

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter for September 2026

Footpath concerns

Over recent months the Parish Council has had several residents raise concerns over the land adjacent to the footpath which runs to the rear of Kings Head Public House. They reported that in the past, trees located on the left hand side at the end of the path (furthest from the pub), have fallen which has resulted in damage to property and there is concern that this could happen again, causing damage to property, taking out electricity cables and even injuring someone using the path. There are currently branches and brambles overhanging the path which poses a real threat to anyone using the route. The Parish Council has already reported this to the Somerset Rights of Way Officer who has visited and has referred the matter to the Highways



Arboricultural Team regarding the safety aspects, as they are best placed to undertake a professional assessment of the trees. He has also referred it to Western Power because of the overhead power line, which passes through the area. The Clerk has agreed to contact RoW Officer again for an update.

PCSO report

Full report displayed on the Parish Council website. Crime statistics headlines for August were:

Arson & Criminal damage	2
Burglary	1
Theft	4
Violence against the person	2



Planning Applications

There were no planning applications or updates to report on.

Highways

Cllr Townsend reported the following issues to Somerset Highways and noted those that have already been actioned since the meeting held on the 12th August

- Stoke St Michael , bottom of Moonshill - reported 7.5-ton weight limit sign has dropped making it invisible.
- Preacher's Vale - reported light no 8 is on 24/7 Anchor Rd/Brewery Lane - several defects reported, some rectified.
- Burrow's Lane, Holcombe - large pothole reported and repaired.
- Brewery Lane by Dark Lane - edge erosion reported and made good.
- Stoke Bottom - edge erosion and large pothole by lay by reported and marked up.
- Stoke Bottom - edge erosion beyond Fairy Cave junction reported and repaired.
- Charmborough Lane - edge erosion reported.
- Goodeaves - potholes reported.



- Drain cover in Preachers Vale outside number 4 – Reported last month but was yet to be repaired.

Update on installation of Speed Indicator Devices (SID's) at Stockhill and Lipyeate

A letter had been sent to residents that lived close to the proposed locations for the SID's detailing the proposed locations, the type of unit and the reason for wanting to install them. It invited the



residents to get in touch by phone, email or by returning the slip in the envelope provided by posting through the letterbox at the Hub on Church Street, so that the Clerk could discuss any concerns that they might have regarding the proposal. The Clerk engaged with several residents at the time of delivering the letters and the feedback was positive. One resident asked whether data could be obtained in both directions as they had

concerns about the speed cars were travelling as they left the village. The Clerk will check if the device is capable of this (we believe it is) and report back. It is hoped that the supplier, Elan will hold the agreed price to allow Somerset Highways to install the posts before purchase, to preserve the warranty.

Update on the levelling of the playing field

By the time you read this article it is hoped that Pennys will have completed the final level inspection for the lower junior pitch area, which will mean that the contractor can then prepare the ground and sow the grass seed. Pennys have agreed to leave the heras fencing (at no charge) to allow the seed to become established before opening it up again. They have requested that the fence becomes the responsibility of the Parish Council and or Football Club to monitor and ensure



that it remains in good order to deter access. Pennys are committed to reinstating the benches near to the pump track and will tidy the adjacent hard standing before signing off.

Proposed improvements to the changing rooms

Coleford Athletic Football Club have provided a breakdown of the improvements that are required if they are to progress and play in a higher

football league. The club have offered to source some of the materials to a value of £5K and provide free labour for much of the work but, there is still a balance to find of £8K. It was proposed that further grant applications, fund raisers or requests for support from local businesses should be investigated. The Parish Council is keen to support this project but will need to review the budget to establish if any financial support can be given. If the club is to play at the higher level for 2027/28 season the Somerset FA will need to inspect the facilities by May 2027 to ensure that the work has been completed to meet the required standards. An agreement showing that the Club has the right to use the facility on match days will also be required.

Coleford Parish Council Small Grants

A working party met to consider the criteria for the Parish Council small grants. A document has been prepared which outlines the particular requirements which should be met for an application to be eligible for an award. It is proposed that this document should sit alongside the usual



application form, unchanged apart from highlighting that future payments would be made electronically rather than by cheques. Application forms and guidance notes can be found on the Parish Council website www.colefordpc.org.uk/grants Deadline for applications is **1st of November 2026**. All applications or enquiries about the grants should be sent by email to the Clerk at clerk@colefordpc.org.uk

Update on the Community Review

Cllr Palmer has completed a review of the Community Review action plan and updated accordingly. Great progress has been made but there are some points which we need to try and push forward, like investigating whether we could install EV charging points, a Car sharing

scheme, a Community garden and Gardening club. Cllr Palmer agreed to look into progressing these and will report back to the Council.

Autumn Litter pick

Please save the date! **Sunday 25th October @ 10am** – Come and join us for a couple of hours litter picking in the village. Litter pickers, hi viz wear and bags will be provided so pull on some good footwear, bring a pair of gloves and do something special. It's amazing what a difference a couple of hours picking can make to the village, plus volunteering really is good for the soul.



Parish Councilor Vacancy

Finally, talking of volunteering, do you live or work in the village? Passionate about Coleford?



Want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have innovative ideas for the council? Do you have concerns about a specific issue & want to do something about it? We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward for co-option to the Parish Council.

If you would like to find out more about the role of the Councillor and the work that the Council does, then please contact the Parish Clerk on 07971 516916 or email clerk@colefordpc.org.uk

Date of Next Meetings:

14 th October 2026	Parish Council meeting
28 th October 2026	Planning meeting



If you have any issues that you would like to bring to the Parish Council's attention, please contact the Clerk on 07971 516916 or email clerk@colefordpc.org.uk

Philip Ham
Chairman of Coleford Parish Council