

Parish Council of Coleford

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Gallant Hill Farm
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Newsletter for September 2019

Police report

The following report was provided for Coleford during August:

- Dwelling burglaries – 1
- Criminal Damage – 2
- ASB – 5

The next PACT meeting will take place on 29th October starting at 7.30pm at Batcombe Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Highways

A visit by Mrs Davis of Somerset Highways was specifically arranged to look at safety issues at the Charmborough Lane junction with Charlton Road. She appreciated that the speed of vehicles approaching from Holcombe was the main concern as the road starts to open out, slopes downhill and there is no indication of the imminent junction. Her plan is to mark the sides of the road on the Holcombe side and install a junction warning sign. Also to arrange cutting back of the foliage around the finger post to increase awareness of the junction. Also to put additional markings at the exit from Charmborough Lane. She is persuaded of the need for this project but it is unlikely to be funded this Financial Year.

Hillside Farm on Newbury Lane – Mrs Davis was quickly persuaded by the volume of traffic, the slippery road and conversation with Mr Philips of the need for some action. In the short run she will prepare a plan for two Cattle Crossing warning signs. An extension to the 30 limit could be a possibility but would take time/money/consultation.

Springwater Farm – in addition to other HGV issues, the footway where the access track leaves Anchor Rd has been damaged again and is a potential hazard. Highways to be asked to inspect.



Planning applications

2019/1996/HSE – Proposed first floor extension on North elevation. Melrose, Highbury Street, Coleford, Radstock

Coleford Parish Council recommended approval subject to there being no windows installed on the East side of the extension which overlooks the neighbours to prevent a loss of privacy.

Launch of Small Grants Awards

The window for applications from the 2019 Small Grants are open and applications will be welcomed from village groups. There is a total of £2500 allocated for all applications so this should be in mind when applications are completed. For application forms please contact the Clerk on clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com The deadline for applications is the 1st of November.



Applications and will be approved at the meeting on the 13th November 2019.

Parish Plan

The Parish Council approved a questionnaire asking residents whether they would like a new Parish Plan, and what they think the main topics should be. The current Plan ran from 2009 to 2019 and has encouraged a lot of improvements. A new plan would need active support by residents, not just the PC. The questionnaire will be distributed during late October



Update on Play areas:

Much work has been approved for the play areas to keep them in good condition and improve, these include:

1. The parts for the see-saw at Coleford play area have been received and will be installed soon.
2. Cable ties have been fitted above the swings in the Coleford play area to stop the birds fouling on the swings.
3. Shackles for the swings at Goodeaves have been ordered and are pending delivery.
4. Scale drawings are pending for the work commencing on the combination basketball and goals for the hard court.
5. The picnic table at Highbury play area has had the graffiti reduced.
6. The sharp edges around the hard court fence have been removed.
7. The picnic tables in Goodeaves play area are both missing seats (1 missing 1 seat and the other missing 2 seats). Research will be done for replacement options for consideration at the next meeting.
8. The junior swing at Coleford play area have been completely replace as the timber was more rotten than anticipated

Dog Fouling

Please can we ask that all dog owners and walkers act responsibly and clean up after their dogs not only on the pavements and roads but also when using footpaths across open farmland. The implications on farm animals is as serious for them as it is on humans.

Date of Next Meetings:

Wednesday 25th September 2019 for the Planning meeting

Wednesday 9th October 2019 for the 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

Mendip District Council Report

District Cllr Townsend sent the following report:

Training – the programme continues apace, with most benefits to new members and providing updates to older ones. On 6th September a briefing was given on Community Health, a major issue highlighted was Safeguarding – all were reminded of our duty to be vigilant of and to report to Mendip's Safeguarding Team any issues of abuse whether Physical, Sexual – eg grooming, Emotional, Financial, Neglect or Discrimination

Licensing Board – the meeting on 14th August was briefed on the role of the Safety Advisory Group. These were established following the 66 deaths at Ibrox in 1971 and are a multi-agency advisory group to oversee safety arrangements for events. Mendip for example convened a SAG following the Glastonbury Festival traffic chaos in 2016 and the benefits were evident the following year. Major events subject to Licensing this year have included Glastonbury Festival, NASS at the Bath and West, Godney Gathering, Glastonbury Extravaganza, Mid Somerset Show, Pilton Party. A total of 164 Temporary Event Notices (TENs) have also been issued this year.

