

Parish Council of Coleford

Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

Miss V Watts, Clerk to the Council

Tel: 07971 516916 / 01749 880428

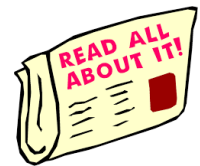
Email: clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com

Newsletter for November 2022

On the Map

It is with sadness that we write our last report for On the Map. Over the past 22 years Clarissa has taken the lead role, compiling the magazine each month to keep parishioners informed of forthcoming events and reports, along with advertising for local businesses.

The Parish Council would like to say a big thank you to Clarissa for your dedication to OTM - it will be sorely missed if no one takes it on, but we wish you the very best and hope that you enjoy the free time this will generate for you.



The Parish Council is in the process of having a new website built which will make sharing information much easier and we will continue to use social media and the notice boards to pass on Parish Council news, but we understand that not everyone is using such technology or able to get to the notice boards. We would therefore ask if you think you may be able to help with the production of On the Map then please do get in touch with the Clerk on clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com so that we can try to keep it going.

Somerset County Council

Cllr Ham reported that the Council is predicting an overspend of £75 million for the year end. The districts have found savings of £20 million leaving a deficit of £55 million which can only be addressed by cost shunting, cuts or an increase on council tax of 13%.

The Local Government Reorganisation program is weeks behind schedule.

- The gritting program is in place and on stand-by ready for any cold weather.
- A new Lord Lieutenant is now in place after the previous retired after 8 years in office.
- Everyone is encouraged to take the flu and covid vaccines as soon as they are offered.

Planning

Leigh on Mendip successfully fought off the appeal by the developer for 40 houses on Quarry Road at the north east end of the village. The Planning Inspector accepted that Significant and Demonstrable harm would be caused to the setting of St Giles Church, a Grade 1 Listed building.



The appeal against Mendip's refusal of 47 houses on Coalpit Lane, Stoke St Michael. The Inspector is the same person who handled the Gladman appeal, though on this occasion he did agree to carry out an accompanied site visit. The defence from Stoke is the harm to the setting of the Listed buildings at the Mill, the general harm to the countryside, and sustainability in terms of highways and facilities. A decision is awaited.

Torr Works – the Mendip Planning Board approved the application for a new concrete works. This facility will provide track bed material for the HS2 project under a contract already won and will provide up to 300 jobs.

Update on the Community Review Project.

The steering group have been working hard and over the last month have sought feedback from the local community to establish what topics were needed to be covered within the Community review. There was a good response and feedback was varied and useful. At the recent meeting the group agreed 30 questions covering the 8 topics to create the questionnaire.



A flyer will be produced and delivered to every house in the village explaining the purpose of the review and how people can get involved. Posters will also be displayed around the village and at local businesses. Social media and the website will also be utilized to promote the survey. As an incentive, everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a draw with adults winning £50 and under 18's £20 of vouchers.

Highways

The following issues have been reported to Somerset Highways:

- Brewery Lane - Highways have advised that the Lane will have to be closed at the end of January for the marked-up edge erosion to be made good opposite the Dark Lane junction. Further erosion reported as you turn into Brewery Lane from Anchor Rd 100 yards up as the road narrows.
- Charmborough Lane - edge erosion at the far end on the left reported, further erosion to be reported opposite Lipyate House, and possible flooding.
- Stockhill - potholes reported at the right-hand bend opposite Hollow House.
- Mells Station Road - the raising of the road level appears to have solved the flooding problem; update needed in the light of recent heavy rain.
- Pedestrian Crossing - defective light reported at the Beacon View crossing.
- Stoke Bottom - the drainage works appear to have improved, but not solved, the flooding. To be reported to Highways plus edge erosion beyond the bridge on the left.
- A request was made to extend the pavement along Anchor Road from Anchor Road to the entrance of Farley Dell. It was explained that this had been subject to a Small Improvement Scheme which had to be revised to allow access for commercial vehicles into Springwater Farm. It was agreed that it may be possible to revisit this in the future.
- The footpath from Mendip Vale to Farley Dell is used as a safe route by families taking children to school and has patches which are particularly wet. Although this is not a registered footpath enquiries would be made into whether improvements could be completed.
- There was a request for the white lining outside the Legion to be redone to discourage cars from parking close to the entrance and exit.
- Dark lane has evidence of subsidence.



Oak trees to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee

In the spring of this year the Parish Council agreed that an oak tree should be planted to mark the astonishing reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Since then the Queen has sadly passed away and King Charles III has now taken her place as head of our Country. In light of this it was decided that 2 trees would be planted next to the footpath, on land adjacent to the oak tree planted to mark the coronation of King George VI. Further details about when the tree will be planted, with the exact location, will be publicized for people to attend.



Youth Shelter at Highbury Shelter at Highbury Playing Field.

The youth shelter currently located next to the pump track at Highbury playing field will be removed in order that repairs can be made to the structure. We hope that it will be returned to the field as soon as the work has been completed.

Small Grants Awards

The Parish Council was pleased to be able to make small grant award to all the following groups which applied:

Group / Club	Description	Award
Coleford Knit & Natter Group	For yarn	£75.00
1st Coleford Scout Group	Water heaters for the bathrooms	£200.00
Coleford Conservation Volunteers	Wildflower plugs for Butterfly Bank	£75.00
Young at Heart	Hall hire, paint & canvasses, percussion instruments & craft items	£100.00
Huckyduck Carnival Club	Cleaning of portable toilets	£200.00
Coleford Rocks 'CROCKS'	Marquee for music day	£500.00
Theatre Group	Lighting costs and costumes	£450.00
Coleford Youth & Community Hub	Double glazing	£500.00
Bishop Henderson School	Resources for children on growing their own food	£200.00
Tuesday afternoon club	To help subsidise running costs and trips	£200.00
	Total	£2,500.00



Date of Next Meetings:

14th December 2022 @ 7pm for Parish Council meeting