

Parish Council of Coleford

Miss V Watts
Clerk to the Council
Tel: 07971 516916 / 01749 880428
Email: clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com

Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5th April 2023

Present

Cllr Ham, (Chairman presiding) Cllrs Allen, Evans, Moulding, Paterson, Pearce, Townsend and West

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

1. Public Forum

1. It was mentioned that members of the public are still having difficulties obtaining face to face appointments with doctors despite being told that they would be available. Cllr Townsend said that at the recent Patients liaison meeting it was explained all patients would be triaged and urgent cases would be prioritised for face to face meetings.
2. Steve Hodges reported that a copy of Middle Upper Coleford was now available in Frome Library, Radstock Museum, Bishop Henderson School and the Somerset Heritage Center. He gave thanks to the Parish Council for the grant funding towards the printing and mentioned that work has started on volume 2 which will probably take a further 3years to complete.
3. It was asked if a 20mph limit can be installed within the village. Cllr Ham said that Somerset Highways are not in favour of supporting 20mph zones at this stage. It was reported that Speed watch would be starting imminently which would be essential in gathering data to support any highway requests. Any volunteers would be welcome and should contact the Clerk.

2. Apologies for Absence

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

3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

There were none.

4. Update on levelling of the playing field including decision of whether to proceed with the revised planning permission.

The Chairman explained that after the initial site visit and public meeting in December the planning application had been submitted. At the end of January, it came to the Parish Councils attention that the Football Club wished for the pitch dimensions to be larger to allow them to meet the pitch requirements to play as part of the Somerset Senior League. The plans were updated by Pennys with the new dimensions to accommodate the large pitch plus the junior youth pitch. A site visit was held to see the dimensions and the proposed heights as marked out by Pennys and then tonight's meeting was another opportunity for the public to ask questions and voice support or concerns.

Members of the public were invited to comment, some of which are listed below:

- How far the new pitch would be from the houses – the plans showing measurements was shared to show the implications of the proposal
- It was asked whether we would be able to get insurance for the Village Day if the pitch was levelled and the slopes created – The Clerk confirmed that risk assessments would have to be completed to support the insurance as with any village event.
- There were concerns over the volume of lorries – It was said that the number of lorries would be no worse than when Rebastone was open and it would only be a temporary situation.
- It was asked if a Bond would be put up by Pennys to protect the Parish Council should Pennys go into receivership and be unable to complete the work - The Chair confirmed that at this stage we were only dealing with whether to proceed planning application for the larger pitch and youth team pitch.

A Councillor stated that although they wanted the Football Club to have a level pitch, they had concerns over the implications of building up the ground. They felt that over the years the land may slip causing problems for future Councillors and the club. This was disputed by other Councillors highlighting that the plans had been produced by experienced engineers.

It was proposed by Cllr West and seconded by Cllr Paterson that the new plan with senior pitch and junior pitch should be submitted for planning.

Vote: 6 For, 1 Against and 1 Abstention (Somerset Councillor)

Action: The Clerk to notify Pennys that the Council wishes for the larger pitch to be submitted

5. Date of Next Meetings:

12th April 2023 for Parish Council meeting