

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter for October 2018

Mr John Hansford to attend to discuss the progress on Coleford Athletic Football Club Improvements

1. John explained that new goals had been delivered today and would be installed soon. These were paid for with a funding grant and sponsorship. The old goals will then be spare and if they can be utilized elsewhere in the village then the Parish Council are welcome to them.
2. The plans for the work to create a new room within the changing rooms incorporating a new door and wall has been circulated to the Council. The club hopes to start work next summer.
3. The renovation work to the toilets in the home dressing room has been completed. A new toilet was installed, tiling completed and walls and floor painted. It looks really good and is much improved.
4. At some point over the next 2 years the club would like to see the pitch railed off which would hopefully prevent people from walking dogs on the pitch.
5. The club is very keen to raise funds to improve the playing surface of the pitch and John asked for the support of the Parish Council. It is planned that they would look to apply for relevant grants and fund raise to cover the cost.



Dog Fouling



Sadly this problem doesn't seem to be getting any better. If you own a dog, PLEASE clean up after it. Bag it and then place it in a bin. The Parish Council would like to make it clear that NO DOGS should be on the Playing Field. Not only is it VERY unpleasant to come into contact with dog faeces, it can cause incredibly serious health implications including blindness. Coleford Athletic Football Club now have several teams playing at the grounds including youths – Lets not put any of the players at risk. Bags are provided free of charge by the Parish Council at dispensers on Church Street and Highbury Street – please use them!

Parking

Cllr Ham and Townsend met with an agent representing the new Co-op to discuss the application to restrict parking on Anchor Road which had been productive. It is now proposed that the restriction should take place between the hours of 10am and 3pm so that it would not affect people who wanted to park over night outside their own homes. They did highlight that it was unfair that a request for yellow lines had been requested for the unbuilt Co-op when in the past it requests for them to be installed outside the current Co-op had been rejected.

The Council is aware that the parking at the top of Church Street has become particularly difficult problem since the pharmacy opened. The Council will press for a resolution.

PCSO report

A report for Coleford during September were as follows:

Burglaries – 0
Non – Dwelling Burglaries – 0
Criminal Damage – 1
Theft of a motor vehicle - 0
ASB – 5



PCSO Storey said that everyone is aware that the police had encountered large demand and calls in a certain location within the village of Coleford. The beat team have carried out a lot of work using numerous Anti-Social behaviour tools / powers at our disposal. Working alongside the community this was impacting on, alongside partner agencies. An example of the reduction of calls relating to the location can be seen below –

Significant reduction in calls. -

02/01/18 - 11/07/18 - 34 call cards created

12/07/18 - 19/09/18 - 0 call cards created

Launch Small Grants 2018

Applications are now available for local groups to apply for a small grant. This year the total pot is £2500 to be split between approved applications. The deadline for receipt of applications is 5th November 2018. Applications forms will be available on the parish website. Any questions please call the Clerk on 07971 5 16916 or the Chairman on 01373 812152. Please email completed forms to: hwbanks48@gmail.com



Conclusion of Audit 2017/18

The Clerk confirmed that the Audit had been concluded without any issues or recommendations. The required Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been displayed on the village notice boards and the website.

Roman Way Play Area

Quotes have been received to install a new play train with slide, balance logs, burmah bridge and stepping logs which is just outside the budget. A request will be made for a detailed plan showing the proposed layout to ensure that the equipment proposed will work in the area available.

Create new hedge at BMX track

It was agreed that a new hedge would be planted from the corner where the new fence started along the fence line and beyond. The bare rooted whips would need to be planted in January and it was hoped that some volunteers might help with the planting



Grass cutting contract for next season

The Contract is due for renewal at the end of October in preparation for the Spring in 2019. All Councillors present agreed that the contractor should be evaluated on not only price by the quality of the workmanship and service. It was felt that a split of 60% price and 40% quality would be sensible. The contract will be for 2 years rather than 3 as in the past.

District Council Report

District Cllr Ham attended the meeting and reported that:

The last couple of months have been extremely busy with the Transformation projects coming live after months of work being done confidentially.

We secured the Boots property in Truro, and Cox and Cox in Frome in August this brings the total now borrowed to 25 M which will give us 1.04M in receipts after all costs to spend on front line services.

During August we also bought the Saxonvale site in Frome which is a brownfield site that has been around for over twenty years, due to different land owners being unable to agree, but due to a pension company having to sell it came to the market. This since has resulted in many meetings with Security firms, Contamination experts, Highways, Frome town council, other landowners, civic society, chambers of commerce, Developers, Lawyers, Planners and others. This is a 5 Year project which will provide housing, retail, commercial, office and elderly living provision. We are hoping to start building in around nine months.

We are also working through Shape Mendip housing in conjunction with BANES housing company (Aqueous) to build some new homes in Mendip to raise more income to support services.

The reason for this activity is that between 2010 and 2020 MDC will have lost all its government grants from central government. We are being proactive and solving our own problems.

DC won the court case against the travelers at Moorlands in Glastonbury, but we need to prove we need the land before the last 11 need to move.

MDC Cabinet had an away day last week discussing the financial situation of SCC, the 13 M pounds worth of cuts to apply immediately in year, and the effects this will have on MDC. This included the funding of CAB, Salting and Gritting of Roads, Youth services, Mineral planning, Highways. We are working on all these areas and sharing thoughts with neighboring districts.

We then discussed the Unitary options, Our MPs thoughts and the way central government might look at our situation here in Somerset.....it was a lively debate.

District Cllr Townsend reported as follows:

19-9-18 PLANNING BOARD – Two items of interest, a large Brew Tank to be displayed over the new microbrewery being established in front of the concrete wall of the old Amulet in Shepton Mallet.

