

# Parish Council of Coleford

Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

Miss V Watts, Clerk to the Council

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## Newsletter for October 2022

### Planning

2022/1825/HSE - Erection of 1.5 side extension and single-storey rear extension.

11 Tinkers Lane, Newbury, Frome, BA11 3RG

Coleford Paris Council recommended the application be approved.



2022/1976/LBC & 2022/1975/HSE - Erection of orangery to side of dwelling, and minor external and internal alterations. Page House Farm Tinkers Lane Newbury Frome

Coleford Paris Council recommended that the decision be left to the planning officer.

### Unitary update

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2023 a single council for Somerset will be open for business. This brand new council will replace Somerset County Council and the four District Councils (Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West & Taunton, and South Somerset). Time is ticking and there is lots of work going on behind the scenes to have everything in place for vesting day. If you would like to find out more about what is planned and how things are shaping up visit the new website which should give you an insight. <https://newsomersetcouncil.org.uk/> Representatives from Coleford Parish Council have been attending meetings to ensure that Coleford is represented and is having an input into to shaping how the new Council functions to best meet the needs of Coleford's residents.

### Update on the Community Review Project

Thank you to those who have come forward to form the Steering Group to help make the Community Review happen. The first meeting took place on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October when Terms of Reference were signed, logo selected and marketing plan agreed. Please keep an eye out for further updates via the village social media pages (The Coleford Echo and Coleford Somerset, The Peoples Page) the parish council website [www.colefordsomerset.info](http://www.colefordsomerset.info) and on the parish notice boards.

### New site for Allotments

After an enormous amount of work over many months the Council has successfully secured funding to create a community orchard within the village and new allotments on a 3.5 acre field next to Vobster Quay. There is still a lot of work to do during the winter months to prepare the site but we are excited about the prospect of being able to provide allotments in the spring along with a community orchard.



We already have a growing waiting list (No pun intended!) but if you are interested in taking a plot or would like to volunteer to help create the community orchard then please contact the Clerk on [colefordparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:colefordparishclerk@gmail.com)

## Oak Tree to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee

Back in the spring it was agreed in principle that an oak tree should be planted to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Since then, the Queen has sadly passed away and the new King Charles III has been proclaimed. The Council felt that it would be appropriate to plant two oak trees next to the existing oak tree planted at the time of the coronation of King George VI. One to mark the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen and another to mark the proclamation of King Charles III. Plaques would be erected with appropriate words including the subsequent sad passing of the Queen.



### **Date of Next Meetings:**

26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – Planning meeting

9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Parish Council 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](mailto:clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com) Check out the website [www.colefordsomerset.info](http://www.colefordsomerset.info)

**Philip Ham**

## Report from the Mendip District Councillors



Cllr Townsend and Ham provided the following report:

### Planning:

Leigh on Mendip – application at Quarry Lane for 40 dwellings – Cllr Ham attended the Informal Appeal Hearing starting on 4<sup>th</sup> October to support the Parish Council's objections.

Stoke St Michael – Still have no formal confirmation that the Informal Appeal hearing for the development of 40 houses along Coalpit Lane will be heard in November

Gypsy and Travellers – Mendip have lost their appeal against a site for 9 pitches at Emborough, The Inspector ruled that as Mendip have failed to allocate enough formal sites there are no grounds to refuse. A cross party proposal has been submitted to the Head of Planning to urge them to issue Certificates of Lawfulness to the dozens of acceptable sites already in existence around the District. This would immediately rectify the shortfall and remove at a stroke the risk of random settlements being approved without defence. At Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> October there was a disturbance when they approved the Public Space Protection Order to provide a simpler means of removing offensive illegal dwellings.

The Planning Board on 12<sup>th</sup> October approved the application for the concrete products site near Torr Works to provide material for the track bed for HS2. The contract has already been awarded and this will provide some 300 new jobs.

At the Full Council meeting (26/09/22) Climate and Ecological Emergency Plan was endorsed. It still envisages 31 x 450ft high wind turbines in the District by 2030 with 10 in place by the end of 2023. The Plan also envisages that freight emissions will be reduced by a "10% increase in use of waterborne transport" which it later accepted was simply not possible within our District.

There were three emergency motions. The first was to promote better public transport in Mendip with County support. The second was a requirement to amend planning procedures so that Wessex Water are required to address the impact of major developments on watercourses and treatment works. They were

both passed despite multiple objections. The third sought to impose a vegan culture on our local agriculture – this was withdrawn at the last minute without explanation.

Glastonbury – It was announced that the town has been successful in obtaining a Town Deal Grant from the Government of £23M to provide a facelift, improve its attractions and car free routes.

### **Report from the Somerset County Councillors**



The following report was given by Cllr Ham:

Somerset County Council Finances: As at the end of July (month 4) the overall projection was for an overspend on budget of £23.9m (up from £18.5m in June). The significant variances were: • Adult Services - £14.0m adverse variance against budget; a deterioration in position of £4.0m from month three.

- Children's Services - £15.5m adverse variance against budget; a deterioration of £1.5m from month three.
- Economic & Community Infrastructure (Highways etc) has a £1.1m adverse variance against their budget. These figures are already 2 months out of date – the trend remains very concerning

Innovation Zone: The Chancellor has announced that the Gravity site, just north of Bridgwater, could be part of one of the first of the Government's new Investment Zones. The former Royal Ordnance Factory at Puriton has been identified as a potential site for a Gigafactory. The 616-acre site has the potential for an onsite rail terminal and sits by J23 of the M5 motorway. The total project could deliver up to 7,500 skilled jobs in the County.

Dillington House: Somerset County Council's Executive has confirmed that the council will seek to end its activities at Dillington House in Ilminster on 30th September 2023. The council has leased the 16th Century Grade 2 listed country house since September 1966 and has used it as a centre for Adult Education, conferences/business meetings and more recently for social events and weddings. It also currently accommodates the Somerset Centre for Integrated Learning (SCIL). The current lease has a break clause in March 2023 and the council is seeking to adjust the terms of the lease to enable it to continue activities until the end of September 2023, allowing it to deliver weddings already booked for next summer and minimise disruption to academic courses and other events.

Public Health Nursing Team: Somerset County Council's Public Health Nursing (Health Visiting and School Nursing) team has been rated as 'Good' across all sections in a recent review of the service by inspectors at the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The service provides community care, delivered by health visitors and school nurses across the county of Somerset and this inspection marks their first since its transfer from the NHS to Somerset County Council's Public Health in 2019

Flu Jab: This winter, it is anticipated that as this is our first flu season since 2019, we will all have less immunity and are therefore more likely to catch flu compared to previous years. The flu season in the Southern Hemisphere can often predict the potential for a similar experience in Northern Hemisphere countries. This year, Australia's flu season started earlier and infected more people, particularly children aged five to nine. More information on flu vaccinations can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>

Covid boosters: Residents aged 50 years and older, residents in care homes for older people, those aged 5 years and over in a clinical risk group and health and social care staff are being offered a booster of coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine this autumn. Appointments are available from the National Booking Service. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirusvaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>