

Parish Council of Coleford

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Present Cllr Ham (Chairman), Allen, Banks, Evans, Fisher, Moulding, Palmer, Pearce, Swords and Townsend

In attendance 2 members of the public present
The Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes

1. Public Forum

1.1 Pothole reported on Vobster Hill. It had previously been repaired but was already deteriorating. Cllr Townsend confirmed that the issue had already been reported.

1.2 A member of the parish raised several concerns relating to the work at the Highbury playing field: The Chair gave a brief response but would address the others at the next Council meeting.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Ham to respond to the points raised.

1.3 Cllr Allen said that the hedgerows at the entrance to the village (Both Lipyeate and Stockhill) were excessively overgrown which were causing huge problems for lorries and agricultural vehicles. Cllr Townsend confirmed he had already reported to Somerset Highways.

1.4 Following the recent fire in the field behind Mendip Vale, a Councilor raised concern over people being careless and how risk could be managed.

Action: Mention on social media

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Bell which were accepted by the Chair.
Cllr Douglas-Burke did not attend.

3. Declarations of Interest and dispensations

Cllr Townsend declared an interest in Agenda item 4.1. Cllr Ham declared an interest in Agenda item 4.2. Cllr Banks declared an interest in Agenda item 7.3.

4. Planning Applications

4.1 2026/1256/LBC & 2026/1255/HSE - Garage conversion to include the replacement of existing shutter window with new timber door in existing opening, addition of new window within old opening & installation of 4no. conservation rooflights.

Cllr Townsend declared an interest so did not participate in the discussion or vote. Councilors had considered the plans prior to the meeting. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Sword and seconded by Cllr Moulding that the application be recommended for approval provided Somerset Highways are consulted.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against and 2 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to notify the planning officer

- 4.2 2026/1275/FUL - Erection of 4no. additional glamping holiday lets. Luckington Gables, Lipyeate Cross To Luckington Cross, Newbury.

Cllr Ham declared an interest so did not participate in the discussion or vote. Councilors had considered the plans prior to the meeting. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Sword and seconded by Cllr Moulding that the application be recommended for approval provided Somerset Highways are consulted.

Vote: 9 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to notify the planning officer

5. Planning updates

It was noted that solar panels have been added to the property known as Arabesque which was subject the planning application 2023/2084 which was approved on the basis of it being a mobile dwelling as an ancillary dwelling to the main house. As the solar panels are raised it is understood that they need planning permission. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Somerset enforcement asking for them to investigate especially given the close proximity to the Church.

Vote: 9 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to write to Somerset Enforcement

6. Consider response to the Somerset Council Regulation 20 Scoping Consultation for the Somerset Local Plan - The consultation will run from Friday 19 June to Friday 24 July

A draft response had been circulated to all Councillors for comment. It was proposed by Cllr Allen and seconded by Cllr Evans that the response should be sent on behalf of the Parish Council.

Vote: 9 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to write to submit the response

7 Finance

- 7.1 Review 1st quarter budget review 2026/27 – Clerk had prepared and shared the budget review for the first quarter of the financial year.

Total payments to date stand at £23,089.12 against budget figure for the year of £96,411.15.
The receipts were £46,021.30 against budget figure of £96,397.84

The Clerk said that the figures were as expected. A forecast will be provided at the next review. It was agreed that the review would be signed off by the Chair.

- 7.2 Discuss and agree new rate for mileage from 45p per mile to 55p per mile. It was proposed by Cllr Townsend and seconded by Cllr Evans that the new amount be accepted for the Clerk and Councilors.

Vote: 10 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to place the order

- 7.3 Accounts approved for payments - The following invoices were presented for payment:

V Watts	Allotment Fuel Expenses	£34.41
S.C.R.A.P.P	Annual subscription	£150.00
Sign Efex Ltd	Coleford village sign	£238.80
Stone King LLP	Reviewing Deeds & advising on ownership	£3,000.00
Somerset Council	1st Quarter bin emptying for 6 bins weekly	£608.40
Henry Banks	Materials for renovation of Preacher Vale benches	£40.32

It was proposed by Cllr Allen and seconded by Cllr Evans that the following payments should be approved.

Vote: 9 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstentions
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Action: Clerk to set up the payments for Councillors to authorize.

It was noted that there were costs of £186 for the refurbishment of the phone box which would be presented for payment at the next meeting.

Action: Agenda item for the next meeting.

8 Highbury Playing Fields Charity

8.1 Update on leveling of the playing including:

- 8.1.1 Discuss requirements for Topsoil and agree budget – The Chair explained that due to the glass found in some of the original top soil, it has become apparent that a further 50 loads were required to complete the project. The Clerk had sought a quote from a neighbouring supplier who had quoted £400 for screened topsoil per 20-ton load. Pennys asked for the Council to contribute £100 per 20-ton load towards the cost of hauling the additional soil to site. It was acknowledged that it was an unfortunate situation but it was agreed that the project needed to be completed. It was proposed by Cllr Ham and seconded by Cllr Fisher that the £100 per load should be paid.

Vote: 9 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to notify Pennys that the charge is accepted

- 8.1.2 Discuss quotes from Agronomists – It was agreed that this would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Action: Agenda item for the next meeting

9 Review changes in legislation in relation to Councillors home addresses

Councillors had read the latest update which allows for Councillors to decide if they want their home addresses in the public domain. All agreed that they would opt for them not to be published in accordance with section 32A of the Localism Act 2011.

Action: Clerk to ensure that all Councillors complete the updated register of interest form stating that they wish for their addresses to remain private

10 Correspondence

30/06/26 – Breakthrough Communications offering ongoing support for GDPR. Clerk advised that SALC will be able to support the council

15/07/26 – Somerset Council: List of the highway structural maintenance schedule shared for 2026/27

16/07/26 - Somerset Council: Notice of Best Value Notice which has been issued to Somerset Council by the Government

22/07/26 – Resident: Communication with Cllr Ham regarding the introduction of restricted parking and fines at Goodeaves without any consultation or warning. Cllr Ham is dealing with this as a Somerset Councilor.

11 Date of Next Meetings:

12th August 2026

Parish Council meeting

26th August 2026

Planning meeting

The meeting ended at 20.40hrs