Cabinet – a long session on 2nd September. Firstly a presentation from local Fire and Rescue Services about the risks of the proposed options for reductions in stations and appliances. Frome and Wells would be directly affected.

The Norton St Philip Neighbourhood Plan was cleared to go to a village referendum. A number of options were tabled in support of the Climate and Ecology Emergency, for example reductions in road verge cutting to promote wildflower growth. The road safety implications were pointed out. The elimination of the use of Glyphosate was proposed, though the nearest alternative was estimated to cost the Council some £50k a year more, 1% of Council Tax.

The decline of the Shepton Mallet Sunday Market was reviewed – initially some 57 traders had been present but in July 2019 the number was only 10. It was agreed to license its continued operation through a Shepton Community Interest Company similar to Frome.

District Cllr Ham sent the following report:

Scrutiny is starting to pick up momentum and make some progress.

The Frome Independent Market AGM has taken place. During the year a small profit was made however it was noted that they would only have to cancel one market to run at a loss.

The Phoenix board meeting was today.

Somerset County Council Report

County Cllr Ham reported as follows:

Highways Small Improvement Scheme Consultation – Cllr Ham confirmed that the consultation held at Leigh on Mendip was a great success and as a result generated a large amount of correspondence in support of the scheme but also further suggestions for improvement. Since then there has been a meeting with the local haulage companies and the quarries to work towards possibly facilitating the installation of a roundabout at Beacon Cross.

Budget – A budget review will take place next week. It is predicted that there will be additional funding from Central Government which is encouraging.

Local road improvements – The recent road improvements around Newbury, Whitehole Hill and other sites were not thought through with the consequences of road closures being felt much wider. Cllr Ham will be taking this up with Somerset Highways.

School Transport – For the first time in 25 years SCC will be operating their own school bus fleet from the start of this academic year. The low emission buses represent a major investment into school transport service delivery whilst saving the County Council money.

Castles and Coast Way – A new walking trail in a less travelled but beautiful part of Somerset is now open to the public. This a 13 mile circular walk running from Nether Stowey to Stogursey and on the Somerset Coast at Shurton Bars. The route links the Coleridge Way to the England Coast Path National Trail which will eventually run around the coast of England.

Apprenticeships – Over the last 3 years SCC has invested in more than 300 apprenticeships, helping people get started on their career and up skilling existing staff to further their careers. 50 new apprentices will be starting this autumn. SCC is the first local authority in the South West to make use of the Social Work Degree Apprenticeship, which will also see 12 of our existing staff across Adults and Children services, up skill to become Social Workers.

Stand up for Care – 3 major local government bodies have given their backing to Somerset County Councils Stand Up for Care petition. The petition calls for cross party discussions before Christmas on how to address the national social care funding shortfall. Leaders of all political groups at the County Council have given it their backing and have joined the Local Government Association, County Council Network and the Association of Directs of Adult Social Services. The petition is hosted on the www.petition.parliament.uk website.

Shared Lives Services – Somerset County Council has agreed to transfer its Shared Lives service to Shared Lives South West (SLSW) in a move that will see more people with different needs benefit from the life changing support. The scheme currently focuses on people with learning disabilities but the new arrangements will make this support available to younger people with physical disabilities, the elderly, those being discharged from hospital and people with mental health conditions. Shared Lives supports see's adults with additional needs be matched with a trained and paid carers who open their family homes to the person needing support. The aim is for the person being supported to live the fullest life they can, be part of the community and maintain and promote new skills.

iAero – An £8 million cutting edge aerospace technology centre in Yeovil is taking off with construction work starting on site. SCC is working with the aerospace industry, including Leonardo Helicopters in Yeovil, on the flagship iAero Centre which will encourage innovation, collaboration and growth in the aerospace sector and supply chain, ensuring it remains competitive in a fast changing world. iAero is due to be completed in July next year with the first tenants expected to move in later in 2020.

Squibbers Way – SCC recently asked the residents to help find a new permanent name for the £18.4m Colley Lane Southern Access Road. This attracted more than 250 unique nominations that were whittled down to a shortlist of six and put to the public vote. In total 2728 people cast their vote with Squibbers Way receiving 59% of all votes. (Squibbing, featuring two-handed firework torches held overhead, is an intrinsic part of Bridgewater Carnival).