

# Parish Council of Coleford

Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

Miss V Watts, Clerk to the Council

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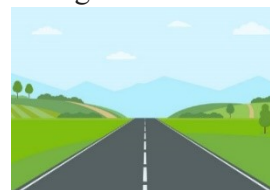
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## Newsletter for April 2022

### Highways

There was a meeting with Charlie Higgins from Somerset County Highways on 10th March: The following points were discussed:

- Tinkers Lane - between Newbury Farm and bend - edge erosion due to wide vehicles is present but not sufficient to require repair, several potholes to be checked further, drainage to be given routine clear out.
- Charity Lane - Two busy passing places with deep potholes to be made up for highway safety.
- Cherry Gardens Lane - on slope by Cherry Gardens Farm, water is coming to the surface from possible spring which will be channelled.
- Brewery Lane - surface erosion at the apex of bend has been made good but quality poor
- Holcombe Longleat Lane - dropped area at drain cover at the junction with Longleat Road to be made up along with other areas already marked up – This has now been repaired
- Coleford Anchor Rd - pothole by pedestrian crossing by Anchor Close marked up. - now repaired.
- Ham Hill/Common Lane junction - Give Way lines eroded, Cllr Townsend to request Sara Davis to restore.



There had been a rumour that Anchor Rd will be closed starting this week for surface dressing. County Highways have confirmed that this is not correct, there is no immediate plan for this.

### Defibrillator cabinet at the Co-op



Despite replacing the batteries in the keypad on the existing defibrillator cabinet, within 2 weeks it again would not unlock. A quote was received for a new keypad was obtained but would cost £175 plus VAT and did not have key access. As the unit is approx. 10 years old and there could be a concern over the life expectancy of the heating element it was agreed that a new Defibrillator Store 4000 cabinet should be purchased at a cost of £598.80 inc VAT. At least then the defibrillator can go live again and be emergency ready.

### Somerset County Council report

**Coronavirus:** From 1 April -

- PCR and lateral flow Covid tests will no longer be free for most people
- Covid passports will no longer be recommended, except for international travel
- Employers will no longer have to consider Covid as a separate risk when working out how to keep employees safe
- Over-75s and people with a weakened immune system are now eligible for a Booster jab provided it is six months after their previous dose.

**Local Government Reorganisation:** Following the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset the Structural Changes Order were approved by the House of the Lords and passed into law on 17<sup>th</sup> March. The first elections to the new authority together with Somerset Town and Parish elections are being held on 5th May 2022.

**Local Community Networks:** The Local Government Association (LGA) has awarded a £50k funding boost to help develop Local Community Networks (LCNs) in Somerset. The grant is to develop LCNs and deliver new ways of working prior to Vesting Day, when the unitary authority officially begins. Some of the £50k will be used to facilitate three community-led LCN pilots bringing public services together with local people and other community organisations to explore opportunities around children and families; health and wellbeing; and local street scene and highways matters in the first instance.

**Health Checks:** NHS Health Check is a mandated SCC Public Health programme. The check is available for people aged 40 to 74 and assesses a person's 10-year risk of developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease or dementia. The check takes around 20-minute to complete and each person receives a comprehensive health report with their results, together with advice and support about how to maintain good health and make lifestyle changes that will help them to improve their health. The checks are available through a range of GPs, pharmacies and community locations in Somerset. More information about the Health Checks programme is available at <https://bit.ly/freehcheck>.



**SOMERSET**  
County Council

**Road safety:** Drivers are being warned by Somerset County Council's Road Safety Team of tough new legislation to punish mobile phone use at the wheel. As of Friday (25 March 2022), drivers caught using a phone while in charge of a vehicle can expect six points on their licence and a £200 fixed penalty notice. If you have only had your driving licence for less than two years, it will be revoked, and you will have to pass your test again. The Highway Code will also be changed to say that handheld phone use in traffic jams or when stationary is also illegal.

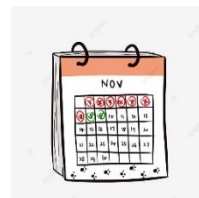
**Saltlands Solar Park:** A former landfill site near Bridgwater will be used to generate clean energy and save hundreds of tonnes of carbon a year. Somerset County Council's Cabinet has voted to start a procurement process to appoint a contractor to build a new solar park on the Saltlands landfill site, in the Chilton Trinity area of Bridgwater. Landfill operations at the site ceased in the 1980s and it is not suitable for most kinds of development. However, as a solar park it could generate 3,635,000 kilowatt hours of clean, renewable energy per year, save 805 tonnes of carbon per year, and play a key part in the Council's ambitions to achieve carbon neutrality in Somerset by 2030.

**Ukrainian refugees:** Somerset County Council has committed £250,000 to support refugees fleeing war-torn Ukraine as part of a county-wide response to the humanitarian crisis. Somerset has a proud record when it comes to welcoming refugees, with the County Council working with partners, charities and the community to help over 160 people safely resettle here since 2016. Support can include access to public services, education and health support, housing, travel, food and interpretation services. Sponsoring households may also require support. A further £50,000 was pledged for a new Somerset Ukrainian support fund. More details on actions around refugees can be found at [www.somerset.gov.uk/ukraine/refugee-resettlement/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/ukraine/refugee-resettlement/)

### Date of Next Meetings

11<sup>th</sup> May 2022                      Annual Parish Council meeting followed by the monthly meeting

25<sup>th</sup> May 2022                      Annual meeting of the Parish



If you have any issues that you would like to bring to the Parish Council's attention please contact the Clerk on 01749 880428 or email [clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com](mailto:clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com) Check out the website [www.colefordsomerset.info](http://www.colefordsomerset.info)

**Philip Ham**