

Parish Council of Coleford

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

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 11th March 2015

Presentation by Mark Wilcox for YMCA Mendip

Mark explained that the Coleford Youth Club opens on a Tuesday night between 6.30 and 8.30 with youths being between the age of 9 and 20 years old with the average being 14. It can be a challenging group.

Youth workers are at the early stages of working systematically and responsively to develop more ownership, respect, management and peer-leadership amongst the young people through encouragement, informal learning, incentives and session program. Over the next 12 months they want to develop the young peoples' participation and involvement with an aim that a management group can start to form. Our Volunteer Coordinator has recruited 2 volunteers to assist in the delivery of the Coleford Youth Club supporting the two paid workers who attend weekly. Volunteers are an active part of the youth club and are included in all aspects: including planning and delivery. One of the volunteers is an active member of the Coleford Community Hub Board.

Over the last quarter the youth club programme has included: relationships, personal hygiene, wellbeing, support, healthy eating, bullying, setting up ground rules and consequences for unacceptable behavior. Mark said that he wanted to see the youth club grow, improve and link in with other village activities like the Village day.

Somerset County Council have now pulled out of funding which means that there is a shortfall of £4834. Cllr Ham suggested that the Youth Club works towards raising their own funding with the possibility that the Parish Council will then also contribute.

Concerns were raised over the hanging of the Millennium tapestries for fear that they may become damaged during the Youth club sessions. Cllr Bradbury explained that they would be hung with the bottom of the tapestries being above 2m so are well out of reach and having sought guidance from The Embroiderers' Guild they have confirmed that they are in fact very robust.

The Chair thanked Mark for attending.

Public Discussion

The following matters were highlighted:

1. The wooden half rounds which edge the bushes at Highbury car park have become rotten and may become a Health & Safety issue. Cllr Ham to investigate.
2. The dog bin at Careys Mead has been broken. To be discussed later in the meeting.

PH

Present

Councillor P Ham (Chairman Presiding)

Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Banks, Cllr Evans, Cllr Horler, Cllr Talbot, Cllr Townsend, Cllr Turner & no members of the public

Cllr Parfitt and Cllr Neesam both sent apologies which were duly accepted by the Chair.
Cllr Fleming and Cllr Hopkins were absent.

2 Co Option of Councillor

No applications had been received.

3 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

There were no declarations of interests or dispensations granted.

4 Reports

4.1 PCSO report

No report had been received. Cllr Banks had bumped in PCSO Golay who asked if it was possible that he might be able to have a key for the Hub to allow him to use the facilities and write up his notes. Everyone agreed that it would be positive to have a visible presence at the Hub.

County Councillor report

4.2 County Councillor Ham reported that:

- 0% increase in Council tax has been confirmed
- He attended a meeting regarding the South West Heritage Partnership, which was a progress report since they took over the heritage arm of the Council. - information to be passed around Councillors in correspondence pack.
- Scrutinised the call in procedures.
- Working on Highways projects including Wanstrow, Doultong and Prestleigh.

District Councillor report

District Councillor Horler reported that a complaint had been received from Anchor Close regarding the large lorries and farm vehicles accessing the new entrance opposite the Close. Threatening behaviour had ensued after a lady said that she was unable to move a parked car for 15 minutes. MDC said there was nothing they could do to help but to call the police on 101 to report. This has also been put to enforcement and Ian Glover has been out in the past. The electric post was damaged by a vehicle going to the farm but no photos were taken. Cllr Horler suggested residents take photographs of any further incidents and report to the police on 101.

Cllr Horler said that she has tried to get updates on all enforcement issues but all staff were away from the office.

District Councillor Ham reported:

- 0% council tax has been confirmed.
- Building control partnership have teamed up with Sedgemoor, Taunton Dean and west Somerset.
- Creation of a Housing Company to build houses - not affordable housing but 1 – 2 bed houses and bungalows to sell or rent.
- Elections. District Council goes into purdah on the 23rd March.
- The affordable housing at Macintosh View generated 39 interested parties to date so it was well worth re starting the process.

Councillors meetings attended

4.3 Councillor Ham attended the following meetings:

Somerset CC

16/02/15 - South West Area Drainage Authority ref Somerset Rivers Authority
18/02/15 – Full Council meeting and budget setting
26/02/15 – Wanstrow highway improvement scheme.
03/03/15 – Scrutiny
05/03/15 – Trudoxhill PC
10/03/15 – Connecting Devon and Somerset broadband

Mendip DC

12/02/15 – Planning meeting
17/02/15 – Policy and Performance
19/02/15 – Shape Mendip opening
19/02/15 – Leisure sponsorship board
23/02/15 – Full Council – budget setting
02/03/15 – Scrutiny
06/03/15 – Planning meeting
09/03/15 – Cabinet
09/03/15 – Shape Mendip sponsorship board
10/03/15 – CAMG
11/03 – Planning meeting
11/03 – Equalities and diversity

