

Parish Council of Coleford

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

PRESENTATION ON MENS SHED BY PATRICK ABRAHAMS

Patrick explained that the Frome Shed was launched in August 2014. People come and do stuff!! There are now 30 members registered in Frome with 12 – 15 each week. They complete their own projects as well as community work, odd jobs and repairs. Currently making owl boxes and kennels etc. Each session costs £3 which includes tea and coffee. This is part of the National project and they are part of the Mens Shed Association. It cost approx. £450 to setup the Frome shed which including insurance and it is now financially self-sufficient.

After attending the recent Hub @ Coleford launch event, 5 people have expressed an interest but need drum up more interest for the Coleford Shed. Patrick will be attending a CRG meeting on the 5th March to spread the word. Articles will be placed in the local paper, posters will be displayed, advert in On the Map will be pursued to promote the Coleford Shed to see if enough members can be found to make it worthwhile to launch. Aster Homes have offered funding towards the set-up of the Coleford Shed.

VW

A “Meet the Shedders” event will take place at the Cheese and Grain, From on the 12th May 2015 (date TBC) when it is hoped that the Coleford Shed would be launched.

The benefits of the Shed are immense. There are psychological and physical benefits for each member but also there are also community benefits.

Public Discussion

Adjourned until later in the meeting.

Present

Councillor P Ham (Chairman Presiding)
Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Banks, Cllr Evans, Cllr Horler, Cllr Townsend, Cllr Turner, Cllr Parfitt
(Arrived 7.25pm) and Cllr Talbot & 0 members of the public

1 Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

Cllr Neesam sent apologies which were duly accepted by the Chair.

Absent

Cllr Fleming and Cllr Hopkins

2 Co-option of Councillor

There was no-one to Co-opt.

3 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

There were no declarations of interests and no dispensations were granted.

4 Reports

4.1 PCSO report

PCSO Mike Storey attended although he is assigned to the other rural beat covering Wanstrow, Nunney etc although he does attend this beat to become familiar and show a police presence when required. He explained that he was a Special Constable for 6 years before retraining before Christmas to become a PCSO.

Cllr Turner said that he has investigated a report of fly tipping behind the under 9 play area at Highbury Playing Field. There is a large amount of rubbish which has been dumped, some of which appears to be a few years old. He will have another look and if an address can be found he will liaise with the PCSO to see if this can be pursued for prosecution. **CT**

4.2 County Councillor Philip Ham – Cllr Ham reported that

- Work is being done on the budget – don't think that any of the cuts will affect Coleford.
- The Holcombe / Shepton Mallet bus has been saved.
- 0% increase in Council tax.
- River Authority meetings continue.

4.3 District Councillors Val Horler & Philip Ham

Cllr Horler reported that she has attended 8 meetings including Parish Council and PCSO meeting.

Cllr Ham reported that:

- Recent Cabinet meeting – budget approved. 0% increase.
- Leisure contract is progressing ok. Next meeting is the week after next.
- The neighbourhood steering meeting took place this week where the fire service, ambulance, landscape group, police service and Mendip District Council all trying to work together. It is expected that this will take approximately 3 years to implement.
- Aster homes – It came to light last week that the process for selecting appropriate residents for the new affordable housing had started but Cllr Ham had not be notified. He was told that there was no local interest. Cllr Ham said that there wouldn't because there has been no promotion or advertising around the village. Tracy Aarons has managed to get the process stopped and it will now be restarted to allow the Parish Council to promote the houses to ensure that anyone interested in the houses will have the chance to register with the Homefinder website so that they can bid in the 18th February 2015. There are:

4 x 1 bed

7 x 2 bed

9 x 3 bed

2 x 4 bed

4.4 Councillors – details of meetings attended this month

Cllr Ham attended the following meetings:

For Somerset County Council:

14/1 – Budget meeting

27/1 – Scrutiny “Place”

30/1 – Scrutiny “Place & People Budget”

04/2 – PCSO meeting at Buckland Dinham

For Mendip District Council:

08/1 – Stoke St Michael PC

08/1 – Equalities & Diversity

12/1 – Frome Independent Market & Police

12/1 – Cabinet

12/1 – Sponsorship Board Shape Mendip

12/1 – Bath & West Development Group

12/1 – Planning meeting
19/1 – Leigh on Mendip PC
19/1 – CAMG
22/1 – Leisure with Fusion Lifestyle
28/1 – Business Development Group
02/2 – Planning meeting
03/2 – Rural Forum
03/2 – Migrant workers forum
06/2 – At the Hub “Launch event”
09/2 – Mendip Neighbourhood Steering group
09/2 – Cabinet
10/2 – Core Service Contract Review
10/2 – CAMG

For Mendip District Council:

09/1 – At the Hub meeting
14/1 – You Can Do
10/2 – Aster Homes

Cllr Horler attended the following meetings for Mendip District Council:

06/1 – Holcombe PC
08/1 – Equalities MDC
08/1 – Stoke St Michael PC
19/2 – Leigh on Mendip PC
03/2 – Holcombe PC
04/2 – PCSO meeting MDC
10/2 – CAMG MDC

Cllr Horler attended the following meetings for Parish Council:

20/1 – Met Willmott Dixon at the Youth Club.

