

Parish Council of Coleford

Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB
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January 2022 Newsletter

Dog Fouling

It has been noted that there seems to have been an increase in the number of dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs, in particularly on route to Bishop Henderson school. It is unacceptable behaviour - Please bag it and bin it! The bagged waste can be disposed of in standard litter bins as well as the dog waste bins of which there are many located around the village.

Vacancy for Councillors

The Council now has two vacancies which we would like to fill. 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 clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com



Planning Application

2021/2795/HSE - Single storey extension
85 Mendip Vale, Coleford, Radstock, BA3 5PP
Decision be left to the Planning Officer.



2021/2651/HSE - Erection of a 2 storey rear extension
The Cottage, Highbury Street, Coleford, Radstock BA3 5NS
Recommended for approval

2021/2676/OTS - Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of a single dwelling (Resubmission of 2017/0194/OTS).
1 Roseberry Cottages, Highbury Street, Coleford, Radstock, BA3 5NX
Recommended for approval

Planning updates including enforcement issues

APP/Q3305/W/21/3270276 – Springwater Farm, Anchor Road, Coleford, BA3 5GX
Appeal against Mendip District Council against their decisions to refuse 2020/1033/FUL (Erection of a single detached residential dwelling, garage and associated development).
The appeal was dismissed.

Springwater Farm, Anchor Road, Coleford, BA3 5GX
Cost application in relation to the Appeal APP/Q3305/W/21/3270276
Application for an award of costs was refused.

Storm overflows – Gladman application

Our District Councillors have written to Wessex Water and Mendip District Council highlighting the unease over the large number unauthorized discharges from the existing sewage system and the concern over how the system will cope with the addition of 63 new dwellings. Wessex Water have responded and concluded by saying that the Gladman development has been added to their network modelling program

and the impact on the network, points of connection and any required mitigation works will be assessed. They will ensure that the Parish Council is involved so that they can pass on local knowledge.

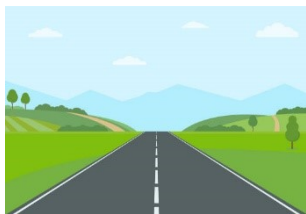
Highways

A 2 part highway report had been submitted which covered General Items throughout the Parish which will be made much worse by the traffic generated by the additional 63 houses, and Specific Items to be resolved with County Highways relating to the Anchor Road site. These points will be discussed with Somerset Highways:

PART 1 - General Issues

- Co-op Junction
- Pavement between Anchor Close and Farley Dell
- Underhill Parking
- Soho Junction
- Weight Limits – Dark Lane, Charity Lane, Cherry Gardens Lane
- 20 mph zone
- Refresh/repaint all road markings
- Charmborough Lane Safety – Road Narrows signs, White Lining, SLOW markings, HGVs rerouted through Vobster

PART 2 - Specific Gladman Site Issues, Anchor Rd



- Precise Location of vehicle and pedestrian access to site
- Visibility Splays
- 30 mph limit relocation and sightlines
- Speed hump by site entrance
- Village Gate
- Relocation of bus stop and pavement arrangement
- Widening of road to 6m

Budget and Precept for 2022/23

The Council has spent the last few meetings considering the budget for 2022/23 to establish what precept is required. It was agreed that the precept should this year be increased by 6% to a total of £47,213. (Last year it was £44,541). This will mean that a Band D homeowner will pay £1.20 per week (£62.35 per year) or 8p more each week than last year for the Parish Council element of the Council tax bill.

Date of Next Meetings:

26th January 2022 – Planning meeting

9th February 2021 – Monthly meeting



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
Check out the website www.colefordsomerset.info

Philip Ham

Somerset County Council report

Coronavirus infection rates: As of 31st December the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 83,300 (22% up from 68,307 on 30th September) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 977. The rate per 100,000 stands at 766.6 (435.2) for Somerset with Mendip at 892.0 (564.1), Sedgemoor at 756.6 (418.1), South Somerset 684.3 (505.5) and SW&T at 770.4 (276.6). The number of total deaths across the County is currently level with the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.9 and 1.1

Infection rates in Somerset continue to be extremely high. With the new Omicron variant it is important, even for those who have had both jabs, to remember to follow Government guidance on wearing masks, to continue to observe Social Distancing and to always ventilate indoor areas.

Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline: A single phone number continues to be available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. **0300 790 6275**, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm.

Vaccination programmes roll-out: Somerset continues to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the country with the latest figures showing over 95.8% of the 18+ population having had one dose of vaccine and 93.2% having had both doses. IN total 50.9% of the adult population have also received their booster.

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 it is expected that statutory orders will shortly be laid before Parliament with an agreed vesting date of April 2023. The first elections to the new authority together with Somerset Town and Parish elections will be held on 5th May 2022.

