

# Parish Council of Coleford

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

### Highways

The following report was provided:

Charmborough Lane - Highways have made a decent job of the repair work opposite Lipyeate House.

Church St - dropped drain below Douglas Yates Court repaired

Vobster Cross - vegetation has been cut back

Stoke Bottom - surface dressing scheduled for next week



### Police Report

PCSO Louse Perry has joined the Frome Neighbourhood policing team. A report had been provided which showed the crime stats for Coleford over the last 12 months. It is encouraging to see that in the last month the number of crimes had dropped considerably. PCSO Perry confirmed it was a PACT priority to provide a visible presence within Coleford. The overall crime trends for the area are arson and criminal damage, public order and theft.

### Village Maintenance

A contractor has been instructed to:

- create a new notice board which will be installed at Goodeaves to replace the old one.
- clear the area behind the bench & notice board outside the Piano shop which has become overgrown and untidy.

### Allotment

The planning application to create a parking area at the new Coleford Allotment has been prepared and will be submitted to the planning department. Cllr Ham has been negotiating with the quarries with regards to the supply of stonework.

There are now 12 people interested in taking an allotment plot who are not Coleford residents. It has been agreed that Vobster residents should be treated as though they were a Coleford resident and pay the same rent. Non-residents will pay £70 for a full plot and £45 for a half plot. There will be a maximum of 10 non-resident allotments which will not be released until the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.



### Community event on 16th September 2023 time TBC

The Parish Council has agreed to host a second Community event which will be held at the British Legion on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September, at a time to be agreed. This will be an opportunity to showcase the groups and clubs that meet within the village. Look out for more information in due course but if you think you might like to have a table at the event for your group, then please contact the Clerk on [clerk@colefordpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@colefordpc.org.uk)



### Footpath Warden wanted

Do you have a love of walking the Coleford footpaths? If so, would you consider taking on the role of Footpath Warden, producing 2 reports a year notifying the Council of any issues that are found. We have 2 vacancies as the village paths are split into 2 areas, North and South. Each warden is entitled to a donation of £100 per year for producing 2 written reports.

## **Coleford Green Charter, Statement of Intent.**

The Coleford Green Charter, Statement of Intent was adopted by Coleford Parish Council and will be used to help guide the Council with future decision.

## **Somerset Council report**



Somerset Cllr Philip Ham gave the following report:

**Council Finances:** Although the 2022/3 Accounts for the five legacy Councils (District and County) are yet to be finalised and may still not be audited before Christmas, the latest projection is that there will be a £20m overspend which will need to be met from reserves. Perhaps more worrying is the first accounts available since April for the new Unitary Council shows a projected overspend more than £28 million for the current year. Again, reserves will have to be used unless significant savings are made in the remaining 9 months of the year.

Cllr Ham said that an outside consultant had been bought in to review Children Services to see if there are any savings to be made. The same has been done with Adult Services and they have said that no savings can be made in the current financial year but possible £5 million savings in the next 2 year.

**Commercial properties:** Cllr Ham explained that several years ago the District Councils borrowed money and invested in commercial properties. Mendip District Council was the only council to borrow at a long-term fixed rate which has ensured that they continue to make a profit. A loan of £20 million has had to be borrowed to help out the other District Councils who did not fix the rate. 3 of their tenants are in liquidation.

**Phosphate mitigation:** Somerset Council is hoping to secure £10.5m Government funding to deliver phosphate mitigation measures which will unlock the delivery of 18,000 new homes across the area. The funding would be used to expand the existing phosphate credit scheme and deliver mitigation measures including the installation of modular units to provide a secondary treatment process at wastewater treatment works in the catchment area. Salinity Solutions and Wessex Water have delivered a no-cost trial to demonstrate the efficacy of their modular water treatment units for phosphate mitigation. A unit has been in place at the Fivehead Wastewater Treatment Works for two weeks allowing independent water sampling to be undertaken. Early indications show promising results with the first verified laboratory results showing over 98% of phosphates and 88% of nitrates removed.

**Volunteers needed:** From supporting people looking for work to making a real difference to young people, there's a Somerset Council volunteer role just waiting to be filled! Two openings are available with the Youth Justice Team:

- **Family Group Conference Volunteers:** A family group conference is led by family members to plan and make decisions for a child who is at risk. Volunteers in this role support parents who may struggle to express their views.
- **Reparation Mentors:** Volunteers in this role support young people to fully participate in reparation work as part of a Court Order. This is a really rewarding role where you are actively supporting the young person to develop life skills whilst supporting their local community.

In addition, the Schools Appeals Panel is looking for independent members either with or without direct experience in schools. Panel members help to make sure all the appeals for maintained schools and academies are conducted in a fair and transparent way. Appeals can include admissions, exclusions, and transport. Information can be found at <https://volunteering.somerset.gov.uk/>

**Yeovil Literary Festival:** Yeovil Literary Festival takes place this year between Thursday 26 and Monday 30 October with events taking place at Westlands Entertainment Venue and Yeovil Library. Tickets have gone on sale for events including Deborah Meaden, Sarah Beeny, Noel Fitzpatrick, Chris Packham, Kate Mosse, Ian Dunt, Roger McGough and Tommy Jessop. Visit <https://www.yeovilliteraryfestival.co.uk/> to book tickets or call 01935 422884.

**Green Flag Awards:** The international Green Flag award, now in its fourth decade, is a sign to the public that the space has the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained, and has excellent visitor facilities. The parks and greenspaces awarded Green Flag status in Somerset this year are:

- Ham Hill Country Park (Yeovil)
- Chard Reservoir Local Nature Reserve
- Yeovil Country Park
- Apex Cove and Marine Park (Burnham on Sea)
- Swains Lane Nature Reserve (Wellington)
- Vivary Park (Taunton)
- Blenheim Gardens (Minehead)
- Wellington Park

**Allergen laws:** 100 sandwich shops, delis across Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay have recently been tested for compliance of new governments legislation on allergens. Trading standards found that 56 out of 100 businesses were in breach of the new rules which require full ingredient and allergen labelling on all food made on premises and pre-packed for direct sale. Of those 56 some 34 premises failed because they contained an undeclared allergen, often because the product had little or no labelling. All 56 premises are now being advised as to how to meet the new safety standards.

At the Shepton Mallet Local Community Network meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023, Somerset Cllr Ham was appointed as Chair.

**Date of Next Meetings:**

23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 @ 7pm Planning meeting

13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 @ 7pm Parish Council meeting



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**