Parish Council

13/02/15 – Hub meeting
14/02/15 – Playing Field committee meeting
04/03/15 – Hub meeting
11/03/15 – Goodeaves Playground meeting

Councillor Horler attended the following meetings:

13/02/15 – Hub, Coleford
16/02/15 – Leigh on Mendip PC
23/02/15 – Full Council Coleford PC
28/02/05 – Helping with coffee morning at the MCP surgery
03/03/15 – Holcombe PC
04/03/15 – CCTV MDC
05/03/15 – Patients group MCP surgery

Councillor Bradbury attended the following meetings:

03/03/15 - Litter pick at Lipyeate
05/03/15 - Mendip Country Practice Patients' Group meeting
Various meetings inspecting the village "Timescale Tapestries" & measuring up The Hub for hanging
Numerous discussions with members of the Oral History Group on re-printing of "Coleford as 'twere"

Councillor Townsend attended the following meetings:

21/02/15 - Playing Field Sub Committee
24/02/15 - Litter Pick - Kings Head area
03/03/15 - Litter Pick - Lipyeate
04/03/15- Hub Management Committee Meeting
09/03/15 - Playing field Sub Committee - Goodeaves Play Area

Councillor Turner attended the following meetings:

21/02/15 - Playing Field Sub Committee
09/03/15 - Playing field Sub Committee - Goodeaves Play Area

5

Planning Applications

5.1 Decisions on Previous Applications

There were no updates.

5.2 Complaints received by Planning Enforcement Team, Mendip DC

An update was sought for the new building at Woolstone House, Springers Hill. Cllr Horler explained that she had made enquiries with Enforcement but there were no officers available. Cllr Horler will continue to press for a progress report on Woolstone House, Owls Nest and Cherry Gardens Lane.

VH

5.3

Present Applications

The application 2015/0281/PAA – Application for prior approval to change the use of a building from agriculture to a dwelling house at Cherry Gardens Farm, Newbury, had been received. When asked if an extension of time could be given the planning officer, Carlton Langford stated that the Parish Council should not have been consulted! He said that it was worth know that the PC comments would not affect the outcome of the decision as it is up to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) as to whether prior approval of the LPA is required or not.

It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Carlton and ask for simplified guidance regarding permitted development.

VW

6

Approval of minutes and matters arising

A copy of the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th February 2015 had been circulated to each member of the Parish Council. It was agreed that a correction of minute ref 12 bullet point 5 should be amended to read cemetery gate and not the Church gate. A vote was then taken which was unanimously in favour of accepting the minutes as correct. The Chair then duly signed the minutes. The Clerk to forward a copy of the approved minutes for uploading to the website.

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

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

KE

- The rubbish found behind the under 9 play area is still there. It is hoped that this could be cleared at the time of the litter pick.
- The Clerk has reported the overgrown hedge to MDC who will contact the owner directly.
- Cllr Ham has highlighted landowners on the recently produced footpath survey which the Clerk will now send to the ROW team for action.
- The work on Goodeaves play area has commenced and 2 of the 3 cheques have been issued. The 3rd is required upon completion.
- The joint litter pick with the Parish Council and Coleford Revival group is still to be arranged.
- Cllr Ham confirmed that he had approached the village school regarding a poster competition encouraging dog owners to pick up after their dogs.
- Cllr Ham to ask if the Flower show committee would be prepared to help with the planting of bulbs and bedding plants around the village.
- The sack dispensers have been purchased and will be installed soon.

VW

VW

KE/SP

PH

PH

PH

7

Highway and Footpath Issues to include:

7.1 Lead Councillor Report– Alan Townsend reported as follows:

- 1) All issues arising from 11-2-15 meeting have been reported.
- 2) Defects on Highbury St, two on Anchor Rd and one on Highbury St had been reported since the last Meeting
- 3) The pothole repairs on High St and Common Lane have been completed.
- 4) Out of Parish problems reported at Mells, Whatley Quarry and Stoke Bottom. Mells pothole repairs already carried out.
- 5) Meeting requested with C Higgins to get update on 2015/16 resurfacing programme
- 6) Meeting requested with C Betty to discuss 20 mph possibilities and HGV signs
- 7) Not strictly Highways but Western Power were requested to look at leaning pole opposite Anchor Close which bears marks of having been struck by a vehicle.

7.2

Items Reported by Councillors

AT

The road surface by Rope Walk really needs repairing as there is a concern it could unseat a cyclist. Concern was also raised that the defects around the BWW covers in Highbury St and Anchor Rd were reported some 18 months ago and had still not been

8 Finance

8.1 Review of the sub-committee expenditure 2014/15

Monitoring of the sub-committee expenditure continues.