Pay boost for Somerset Carers: Somerset County Council and the NHS have announced a £4.8m investment to increase pay and recognise the vital contribution of carers in Somerset. The Council are proposing a 9% uplift to domiciliary care providers who agree to pay all their staff a minimum of £10.50 per hour; a retention bonus of £250 for those who have been working in registered care for the last 6 months; and a £250 payment for new starters in domiciliary care. The funding for these changes has been jointly agreed and funded by Somerset County Council and the NHS, as social care is crucial in supporting people leaving hospital and in the community. There are currently a number of vacant social care roles and to find out more visit www.proudtocaresomerset.org.uk/jobs

Appeal for return of healthcare equipment: Healthcare equipment is loaned on behalf of the NHS and social care teams when people leave hospital or after a period of illness, to help them stay safe at home and retain their independence. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has increased demand for this equipment and created shortages in supply. To book a free collection so that equipment can be reused to help others call Millbrook Healthcare on 0333 003 2407.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans: SCC has unveiled plans for major new safe cycling and walking routes in the county to help create greener, healthier and more active streets. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) for Yeovil and Taunton are the first to be published – they'll be followed by plans for Bridgwater and Frome and funding has been netted to draw up plans for three other towns. Having a plan in place is key to unlocking Government funding to build the infrastructure and enable people in Somerset to choose to walk or cycle to work, school, the shops or for other short trips for the benefit of people's health and the environment.

Reporting faults on the Highway: Utilising a new upgraded online system with an improved interactive map, members of the public can report a highways problem 24/7. From potholes, blocked drains and broken manhole covers, to mud on the road, overgrown vegetation, damaged pavements or cycle paths, faulty traffic lights or missing markings – they can all be reported in just minutes from a smartphone, tablet or computer.

The full range is available via www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road/

Reaching Carbon Zero: As part of Somerset County Council’s commitment to decarbonise its buildings Yeovil Library has undergone a transformation to make the building greener and more energy efficient. The project has seen a new air source heat pump installed to heat the building in a more sustainable way, lamps changed to LEDs, new thermally efficient windows, improved ventilation with carbon dioxide monitors, and significant additional insulation. The measures will save approximately 27 tonnes of carbon each year. The investment is part of a wider SCC scheme to decarbonise and make the Council’s buildings more environmentally friendly and will cover 12 projects including Taunton Library, Frome Library, Glastonbury Hub, and County Hall. Early estimates indicate that the delivery of the various schemes could reduce SCC’s carbon output by around 27% – around 400 tonnes of carbon per annum. All the remaining projects aside from County Hall are due to be complete by March 2022.

Mendip District Council report

District Cllr Townsend and Ham provided the following report:

On 20th December Mendip’s Full Council voted to adopt the updated Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2). Which Cllr Ham and Townsend did not support as it fails in 3 of its 5 key objectives – the most significant being to produce a forward 5 year supply of housing sites. They were told that was because the Government changed the rules during the updating process.

This was true, the rules were changed to increase the requirement on Mendip to produce 600 houses a year from the original 420 as part of the Government’s aim to rectify the national long term housing shortage. This change was announced 30 months ago but the LPP2 updating process did not change to embrace the new requirement and as a result LPP2 is out of date. The implications are immediate as Coleford discovered. Where the Local Planning Authority cannot demonstrate a forward 5 year supply of housing sites the National Framework rules are invoked which requires objectors to prove that any proposed development would cause Significant and Demonstrable Harm sufficient to outweigh the benefits of producing new housing. This is a very low bar for a developer as Coleford discovered. The fact that the site on Anchor Road was not included in the new LPP2 had little weight. The implications for any other such sites within Mendip are obvious and cause for concern.

At Full Council the public and Members expressed concern that the site allocation process in Norton St Philip and Beckington in particular had been seriously flawed and open to legal challenge. Opposition Members formally proposed a Motion to defer adoption of LPP2 to allow the Council to seek further advice to satisfy Members that it was not legally vulnerable. The Motion was heavily defeated and Council then voted to adopt LPP2. Within days the Council received formal notification of the intention of the offended villages to proceed with a Judicial Review. We believe Mendip’s defence is very thin and are recommending that they do not defend the action and put at risk many tens of thousands of pounds of our money.

We are urgently seeking from Mendip its proposals to put in hand a plan to rectify the 5 year housing land shortage. The bland response that “Officers will review in the coming months how the requirements and timescales for plan review can be progressed as a joint workstream in transition to the new Somerset authority” is not acceptable and will provide no protection to our villages from speculative development. Appeals submitted against Mendip’s refusals at Leigh on Mendip, Stoke St Michael, Chilcompton and White Post will show how vulnerable we are.

The Unitary authority have set up Scrutiny panel of which Cllr Ham is a representative.