

Parish Council of Coleford

Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

Miss V Watts, Clerk to the Council

Tel: 07971 516916 / 01749 880428 Email: clerk@colefordpc.org.uk

Newsletter for May 2023

Allotments update!

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that work has progressed well with the rabbit & deer proof fencing at the new allotments. Up to 55 allotments can be created with the standard plots being 21m x 6m with smaller plots also available. Both organic and non-organic plots are provided. A disabled garden area is planned for the future.

There will be NO parking on the access road to Vobster Quay. Car parking is in the field in the designated area outside of the deer fenced allotments – planning permission for a car park will be sought. A 40 ft container will provide a communal storage area and there will be a water supply.

The Parish Council will issue an Allotment Licence to each person taking a plot, which will then be renewed annually on the 15th January each year. Plots will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. The plot holder's obligations when taking on a plot are set out in the Allotment Licence and associated rules and regulations.

The pricing structure will be as follows:

- Base charge for standard 21m x 6m allotment plot is £60/annum
- Discount to £40/annum for persons 65 years and older and people on benefits (Evidence required).
- In the first year the rent will be discounted to £30 if taken before 1st Sept 23 and £15 if taken after 1st Sept 23.



An **Open day has been planned for Saturday 17th June between 10.30am and 12.30pm**. This will be an opportunity to come and take a look at the site and hear about the plans and how you can sign up to grow your own produce. There will be a representative from the National Allotment Association coming to join us, who will speak on the subject and answer any questions that you might have regarding becoming an allotment holder. We hope that you will be able to join us. If you are interested in taking a plot, contact the Clerk on 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.

Speed watch

Data gained from speed watch sessions will be critical in supporting future requests for traffic calming schemes. Volunteers have now been trained but we need more! 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.



Parish Council website

Check out the Parish Council website www.colefordpc.org.uk which is regularly updated with the latest news, agendas and minutes. The Community page is a place where village groups and clubs can advertise for free. It's easy to 'add an entry' or update your entry' using the button found in this link [Community \(colefordpc.org.uk\)](http://Community(colefordpc.org.uk))

Date of Next Meetings

Parish Council meeting 14th June, Planning meeting 28th June 2023 & Parish Council meeting 12th July 2023

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 Check out the website www.colefordpc.org.uk

Philip Ham



Somerset Council – Cllr Ham provided the following report:

Recycling statistics: DEFRA's recently published league tables shows Somerset's 2021-2022 recycling rate of 56.2% ranking it 28 out of 228 local authorities – putting it in the top 15%. Previously this was 59 out of 228, with a recycling rate of 52.4%. In 2021-22, almost 150,000 tonnes of waste were recycled or reused, saving around 133,000 tonnes of carbon. Of that, 97.2% was recycled into new products and package in the UK. Of the 5,771 tonnes of plastics collected, 99.4% were reprocessed in the UK. Somerset's recycling crews make more than 350,000 collections a week across the County.

Soft Plastic recycling pilot: Following the success of Recycle More collections, Somerset Council successfully bid to be part of a national 'Flex Collect' trial of kerbside collection of soft plastics. As a result, a small-scale pilot of the collection of plastic bags and wrapping for recycling will be starting in around 3,600 homes across two locations in Frome. The pilot collections will pick-up a wide range of plastic bags and wrapping, including carrier bags, bread bags, confectionary wrappers, crisp packets, food wrapping and cling film. Depending on how the trials progress, it is expected that they will be expanded to more Somerset homes next year.

Primary School places: Nearly 99% of Somerset's youngest children were offered a primary school place at one of their top three choices, Somerset Council's latest school admission figures show. Overall, 98.94% (98.62% last year) of the 5,182 applicants were offered a place at one of their top three choices, with 94.54% (93.4% last year) receiving their first choice.

Alternative Energy payments: Householders in Somerset could still be due for government payments to help towards the costs of heating their homes, under two separate schemes. The first scheme is for those who heat their homes with an alternative fuel such as wood pellets, LPG or oil, as many do in rural urban areas. Those householders could be due a £200 one-off payment from the government, but they must apply by 31 May and the payment isn't means tested. The second scheme is for households that have not received a £400 discount on their energy bills from an electricity supplier. They may still be entitled to a £400 one-off payment from the government.

Making Somerset Accessible: A year-long project to make Somerset more accessible for Disabled people was launched in April 2023. To deliver the project, Somerset Council has teamed up with WECIL Ltd – a Disabled People's Organisation who offer a range of services supporting independent living. The project is now seeking volunteers to share their views and is asking for individuals and organisations to get involved by contacting disability.in@wecil.org.uk

Highway contravention fines: Nearly £15k of fines have been handed to BT for roadworks offences in Frome. The telecommunications firm was found guilty of two offences which included failing to ensure the safety of pedestrians by failing to install traffic management and for carrying out works without a valid permit

Covid booster vaccination: The NHS in Somerset began the next phase of Covid-19 vaccinations on the 17th April with its Spring programme, geared up to protect the most vulnerable residents. More than 80 thousand people across Somerset are eligible which includes those aged 75 and above, those with a weakened immune system, and older adult care home residents. Invitations are being sent out via letter, text messages or the NHS app and appointments can be made online through the National Booking Service

New childminders: Somerset Council is offering a "Golden Hello" grant worth £250 to those who would like to be a childminder. The £250 can be used to help with training and set up costs. The Council offers guidance and training to newly registered childminders and supports them through Ofsted registration and beyond. To find out more about becoming a childminder, and for an information pack please call 0300 123 2224 or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/early-years-and-childcare/starting-a-childcare-business/