explain that he recently turned off Charlton Road onto Charmborough Lane only to be met with a HGV filling the road. After an emergency stop, he had to reverse cautiously back on to Charlton Road which resulted in another car turning into Charmborough Lane and having to perform an emergency stop to prevent driving into the rear of his vehicle. It is hoped that the Highways department will consider the numerous complaints about the dangers of the road and reconsider supporting the application.

8.2 Springwater Farm planning application

District Councillors Ham and Townsend are still awaiting MDC to make the farm accounts available to them for review confidentially**.**

9 Update on Mendip District Council Local Plan Part 2 - hearing schedule and dates

There will be a hearing in September to consider the main modifications. All villages affected that have commented will have the opportunity to send representation by prior arrangement.

10 Highways

10.1 Update - Cllr Townsend reported that:

1) - Springwater Farm - damage to the pavement has been reported again with a photograph.

2) - Dark Lane weight restriction - email has been sent to Sara Davis of Somerset Highways who has a package of signs on order. AT

3) - Preachers Vale etc Street lights - reported to Highways. It was noted that they are still not working.

4) - Pedestrian crossing lights old Post Office - reported and already repaired.

5) - Potholes – Cllr Conn confirmed the need for inspection/repair by the bridge opposite the Kings Head. The worst of the Charmborough Lane potholes has been repaired.

6) - Signs - Highways have offered to clean off any road signs that need cleaning. We need to check on those that are obscured by foliage. Councillors were asked to check and report back to Cllr Townsend. ALL

7) – Grass Verges - most appear to have been cut. Councillors to notify Cllr Townsend if there are any that have been missed. ALL

8) - Charmborough Lane – Cllr Townsend invited Councillors and parishioners to report any recent accidents to help support the Highways dossier against the Gladman planning application ALL

Councillors reported the following issues:

1. Large pot hole on the Green (the old lane by Tweed Farmhouse) by the beech tree
2. Pot hole on the first bend on Luckington Lane
3. Damaged sign about 100yds back from Halecombe Quarry towards Soho – Actually in Leigh on Mendip Parish Council
4. Lorries are still using Dark Lane which is not appropriate. It was asked if the operator could stipulate a preferred route.
5. Drains still blocked opposite Farley Dell, opposite the Legion and along the High Street all of which have previously been reported.

It was recorded that there are a 30mph and national speed limit sign on Newbury Lane near the Farm which are both needing a clean.

The new sign warning of cows crossing is obscured by the trees.

Cllr Townsend will take up these points with Somerset Highways

Cllr Ham noted that there was a fingerpost sign on the corner of Highbury playing field at the junction which needs to be straightened, the hedge cut back and renovated. The finger post sign at Lipyeate on the junction with Brewery Lane is now inside a garden and concealed in a hedgerow and has not been renovated. Cllr Townsend will enquire with the landowner as to why it is now inside the garden fence. Fingerpost sign renovation to be an agenda item for next month. AT Ag

10.2 Parking outside Coop and discussions with Somerset County Council

After much discussion between Cllr Ham and Somerset County Council Highways department SCC agreed that Cones and signage could be placed outside of the Co-op on Highbury Street to prevent parking outside of the shop. This to protect the people using the shop as when the cars were parking there, pedestrians were having to walk the other side of the parked cars, in the middle of the carriage way to stay socially distanced from the people queuing to enter the shop. The Parish Council had received reports of near misses between pedestrians and passing cars which led to Somerset Highways approving the cones.

10.3 Litter in Coleford / Charmborough Lane

Cllr Townsend reported that despite completing a thorough litter pick on Charmborough Lane towards the start of lock down the amount of litter is already terrible. It was questioned whether the Parish Council should arrange for a village litter pick and apply for the Charmborough road to be closed in order to complete that stretch safely. Cllrs Ham and Townsend will make enquiries to see if this is possible. PH/AT

11 Accounts approved for payments

The following payments had been submitted for payment:

V Watts - Clerk expenses	£26.00
HMRC – National Insurance	£20.08
Brentons Landscaping – Grasscutting Inv 349 & 348	£295.00
RoSPA Play Safely – Annual play area inspections	£427.80
Combe Garden Maintenance – Removal of tree at Beacon View	£250.00
Adrian Mason – Internal Audit	£84.00
Alvian Ltd – Replacement of swing beam at Highbury play area	£591.60
Water 2 Business – Changing room water charges	£52.40
Somerset County Council Pension Fund	£200.00
Noel House – Installation of bin on Church St	£110.00
Ben Windel – Concrete plinth at Goodeaves play are for picnic table	£300.00
Playforce Ltd – Repairs at Goodeaves – Labour only	£300.00

The Clerk confirmed that Ben Brenton had strimmed the Pump track. The contract states that the Spring cut should not be done without agreement Parish Council consent. In light of this early cut it was unlikely that the cut at the end of the year would be required but Cllr Conn will advise nearer the time. It was therefore agreed that the invoice would be paid.

