

# Parish Council of Coleford

Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

Miss V Watts, Clerk to the Council

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### Present

CLlr Ham (Chairman presiding) Cllrs Allen, Evans, Pearce and West

There were 3 members of the public present. The Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes

### 1. Public Forum

1A A member of the public made the following points:

- 1 He had read that the Planning Inspectorate had refused many of the Gladman applications on the basis of Highways – why was this not the not the case for Coleford? He had also heard that the Planning Inspectorate considering the Stoke St Michael appeal had completed an accompanied visit during the hearing. Cllr Ham explained that the Norton St Philip Parish Council had taken the Mendip District Council (MDC) Local Plan to a Judicial Review and won – MDC will have to pay the costs which is in the region of £100,000. The Inspectorate found that MDC shouldn't have said that all of the housing allocation needed to be in the North East of the district. This will have implications for future housing.
- 2 What group are meeting at Rope Farm? Outdoor Education sessions are regularly held at the site.
- 3 Why has the recycling not been collected? Cllr Ham said that this was a consequence of the recent frost. A statement from Somerset Waste said that if your collection had been missed, they would attempt to collect tomorrow but if that was not successful the collection would then fall to the usual date.
- 4 How can you get a car charger at the Church hall? This was not something that the Council was aware of this and would be by agreement with the management committee of the hall.
- 5 It was his understanding that Somerset Council are responsible for the delay to the completion of the work outside the new shop.

1B It was noted that the culvert at Lipyeate House has now been cleared.

1C The following lights are still out:

Unit 1 and 7 on Preachers Vale

Unit 2 Lawrence Road

Unit 2 on Roman Way

It was suggested that this may be the result of water getting into the shade which then causes the light to flicker.

**Action: Cllr Townsend to report**

1D The newly installed fence at the junction of Preachers Vale and Highbury Street is to high.

**Action: Cllr Townsend to investigate whether there is a breach of planning conditions**

1E The hedges between Stockhill and Vobster have become over grown and are encroaching onto the highway.

**Action: Cllr Townsend to investigate and report to highways if appropriate**

1F Concern was expressed over the wall which borders the footpath which runs behind the Kings Head public house. Clerk to investigate the land ownership.

1G A member of the public expressed concern over a person flying a drone over their garden. They asked if there were any laws in place to prevent this from happening.

**Action: Clerk to investigate**

1H Charmborough Lane continues to cause concern, namely:

- Potholes and edge erosion as well as a section where the bank has spread onto the highways reducing the width of the road need addressing. Some have been repaired today.
- There have been several incidents of ducks on the road at the dip. A sign has been put up by a resident to warn drivers.
- There was a collision on Saturday evening on one of the narrow sections. One of the cars failed to stop. Fortunately, no one was hurt but the incident will go unrecorded on the database.

**Action: The Clerk to chase up a response to the recent emails sent to the Road Safety Team Continuous Improvement Officer.**

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Banks, Barrett, Bell, Drescher, Moulding, Paterson and Townsend which were accepted by the Chair.

## **3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting**

There were none.

## **4. Planning Applications**

Proposed upgrade to existing radio base station installation at CS\_241487\_Rush Ash Lane, Coleford, Radstock, Somerset, BA3 5PG (E368491 N149749)

Councillors had considered the plans for the proposed new mast. Enquiries were made with Mendip District Council to establish if this falls under the General Permitted Development Order (GPDO) 2015 as amended in April 2022. This permits such developments in principle but Part 16 spells out a number of conditions that have to be met. It was suggested that we ask how Cornerstone propose to comply with these regulations and raise the following points:

- The address given for the site is misleading as it states Rush Ash Lane when in fact it is much nearer Highfield.
- The consultation process is flawed in that only the Parish Council has been informed, not a single neighbour.
- Have they carried out a full survey to look at other sites in or around the village?
- Can they assure us about the safety of this upgrade noting the proximity of Bishop Henderson School?

Cllr Allen proposed the application be refused which was seconded by Cllr Pearce.

**Vote: 4 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstention (District Councillor)**

**Action: Cllr Townsend to send a letter of response**

**5. Planning updates including enforcement issues**

There were none.

**6. Update on the Allotments including:**

1. Approve and sign the lease – The Estate manager had confirmed receipt of the email with Councils suggested amendments to the lease relating to access and parking. It is hoped that the lease will be received in time for signing at the February meeting. National Allotment Society's legal team found no issues with the lease.
2. Ratify the tenancy agreement – To be agreed at the February meeting.

The Clerk to ensure that the selected fencing contractor and supplier are aware that the order will be placed as soon as the lease is signed.

*Action: Agenda item for February*

**7. Discuss and agree whether to submit a funding application from Halecombe Quarry Community Fund for renovation of the hardcourt**

The Clerk confirmed that the deadline for applications is the 31<sup>st</sup> January. Mendip District Council have agreed a grant of £20K but require a statement to show that any funding shortfall would be met by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Council would be prepared to use reserves to cover the shortfall if required to ensure that the MDC grant is not lost.

The Parish Council has allocated £7500 towards the project but has had to pay use £2100 to cover the cost of removing the old fence. The latest quote for rebound fencing is £32K plus VAT. It was agreed that a grant application would be submitted to Halecombe Quarry for £7500 to cover the shortfall.

The Clerk had previously contacted other suppliers and would present 3 quotes once funding secured in order to select the contractor to complete the project

*Action: Clerk to submit the grant application to Halecombe and draft the statement for MDC*

**8. Correspondence**

The Clerk had received an email stating that the Facebook page The Coleford Echo had closed for a break. The Council was grateful to the administrators for posting the regular Council updates.

**9. Date of Next Meetings:**

8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 for Parish Council meeting

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 for Planning meeting

The meeting finished at 21.55hrs