

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

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 28th June 2023

Present

Cllr Ham (Chairman presiding) Cllrs Allen, Banks, Evans, Pearce, Paterson, Townsend and West
3 members of the public were present. The Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes

1. Public Forum

1. There had been no news or progress with the developer / Somerset Highways regarding the entrance to the new shop.
2. The advertised road closure for Anchor Road was set up but did not happen. Buses were not permitted to pass which had caused disruption for regular users.
3. Complaints had been received regarding the overhanging branches and the extension cable which is being used to charge the battery of a car parked on the road outside 2 Mendip Vale. The Clerk to write and request that the trip hazard is removed and the overhanging branches cleared.

Action: Clerk to write to the occupier.

4. The road just past the bend on Dark Lane has subsided.

Action: Cllr Townsend to inspect and report.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Barrett, Bell and Drescher which were accepted by the Chair. Cllr Moulding did not attend

3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

All Councilors were granted a dispensation to allow them to discuss and comment on the planning application 2023/0492/FUL – Levelling of the Highbury Playing Field, Coleford.

4. Co-option of Councilor,

Deborah Douglas-Burke attended the meeting having previously submitted her consent to co-option application, which had been circulated to all councilors prior to the meeting. Mrs Douglas-Burke introduced herself and explained why she wanted to join the parish council. Councilors had the opportunity to ask questions and after discussion it was proposed by Cllr Townsend and seconded by Cllr Banks that the co-option should be approved.

The acceptance of office and register of declaration form were completed.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to submit the register of declaration form to Somerset Council

5. Planning Applications

2023/0986/VRC - Montrose, High Street Coleford
Application to vary/remove condition 2 (Plans List) of listed building consent 2020/0872/LBC (Demolition of conservatory, erection of single storey rear extension, new external door opening and internal alterations) to plan M19-023/10B.

All Councillors had considered the planning application prior to the meeting. After discussion it was proposed that as Councillors were unable to define what the variation was, it could not comment on the application however did not believe that the change would be detrimental to the neighbouring properties or the integrity of the listed building. It was agreed that the decision should be left to the Listed Building Officer.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions (Somerset Councilor)

Action: Clerk to submit to planning office

2023//0492/FUL - Playing Field, Orchard Close, Coleford
Improvements to playing field

All Councillors were aware of the Parish Councils planning application which had been submitted to level the Highbury playing field. There was a discussion around whether the Parish Council should at this stage, stipulate which route the lorries should use to access the site, namely from the East of the village. As there was no knowledge of where the soil would be coming from it was felt that this would not be possible and it was therefore proposed by Cllr Banks and seconded by Cllr Allen that the application should be recommended for approval as per the submitted application.

Vote: 6 For, 1 Against, 1 Abstentions (Somerset Councilor)

Action: Clerk to notify the planning office

6. Planning updates including enforcement issue

Notification had been received that application 2023/0431/FUL would be going before the planning board on the basis of our recommendation that it should be refused due to the bio diversity checklist not being completed correctly and lacking information. After discussion it was agreed that the council would withdraw the objection.

Action: Clerk to notify the planning office

It had been noted that construction work had started at Old Meadow House, Anchor Road. The conditions had stipulated that the improvement to the visibility splay had to be completed prior to work starting however this had not been done.

Action: Clerk to notify enforcement

7. Discuss parking issues on Church Street and agree whether to purchase no parking signs for the corner at Underhill and next to the footpath.

Cllr Ham had spoken with various residents regarding the issues relating to parking at Underhill and the difficulties accessing the private car park and the steps. Part of the issue accessing the car park could be improved if the step up in gradient from the car park access to the playing field entrance could be graded and tarmacked. This would allow the residents to turn up Church Street easier as the entrance would effectively be bigger.

After discussion it was proposed that a sign should be purchased to prevent parking in front of the steps and a letter be written to the owner of the car park to suggest that the small step between the entrance and the playing field drive could be graded and tarmacked at their expense./
starting however this had not been done.

Action: Clerk to order sign and write to the land owner of the car park

8. Payments

The following invoices were presented for payment:

Sign Efix – Allotment signs	£1040.40
HMRC – National Insurance £122.02 + 49p outstanding payment	£ 122.51

It was agreed that all payments should be made and that the cheques would be signed.

Vote: 8 For; 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

9. Update on the Allotments including approving:

1. Agree Allotment Insurance policy

Chris Knott Insurance Brokers had provided a quote of £236.85 for allotment insurance. It was proposed by Cllr Pearce and seconded by Cllr Allen that the quote should be accepted and the payment made electronically via the bank to ensure the policy could be in place at the earliest opportunity.

Vote: 8 For; 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to order sign and write to the land owner of the car park

2. Recommendation on whether to accept non-residents at the allotments

The Clerk reported that enquiries had been received from interested parties from Holcombe, Mells and Frome. After discussion it was agreed that after the 1st of September up to 10 non residents could apply for allotments.

Vote: 8 For; 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to notify the interested non residents

10. Update on the Coleford Climate and Environmental Group

The Chair said that the presentation by Steve Mewes was well attended and informative. It is impressive what Wedmore has managed to achieve. The first meeting of the Coleford Climate and Environmental Group (CCEG) will be held on Tuesday 18th July at 7pm. The group will be run independently of the Parish Council with the Parish Council supporting where possible.

Action: Cllr Moulding to promote the inaugural CCEG meeting

11. Meetings to attend or attended

Various dates for the SALC training – Cllrs to notify the Clerk if you wish to attend.
08/05/23 – 10 til 2pm Coleford Community event at the Royal British Legion, Coleford

Action: Clerk to organise a presentation evening for the Ash Solar Farm – date to be confirmed. Establish if PACT meetings are still being held.

12. Correspondence

Information received regarding Ash Solar Farm

13. Matters of Urgency – at the Chairman’s Discretion

There were none.

14. Date of Next Meetings:

12th July 2023 @ 7pm Parish Council meeting
26th July 2023 @ 7pm Planning meeting

The meeting finished at 20.45hrs