

# Parish Council of Coleford

Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB  
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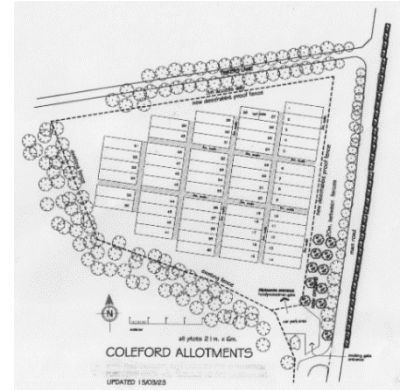
## Newsletter for April 2023

### Allotments - Coming soon!

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that work will start next week. Both conventional and organic plots will be available and the pricing structure has been agreed as follows:

- Base charge for standard 21m x 6m allotments to be set at £60/annum
- Discount to £40/annum for persons 65 years and older and people on benefits
- In the first year the rent will be discounted to £30 if taken before 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 23 and £15 if taken after 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 23.

If you are interested in taking a plot, Contact the Clerk on [clerk@colefordpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@colefordpc.org.uk)



### Parish Councillor vacancy

Are you passionate about Coleford? Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have innovative ideas for the council? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then we need you. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward for co-option to the Parish Council. If you would like to find out more about the role of the Councillor and the work that the Council does, then please contact the Parish Clerk on 07971 516916 or email [clerk@colefordpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@colefordpc.org.uk)

**VOLUNTEER**



### Community event 8<sup>th</sup> May at the Legion - 10am til 1pm

The Community Survey had highlighted that many people were unaware of what services and groups were currently available in Coleford. So, on bank holiday Monday of the Coronation weekend, we've arranged an event to showcase what groups and clubs we have on our doorstep. This will have a dual purpose, those promoting their groups may get volunteers to help run their group or new members and members of the public attending will hopefully learn of a club or activity that they had not been aware of and can join to get fitter, meet new friends, become more creative etc Please do pop in – Refreshments and crown colouring will be supplied at no cost!

### Highways

Somerset Cllr Ham confirmed that he had spent 4 hours with our Somerset Highways Traffic Engineer considering requests for white lining, pot holes and signage for 10 parishes from within his ward. There was much discussion regarding the Coleford issues. The engineer agreed to consider the list and report back on what can be done within the Somerset budget available.

Items reported but still outstanding:

Charmborough Lane opposite Lipyeate House  
Brewery Lane - edge erosion just after junction, pothole opposite Oaklands  
Stockhill - edge erosion coming into village by 30 signs.

New concerns:

Holcombe Cross - another accident reported, the third in 16 months.  
Ham junction is bad after years of patching and needs top dressing.  
Pot hole outside Rope Walk is yet to be repaired

There have been reports of inconsiderate parking on the bend at the bottom of Church Street which resulted in traffic not being able to pass which resulted in damage to a resident's wall. Please don't park on the bend, in front of the footpath to the steps or block resident's driveways by parking opposite them.

## Speed watch

Data gained from speed watch sessions will be critical in supporting future requests for traffic calming schemes. Volunteers have now been trained and will commence sessions once the weather allows but more volunteers are required. If you want to see speeding addressed in the village then please get in touch and join the team. Sessions will take place at random times to suit the volunteers and don't need to take up lots of time. Contact the Clerk for more information on [clerk@colefordpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@colefordpc.org.uk)



## Planning Applications

2023/0431/FUL Change of use from white land to residential garden.

Westhayes Springers Hill Coleford Radstock

Coleford Parish Council recommended refusal on the basis that the Bio-diversity checklist does not appear to have been completed correctly and is lacking information.

## Date of Next Meetings

The May meeting has changed and will now take place on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7pm. The Annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held first with the usual monthly meeting following on thereafter.

The usual monthly meeting to follow on thereafter

If you have any issues that you would like to bring to the Parish Council's attention, please contact the Clerk on 07971 516916 or email [clerk@colefordpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@colefordpc.org.uk)

Check out the website [www.colefordpc.org.uk](http://www.colefordpc.org.uk)



**Philip Ham**



**Somerset Council** – Cllr Ham provided the following report:

**Local Government Reorganisation:** Following the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council, the new Council came into being on 1st April 2023. Somerset Council replaces the four District Councils and County Council providing a range of over 500 services. Both a single point of telephone or website contacts are available on 0300 123 2224 or [www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk)

**Somerset County Council Finances:** Somerset County Council continues to show a significant projected overspend of £24.3 as at Month 9 (the latest figures available), with the main areas of Social Care causing the greatest overspends. There remain significant challenges in delivering the new Somerset Council budget given the current trend in overspend and the risk to some savings which are planned.

**Covid-19 Spring Booster:** As COVID-19 continues to infect thousands of people every week, over-75s and those with weakened immune systems will be offered a further dose of the vaccine this spring. The vaccine offers the best protection against the virus but immunity wanes over time. The NHS plan will offer spring boosters to eligible members of the public from between 17 April and 30 June 2023.

**Younger drivers:** Somerset Council is backing a major new campaign aimed at younger drivers to raise awareness of the dangers of excessive speed on rural roads. A quarter of incidents involving fatalities or serious injuries on Somerset's rural roads involve younger drivers. The Department for Transport launched its Think! campaign earlier this month on video and radio. The adverts underline key messages around taking care, reducing speed, and respecting the road layout, particularly on rural roads. Visit [www.somersetroadsafety.org](http://www.somersetroadsafety.org) to find out more about initiatives and courses.

**Online Support for Carers:** Somerset Council has recently launched a three-month pilot project with Mobilise, an online business created by carers to help unpaid carers get the support they are entitled to. Mobilise will work directly with the existing commissioned Carers Service, including the Community Council for Somerset Agents, to ensure that targeted information will be given to carers and their families. This will include a range of online support including individual support calls – seven days a week. The Mobilise service is free for residents of Somerset and can be accessed via <https://support.mobilise.co.uk/somerset>

Housing Support Scheme: A new scheme to support people leaving hospital and returning to their own homes is demonstrating the advantage of bringing services together in the new unitary Somerset Council. The headline benefit of the scheme, is the provision of stairlifts on loan, cutting through the processing of the Disabled Facilities Grant. The loan gets Somerset residents back into their own homes while the grant is processed. The policy, includes support for insulation, help for essential repairs for residents on means-tested benefits and support to make homes dementia friendly. The new Council services will be accessible through [www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk)

Lettings Agents: Trading Standards is reminding letting agents of their legal obligation to protect money they are holding on behalf of a client after a tribunal upheld an £8,000 fine imposed on a firm. Somerset Trading Standards imposed the fine on a Frome letting agent, after they had repeatedly ignored advice to obtain Client Money Protection that protects landlords' and tenants' money held by a letting agent. The Client Money Protection Schemes protect the money of both the landlord and tenant in the event of the insolvency of the agent.

New Free School: Somerset Council has been successful in its application to the Department for Education (DfE) to open a new free school, one of 33 new free special schools nationally. The school in Wells is expected to open in three to four years and will provide 64 places for children aged 9 to 16 years. Free schools are funded by the Government and run independently of the Council. The school will be easily accessible to students from Street, Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet, Frome and Cheddar.