In North Wootton a dwelling approved outside of development limits as it was considered the normal restrictions were outweighed by the benefit of the family releasing social housing in the village.

1-10-18 PLANNING SEMINAR

Rachel Tadman introduced herself as leader of the East Mendip Team and Acting i/c Development Services. Planning have 3 Temps at the moment but permanent staff are sought. David Lloyd is in post as the new Senior Enforcement Officer. Rachel reported that 94% of major applications were approved in the last year and 94% were turned round within the target date, putting MDC in the top 100 councils in the country. The very useful Planning Pre-app service is to be upgraded. A Fast Track service for smaller schemes is planned. Finally, a Planning Template is being prepared for Parish Councils to help focus responses.

Nina Richards of Mendip Housing reported the success of the Council in facilitating the delivery of 1093 Affordable Houses since 2010, of which 111 are on Rural Exception sites. Andre Sestini, Local Plan Manager, introduced the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The main thrust is to facilitate the delivery of the Government's target of up to 300,000 new homes a year. This number is subject to review in the light of the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) predictions of demand. One aim is to focus development in areas where the ratio of average earnings to average house prices is greatest in order to meet the obvious demand and make home ownership more achievable. In addition to the South East, Somerset is a main target. Also there will be greater visibility of the Viability Assessment which developers may use to claim that it is not economically viable for them to provide the required 30% of Affordable Housing on any scheme.

CHARLTON ROAD – good to report that Mendip responded rapidly to my request to remove a second plague of fly-tipping at the lay-by at the Charlton end.

County Council Report

County Cllr Ham reported that:

Financial Imperative Work: SCC have been highlighting for the last 18months the pressures they are facing as funding from central government communities to fall and the demands and costs continue to rise.

Nearly all local authorities are facing the same challenges. Top tier rural authorities with responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults (which accounts for over 2/3 of the total SCC budget) are under huge financial pressure.

Despite lobbying there has been no shift in Government policy or funding. Unlike other public services, SCC have to deliver a balanced budget and the funding received now falls far short of meeting the costs of critical services provided.

The Cabinet Committee agreed in year savings on 12th September of £12 million affecting over 70 budget lines, in all directorates. The consequences of not taking this action of not bringing SCC to financial sustainability, would sadly be very much tougher in the medium term.

Delivery of the new schools programme: This month sees the next step on the way to making sure SCC have the right education provision in the right places for their homes, so they don't have travel long distances or go out of county to find the right school is vitally important for their development, opportunities and quality of life. Selworthy school in Taunton is expanding on to a second site Hazelbrook and a brick laying ceremony takes place this month. It is expected the school will open for Sept 2019.

Social Care for Older People: Somerset Home First initiative has in the first year of operation, resulted in over 2000 patients avoiding 7500 bed nights in hospital. This has made significant cost savings for the NHS and improved the quality of life for the people involved. To date the overall delayed discharges across the County have reduced by 75% from 3500 bed nights to 800.

Secondary Schools Admission Deadline: With a 31st October deadline there are now just weeks left for parents to submit applications for secondary school places – for children moving from Primary to Secondary school or Middle to Upper school in September 2018. Whether your child is starting school for the first time or transferring to their next school, applications need to be made through SCC’s website www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions

Hinkley Point update: Two year after Hinkley Point C was fully launched, the scale of construction and progress continues to be on track. More than 3200 people are now at work building the new nuclear power station in Somerset. The project is on track for its next major milestone in 2019 – the completion of the 4500 tonne concrete platform on which the reactor building sit.

Proud to produce in Somerset: County Hall is the venue for the National Farmers Union event called Proud to Produce in Somerset. This event will spotlight the importance and the challengers of our rural businesses to the thriving Somerset economy.

Improving Health and Wellbeing: Spark have organised an inspiring event at 7.15 on Tuesday 16th October at the Edgar Hall, Somerton to showcase how people in Somerset communities are working together to improve local health and wellbeing. It’s open to town and parish councillors, community groups and anybody with an interest in improving health and wellbeing in their community. For further information contact Matt Day 07714 648913

Flu Vaccine: Flu is a serious illness in vulnerable people, potentially causing deaths and complications such as pneumonia. SCC urge all eligible residents to protect themselves and get a flu jab. Flu outbreaks can also cause severe disruptions to health and social care services in the winter month. The flu vaccine is still the best protection we have against an unpredictable virus. It can reduce the risk of serious illness, Please check with GP’s or local pharmacists for details of vaccination centres.

Potholes: As we come to the end of a long hot summer the number of potholes being reported on the highways has fallen to a record weekly low, down to 164 against 1034 at the beginning of May. Pothole repairs continue to meet the ongoing demand with 182 filled during the last week of September. As we come into the winter months, members of the public can help SCC Highways stay on top of carriageway repairs by reporting effects through www.travelsomerset.co.uk

Library services: Recommendations for the future for Somerset’s libraries service will be published this month. During the recent consultations over 7000 responses were received including nearly 13000 comments. These have been carefully reviewed and analysed over the summer and a report detailing the findings and councils recommendations is expected to be published online 16th October ahead of discussion by the councils Scrutiny Committee on the 24th October.

Getting the facts on Fostering: Many people considering fostering think about it long before making an enquiry and do lots of research online. The newly launched www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk website from the Somerset County Council fostering service ‘Fostering in Somerset’ gives people a real insight into fostering and the benefits of working with a non-profit service.

Date of Next Meetings:

Wednesday 24th October 2018

Tuesday 6th November 2018

Wednesday 14th November 2018

Planning Meeting & Finance Working Party Meeting – Precept

Small Grants Working Party Meeting

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