

# Parish Council of Coleford

Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

Miss V Watts, Clerk to the Council

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## Newsletter for February 2023

### Highways including:

Councillor update – Cllr Townsend will be meeting with Charlie Higgins of Somerset Highways to discuss Charmborough Lane, Newbury House school passing places nearby, overhanging branches at Stockhill and Stoke Bottom. The following items have been It was also noted that:



- Charmborough Lane - temporary repairs done by Lipyate House. The root cause, the culvert under the road has been unblocked but needs a storm to test it out. The loss of highways width is an issue round the blind bend. 2 patches of edge erosion further down - reported and made good, several others are candidates.

- RBL exit - white lining requested to mark out the pavement. No response received.
- Holcombe- huge pothole (8 ft long, a foot wide and up to 6 inches deep) on Stratton Rd repaired within 4 hours of notification.
- Dark Lane - deep pothole at north end marked up for repair.

### Update of 20mph zone and speed watch

Cllr Ham reported that he had a long telephone conversation with Somerset Highways Engineer regarding implementing yellow lines at the junction of Highbury Street & Church Street, White lining outside the entrance of the Legion, along with improving signage and road markings on Church Street. They also spoke about making Church Street a 20mph zone but it is unlikely that this will happen in the immediate future. A meeting is planned for early March to take these matters forward.

The Clerk reported that Speed watch training will take place in early March.

Potential sites for the installation of Speed Indicator Device have been suggested by Somerset Highways Engineer which will need to be considered if the Council wishes to pursue this line of action in the future.



### Policing

PCSO Robert Nell has joined the Rural Beat North and is now covering Coleford along with Amanda Ware.

### Update on the Community Review Project.

The results of the survey have been received and are being reviewed by the steering group. The data is being compiled to highlight key points with graphs and tables to form the final report.

### Climate Matters

The Parish Council decided it should adopt a Climate and Environment Plan. Further work and discussion will be needed to create a document to outline the parish councils intentions for discussion at the next meeting.

## Levelling of the Highbury Football Pitch

The football club confirmed that the required pitch size was 116yds x 76yds plus a minimum of 6yds level ground all around, including the areas behind the goal nets. After discussion and considering the plan which are to scale it was agreed that the Clerk would inform Pennys that the measurements required are 123yds x 83yds (or 113m x 76m). The planning application is being finalised by Pennys and will be passed to the Parish Council for review prior to submitting.



### Date of Next Meetings:

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 @ 7pm for Planning Council meeting

8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 @ 7pm for Parish 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 [clerk@coxfordpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@coxfordpc.org.uk) Check out the website [www.coxfordpc.org.uk/](http://www.coxfordpc.org.uk/)

**Philip Ham**

## Mendip District Council report

District Cllrs Townsend and Ham submitted the following report:



Planning at Stoke St Michael – the appeal against Mendip's refusal of 47 houses on Coalpit Lane has been allowed. Despite not being an allocated site in the Local Plan it has been allowed because Mendip do not have a future 5-year housing land supply identified in the Plan. Highway safety, harm to the landscape, impact on the setting of the listed buildings at the Mill were not deemed to be Significant and Demonstrable Harm to justify refusal in the Planning Inspector's opinion.

Local Plan – an Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council had been called to request an explanation of the circumstances which have cost the Council some £60,000 in its unsuccessful defence of a Judicial Review of its failings on Local Plan Part 2. The JR specifically related to the mis-handling of the allocation of 505 dwellings in the north east of the district. Additional questions are being asked about the failure to produce a 5-year housing land supply and what the programme is to rectify the shortfall. It has also been asked how the Council is handling the Government's Open Consultation on reforms to national planning policy which was launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> December

## Somerset County Council report

The new Unitary Authority will be made up of 18 Local Community Networks throughout the County. Holcombe is in Area 3 Shepton, which has a total of 21 parishes, namely: Ashwick, Batcombe, Chilcompton, Coleford, Cranmore, Croscombe, Ditchat, Doulling, Downhead, East Pennard, Evercreech, Holcombe, Kilmersdon, Leigh-on-Mendip, Milton Clevedon, Pilton, Pylle, Shepton Mallet, Stoke St Michael, Ston Easton and Stratton on the Fosse. £300K has been allocated to set up and run all 18 LCN's in the first year. It is understood that planning will run along similar lines as at present although there will only be 4 Mendip District Council Councillors still in place so a considerable amount of planning knowledge will be lost meaning that extensive training of new Councillors will be required. It is believed that things will start to pick up pace over the coming weeks to ensure that progress is made ready for the 1<sup>st</sup> of April



The County Councils element of the precept was set at 5%.