Cllr Turner attended the following meetings for Parish Council:

04/2 – PCSO meeting at Buckland Dinham

Cllr Townsend attended the following meetings:

23/1 - Environment sub-committee
27/1 - Litter Pick, RBL area
03/2 - Mendip Rural Forum
05/2 - Hub prep
06/2 - Hub launch
10/2 - Litter Pick, Kings Head area

Cllr Bradbury attended the following meetings:

27/1 - Highbury - litter picking
01/2 - The Hub = CRG committee re re-printing of "Coleford As Tw'ere"
03/2 - MDC Shepton - Rural Forum
06/2 - The Hub - Open Day

- 5 Planning Applications**
- 5.1 Decisions on Previous Applications**
- a. 2014/2421/LBC – Farleigh College, Newbury, BA11 3RG
Internal alteration to partitions at first floor of Newbury Manor to form en-suite bathrooms, kitchens and general refurbishment

- Approved with conditions
- b. 2014/2367/HSE – 32 Alford's Ridge, Coleford, BA3 5YJ
Part conversion of garage into dining room with new windows to the front elevation and new opening from the living area in the new dining area.
Refused

5.2 Complaints received by Planning Enforcement Team, Mendip DC
No new information has been forthcoming from the Enforcement team.

5.3 Present Applications
There were no new applications,

6 Approval of Minutes

A copy of the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th and 27th January 2015 had been circulated to each member of the Parish Council. A vote was then taken which was unanimously in favour of accepting both sets of 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. VW

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

Matters arising

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

- The Clerk confirmed that the sign at Orchard Close will be erected soon. VW
- The Clerk will contact the residents at Crossways Cottage to ask that they cut the hedge bordering the footpath. VW
- Now that the grant of £500 has been received the purchase order for the two picnic benches will need to be raised. CT/VW

7 Highway and Footpath Issues to include:

7.1 Lead Councillor Report – Alan Townsend reported as follows:

- 1) Matters arising from the meeting held on 7-1-15 meeting have been reported.
- 2) Charmborough Lane – This has been added to the April 2015 patching programme.
- 3) Dave Grabham has clarified that the speed readings were taken from 3 Upper Merryfield in both directions. The findings do not justify a permanent illuminated SID, surprisingly. Do Councillors have any concerns about speeding elsewhere, if so we will request further readings. New 20 mph signs have appeared in Haydon, should we consider for Coleford?
- 4) A resident has tripped over a lip outside the Post Office and fallen badly. It is probably a Jones responsibility but I have reported to Highways as a precaution.
- 5) Outside Post Office – White line has been painted to delineate edge of highway/footpath.

7.2 Outstanding Issues

Concerns continue to be expressed over Charmborough Lane and the issues with traffic travelling at speed, the erosion continuing cause damage and some very large vehicles traveling the route. Continue to monitor.

7.3 Items Reported by Councillors

Cllr Talbot reported that where some work has previously taken place on the road outside the British Legion building it has started to sink. Cllr Townsend to inspect. AT

7.4 Footpath Survey

The winter report provided by Mr Stanley had been circulated to all Councillors. It was felt that there were items listed which were on the previous report. It was agreed that Cllr Ham would consider the report and highlight the landowners where issue were noted. Once this had been done the Clerk will send the report to Claire Haskins at the Rights of Way department asking for the issues to be investigated.

PH
VW
VW

The hedgerow at the start of Footpath FR4/25 has still not been cleared. Clerk to contact RoW to ask for this to be reviewed.

8 Finance

8.1 Review of the sub-committee expenditure 2014/15

The Clerk to email to all Councillors.

VW

8.2 Local Legacy Funding agreement

The contract for the Local Legacy Funding agreement has been received and was passed to Cllr Townsend to read and sign. This will then need to be returned to Mendip District Council to ensure the release of the grant towards the new play area.

AT

8.3 Accounts approved for payment

The Clerk read through the proposed payments.

SALC – Allotment training	
Apollo Technology – Printer repair	
Clerk expenses	
J Webb	
Playforce	
Playforce	

8.4

It was agreed that all payments should be made but the two cheques for Playforce should not be written until the invoices have been received and checked. Once the invoices have been received authority was given by full council for 3 signatories to sign the cheques rather than to wait for the next meeting to expedite the commencement of work on the new play area.