The Clerk said that Playforce had replaced the posts at Goodeaves play area as previously agreed, however they did not replace the rope for the nest swing which had formed part of the agreement. The Clerk has spoken with the sub-contractor who has since ordered the parts and will be in touch as soon as he is able to book in for installation. The Clerk said that these repairs had first been flagged up in September 2019 which is unacceptable and had complained to say that a further labour charge would not be paid, which had been agreed by Playforce. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Ham that the cheque for Playforce should be signed but held by the Clerk until the ropes have been replaced. VW

It was proposed by Cllr Barrett and seconded by Cllr Banks that the payments should be made, with the cheque for Playforce held back as indicated above. Cheques will be signed by Cllr Ham, Cllr Conn, Cllr Townsend and the Clerk

Vote: 9 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

12 First Quarter Budget Review

It was agreed that this would be adjourned until the Planning meeting later this month. VW/Ag

13 Play Areas including:

13.1 Re-opening of the play areas

The Clerk confirmed that following government guidelines a risk assessment had been completed and a detailed guidance notice printed to be displayed at the play areas. Further pictorial notices will be placed at the play areas to ensure that the guidance is clear to all. The guidance was advertised on the Facebook page and the parish website. Each of the play areas had been inspected to ensure that they were safe after the period of lockdown.

Review annual play area inspections and agree action plan

13.2 The annual inspection had been completed by ROSPA and had been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr Conn suggested that the working party made up of Cllrs Barrett, Hanney, Dresher, Harding and Conn review the reports and produces a list of priorities to be completed. The Clerk will drop a hard copy of the reports into Cllr Conn, who will draft and circulate the report on priorities. AC/MB JH/AD NH VW

Cllr Allen will notify KM Steel that the concrete plinth has been laid ready for the installation of the new picnic table at Goodeaves play area. MA

14 Review Grave Digging Policy

Cllr Pearce explained that he has located a policy compiled by the ICCM which addresses grave diggers risk assessments and method statement. The document has been edited to suit the needs of Coleford and once finalised will be circulated to all Councillors and consideration and approval at the Planning meeting. CP/VW Ag

15 Footpath Review

It was agreed that this would be adjourned until receipt of the Footpath report for the North of the village which is expected soon. Ag

Clerk to report to Somerset Rights of Way that there is a stile broken on footpath reference FR4/61 which runs to the side of the undertakers VW

16 Update of the recently completed Tree Survey

Cllr Barrett confirmed that he and Cllr Harding had completed the survey using the template used in the past. Most trees are in good shape however during the inspections a complaint was made by a parishioner that a hawthorn bush is restricting the visibility when pulling out of Stockhill onto

Highbury Street. It is believed that this land is owned by Aster. The Clerk to ask for them to take action. VW

There are a couple of oak trees at Beacon View that will require ongoing monitoring.

Cllr Ham suggested expanding the list to include trees on both Parish Council owned land and a separate list for those on private land which affect PC interests. Both lists could be plotted onto a map. This will be given more consideration. VW/PH/ MB/NH

17 Discuss requirements for new Allotments

The Clerk said that there was currently 8 people on the waiting list showing that the interest in the allotments has risen dramatically over the last 3 months. It was agreed that a site visit would take place at Beacon View which was allocated as allotments in the past. VW/PH ALL

Cllr Hanney said that allotment holders at Goodeaves were again asking if a water supply can be installed. This will be considered at the August meeting. VW Ag

18 Discuss creation of area for Goodeaves allotment holders to meet

The Clerk confirmed that she had taken a look at the area which is too small to create an allotment and is close to the houses adjacent to Goodeaves play area. The Clerk spoke with the neighbouring resident who is also an allotment holder and he is in support of the area being cleared to provide a place for allotment holders to congregate during their time at the allotments. There is no request for funding just approval to utilise the area. All Councillors agreed that the area could be cleared. Clerk to notify the allotment holders.

Vote: 9 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

19 Update on the Coronavirus and the support in Coleford

Cllr Ham confirmed that the support within Coleford continues to be outstanding with extraordinary generosity being shown in donations to support the Foodbank which is providing much needed provisions to families across the area.

Dagaroo is still providing excellent meals and is regularly selling out. The Angels continue to provide support to those on lock down. Somerset County Council coronavirus hotline is still dealing with enquiries. It has also been established that in the event of a local outbreak it will be Somerset County Council that will deal with it rather than central government.

Cllr Ham thanked everyone for their continued hard work during the coronavirus.

20 Plans for future in person Council meetings

The Parish Council has the powers to continue with remote meetings until May 2021. The Hub is still closed and may well remain so until September. A meeting of the Hub committee is expected in the next couple of weeks and the decisions made will be fed back to the Parish Council. PH

21 Matters of urgency

In light of a clash of meetings for District Councillors it was agreed that the Planning Meeting will be rearranged from 22nd July to Tuesday the 21st July. Clerk to notify parishioners via Facebook and the website. VW

- Agenda items to include:
- One Somerset
- First Quarter Budget Review
- Footpath review – if received
- Planning

22 Correspondence

There were 3 memorial requests which the Clerk read out for Councillors to consider.as follows:

- Exclusive Memorial request for a new headstone for Helen Tadd.
- Curtis Ilott request for a new headstone for Trevor Burford

- Curtis Ilott request for a new headstone for Iris and Kenneth Rogers

All were approved by Councillors providing the dimensions and materials met the required specifications which the Clerk will check before responding to the applicants. VW

A letter had been received from James Alexandroff in response to our letter questioning when the skip and portaloo toilet would be removed from Underhill. His letter confirmed that it should be removed by mid-July. The Clerk will pass on this information to the parishioner who had made the complaint. VW

23 Date of Next Meetings:

Tues 21st July 2020	Planning Meeting (Amended as agreed above)
Wed 12th August 2020	Parish Council meeting