

arish Council of Coleford

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd June 2015

Present

Councillor Philip Ham (Chairman Presiding)

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

Presentation by Lila Morris and Ellie Higginson for the Somerset Wildlife Trust

Ellie Higginson explained that as a result of section 106 funding allocated to SWT by Somerset County Council and the Torr Works Environmental Enhancement Funding Project Committee (part of mitigation for the deepening of Torr quarry) they have been able to deliver a three year programme of survey, monitoring, research and delivery of related projects. This work aims to establish ecological networks and restoration zones that will guide landscape-scale conservation delivery focused around East Mendip. To date, SWT have surveyed lots of areas south of the Parish and are in the process of contacting landowners in Coleford to extend their survey. They have mapped ecological networks of both woodland and species rich grassland with the aim to do restoration work to create a network of areas to prevent isolation which can cause problems for a number of species.

Ellie bought along some leaflets which give more information about the work that the Somerset Wildlife Trust are doing. A PDF version will be emailed for distribution.

Lila invited everyone to some summer and autumn events coming soon. There will be Bat surveys taking place at Chantry and Downhead but the bats fly over a large area so are likely to frequent Coleford! This will be a great opportunity to find out more about the bats and the different species. Volunteers are always needed.

On the 29th & 30th June there will be a grassland event which will be specifically aimed at restoring grassland. Advice will be readily available and there will be a visit to Halecombe quarry.

On the 11th July there will be a wildflower and woodland walk around Edford Woods, Holcombe.

Cllr Ham asked what area the Somerset Wildlife Trust were working in. Ellie explained that they have completed mapping across Somerset but the surveys have been concentrated on the areas where the funding has been provided.

Cllr Townsend asked if they had completed any bat surveys in the area proposed for the Torr Works wind turbines. Alan explained that bat surveys have been completed as part of the planning process which might be of interest. Alan said that he would be very interested to have an independent view if they had such information.

The Chair explained that the Coleford Playing field is an area that the Parish Council are in the process of reviewing. In the past the bank has been looked after by the Butterfly group but since they have pulled out the area have become overgrown by brambles. Lila and Ellie agreed to visit the field before leaving the village and would email the Clerk with any thoughts or proposals.

The Chair thanked Ellie and Lila for taking the time to visit and give the presentation.

Public Forum

The following matters were highlighted:

Cllr Gurd apologised for missing the last meeting.

Cllr Horler had received a complaint regarding the trees at Stockhill Court. They have recently had lower branches removed but there were concerns that the branches were going to break off. Clerk to report to Aster homes.

VW

Cllr Horler had received a complaint regarding the branches which are now completely obscuring the pavement at no 2 Mendip Vale. This has been reported on many occasions but the Clerk will write again to Mendip District Council and Somerset Highways.

VW

Cllr Horler asked if the dog waste bin could be re-installed behind the Kings Head as it has been on the floor since March. Clerk to make enquiries to see if a volunteer can be found to undertake the task.

VW

1 Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

Apologies were received from Cllr Foot and Cllr Parfitt which were duly accepted by the Chair.

2 Declaration of interests

There were none.

3 Part Two of the Mendip District Council Local Plan

Cllr Ham confirmed that the Mendip Local Plan has now been adopted so work has now started on Part 2. The Hub has been booked for Monday the 19th October 2015 from 2pm to 8pm for Mendip Planners to give an opportunity for people to view and discuss where future planning might happen in the Parish. The Local Plan specifies that Coleford would need 37 houses over the next 15 years but that could be the minimum amount.

4 Planning & Enforcement updates

4.1 Planning updates

2015/0668/HSE – Proposed single storey rear extension, Ingledene, Stock Hill, Coleford

Approved with conditions

2014/2321/VRC – Application for the variation of condition 2 of approved application 2010/1890

Plot land at Goodeaves Close, Coleford

Approved with conditions

2015/0027/APP – Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 11 (gas protection measures) 12 (remediation) and 13 (unforeseen contamination) of planning application 2010/1890.

Plot land at Goodeaves Close, Coleford

Approved with conditions

4.2 Enforcement updates

2014/0669/CLE – Owls Nest Farm, Luckington Lane Coleford, Certificate of Lawful Development

A letter had been prepared from the Parish Council for submission to the planning office opposing the abovementioned application as a decision is imminent. All Councillors considered the draft and suggested some minor amendments. It was agreed that Cllr Townsend should make the suggested amendments prior to sending to the planning office.

5 Discussion re Coleford Playing Field

The Chair proposed that a site visit should take place on Thursday the 2nd July at 10am for all Playing field committee members but that all other Councillors were also welcome attend. The purpose is to view the overgrown bank, the boundary wall and the allotments which join the field. This will be followed up with an agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting.

6 Skate Park update

The provisions for a skate park were discussed. Further investigations need to be made into requirements and costs. Agenda item for the July meeting.

Agenda

7. Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman’s Discretion

Councillor Turner confirmed that he had received further information regarding the flood lights at the Ringing Pits sport area. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the July meeting.

Agenda

Date of Next Meetings:

Wednesday 8 th July 2015	Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 21 st July 2015	Planning Meeting