VW

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

Vote taken: 9 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained

9 Young People Report

Youth club is running well. They have implemented a zero tolerance which has resulted in 8 youths being banned as of next week.

It has been confirmed the £3500 has been secured from Somerset County Council towards the Youth Club for 2015/16 but this will probably be the last award. It costs £7500 a year to run the Youth Club.

10 Risk and Health and Safety

There was nothing to report.

11 Update of the Parish Plan / Coleford Hub

The Launch event took place on Friday 6th February from 3 – 8pm and was a huge success with a fantastic turnout and positive feedback given. There were 22 stands highlighting what the Hub has to offer. There was a lot of preparation put into making the event happen and on the day and thanks were given to everyone how helped to make it the success that it was.

Cllr Bradbury said that he would like to see the millennium tapestries hung on the walls in the Hub. He felt that it was important to establish that they would be ok to be hung in the building with the variable climate. He also said that there was some funds available which could be used towards the hanging of the tapestries.

Cllr Ham asked that an agenda item could be included for the next monthly meeting to decide if the money allocated for the Parish Plan could be used to help with the costs of setting up the Coleford Mens Shed. Ag

12 **Environment Committee Report**

Lead Councillor Evans reported that a committee meeting had taken place on the 23rd January 2015. The following suggestions were made:

- Litter picking to be done on a regular basis
- Checking of the green areas and concrete bins suitable for the planting of spring bulbs and where possible colourful summer bedding plants
- Benches etc to be stained / painted or replacements where need (Ongoing project)
- The possibility of floral displays at the entrance to the village.
- Renovation or replacement of the cemetery gate.
- Check the condition of the road signs in particular the Coleford sign by the Jones stores.

It was discussed that it may be a good idea to hold a litter pick on a weekend and to involve the CRG and other residents to help clear the Highbury playing field and surrounding area. Cllr Evans to arrange. KE

Cllr Ham suggested that the Flower show committee may be able to help with planting of bulbs and bedding plants. PH

Cllr Bradbury mentioned that the plants /shrubs in the Beacon View area may need attention. KE

Cllr Ham said that he would speak with the Landscape group regarding the hedge cuttings which have been left in Careys Mead after cutting back the hedge. PH

Dog Waste

A complaint had been received regarding the extent of dog mess around the village. After discussion it was agreed that 2 dog waste bags dispenser units should be purchased at a cost of £76 per unit plus VAT. These will be installed in agreed locations and the results will be monitored. If successful other units could be purchased. This was proposed by Cllr Ham and seconded by Cllr Turner. A vote was taken which was unanimously in favour of the proposal. VW

Vote taken: 9 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained

It was also agreed that Councillor Ham would speak with the village school regarding the pupils putting together some posters which would be displayed around the village to encourage dog owners to pick up and dispose of dog waste responsibly. Agenda item for next month. PH

13 **Playing Fields Committee Report**

Lead Councillor Turner reported that:

GB Sports and Leisure have now sourced a new crossbar for the swings in Coleford PF. It is laminated and more expensive to them but will avoid the twelve week wait from their normal suppliers. The Parish Council will not be charged any extra for these works. GB Sports should obtain within the next two weeks and will then only take a few days to complete their works for us.

Playforce have confirmed they will raise three separate invoices of £9k each for their works at Goodeaves Play Area that is due to commence w/c 2nd March 2015. Once these are passed to Mendip DC they will release the first payment to us to be in our account for the start date. The other two payments will follow shortly after to comply with Playforce's programme.

The Playing Field Sub Committee, together with any other Councillors interested, will meet soon to determine how best to create a new entrance for the referee to access Highbury Changing Rooms. Hopefully, no Architect will be needed just a local builder. However, we shall require an Architect to enable plans etc. to be prepared for the next project of a proposed Unisex Toilet Block on this site. CT

Cllr Bradbury asked if Trustees of the Playing Field should meet to discuss the Charity Commission new version of trustee guidance. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate and report back to the playing field trustees (Val, Alan, Philip, Colin and Robin) as to whether further action should take place. VW

It was also agreed that a meeting was required to consider the deeds and meet with John Hansford of Coleford Athletics Football Club. CT

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

- Email from Mr Hamblin requesting Metal Detecting on Parish Council land. All Councillors agreed that this should be allowed. Clerk to notify Mr Hamblin. VW
- Thank you letter from Bishop Henderson's PTA for the small grant received from the Parish Council
- Email from Deborah Liggatt regarding Field Internet. Council to register an interest. VW

15 Public Forum

Cllr Horler said that there will be a coffee morning held at the Doctors surgery on the 28th February at 10am.

16 Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman's Discretion

Nothing was raised.

17 Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 24th February 2015 Planning Meeting
Wednesday 11th March 2015 Parish Council Meeting