8.2 Accounts approved for payment

The Clerk read through the proposed payments.

Glasdon UK Limited – 2 x Sack dispenser x 2
GB Sport & Leisure UK Ltd – Play equipment repairs
GB Sport & Leisure UK Ltd – Play equipment repairs
Writhlington Sports Centre – Clerks accountancy course
Clerk expenses
J Webb – Playing field inspections and key holder
EDF Energy – Changing rooms electricity

Invoices were checked for payment by the Clerk, Councillor Philip Ham and Val Horler

Vote taken: 8 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained

The Clerk explained that as agreed at the last meeting 2 of the 3 Playforce invoices have been received for the sum of £12800 each and the cheques have been raised. The third is due at the time of completion for the same amount. VW

The Clerk handed out a paper showing all payments already made which are yet to clear with the bank, the payments proposed for tonight, the third Playforce invoice and details of other projects which the Council have already agreed to fund and will be payable soon. This amounted to a total £33380.55. The current bank account balance stands at £28779.48 which leaves a deficit of £4601.07 which is ultimately down to the 20% VAT incurred on these projects which will be claimed back in due course.

The report also gave the balance of the other Council accounts. The Clerk suggested that £7K from the Capital account should be transferred to ensure that sufficient funds were in the account. All Councillors agreed that the Clerk should make the transfer. VW

Cllr Talbot left the meeting at 21.08hr

s

9 Young People Report

Nothing to add after the earlier presentation.

10 Risk and Health and Safety

There was nothing raised.

11 Update of the Parish Plan / Coleford Hub

The Hub continues to have lots of bookings. The Chair thanked Cllr Banks for the work that he has undertaken at the Hub.

12

Playing Fields Committee Report

Lead Councillor Turner reported that:

- GB Sports and Leisure have completed their repairs/replacements of the play equipment in Highbury, Coleford and Roman Way play areas although he is not happy with the finish to the safety surface around the new swings in Highbury and he has asked them to return to attend to it.
- Playforce are well under way to supplying and fitting the new play equipment at Goodeaves. Cllr Ham, Townsend and Turner met representatives on site and have asked them to fit a new gateway at the far end of the site to allow for easier access for users once the new houses are inhabited. Price to be agreed. Play force have also been taken to Coleford to view the access and positions of where the two picnic benches are to be placed.
- Wilkins Electrical will be undertaking the repairs/replacement to the floodlights in the Highbury Hard Play area this coming Friday the 13th March. As agreed they will be supplying the cherry picker.
- Members of the Playing Field committee met on Saturday 14th February to determine how best to create a new entrance for the referee to access the Highbury changing rooms. A follow up meeting was held at the same venue on Saturday the 21st February to meet a retired architect who has since provided sketches of his proposals for both the referee access and a unisex toilet block. Decisions are still to be taken as to how we proceed with drawings and local builders. A meeting will be held on the 19th March at 10am to discuss sketches further.

14

Correspondence – Items for Consideration and / or Decision to be Taken

- Cllr Bradbury email re Mobile coverage – Clerk to chase up Deborah Liggatt for update. PH VW
to report back on the proposed mast at the next meeting.
- Coleford Revival group – letter of thanks for funding. No action required.
- Email from Frack Free Somerset – Agree to unsubscribe from updates. VW
- Somerset Emergency Community Contacts – Agenda item for April Ag
Cllr Bradbury email re damage to dog waste bins. – The bin at Careys Mead has been damaged on the night of the 03/03/15. The incident has been reported to the police and a crime number has been obtained. The Chair asked Cllr Evans if in his experience of the insurance whether it would be worth pursuing with a claim. He felt that with the cost of the excess it would not be worth taking that action. Cllr Bradbury handed a personal cheque to the Clerk for £100 to fund a reward being made available to anyone in future reporting evidence which led to the successful prosecution of anyone causing malicious damage to Council property. The Police had advised that they had no problems over the protocol of dealing with this reward scheme. The Clerk will check with SALC as to whether this is acceptable practice. VW
Cllr Horler also said that the bin at the Kings Head also needed attention after it had been removed by Openreach staff. Cllr Ham said that he would inspect both bins and see if repairs could be undertaken. PH
The Chair confirmed that he would also ensure that the 2 new dog waste bag dispensers were installed around Church Street and along Highbury Street at convenient locations. PH
- Letter from Allen Stevens regarding funeral arrangements – Clerk to investigate. VW

15

Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman’s Discretion

Nothing was raised.

16

Date of Next Meeting:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----|
| Tuesday 24 th March 2015 | Planning meeting | |
| Wednesday 8 th April 2015 | Parish Council Meeting | |
| Tuesday 21 st April 2015 | Planning Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish | VW |