

# 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](mailto:clerk@colefordpc.org.uk)

## October Newsletter

### Planning Applications

2023/1813/LBC - The provision of a glazed screen to main staircase to protect the balustrade.  
Newbury Manor School Tinkers Lane Newbury Frome Somerset

Coleford Parish Council decided to leave the decision to the Planning officer in conjunction with the Listed building officer.



2023/1780/HSE - Single storey porch extension to the front elevation.

49 Farley Dell, Coleford, Radstock, BA3 5PN

Coleford Parish council decided to recommended for approval

### Levelling of the Playing Field

Last month we were notified that the Planning enforcement team had been told that work had started on the field prior to the planning application 2023/0492/FUL being approved. This has delayed the decision on the application. The Council has written to the planning office to say that work has not started and that we hoped that they would close the spurious complaint immediately.

### Halecombe Quarry Community Fund grant

We are really grateful to Halecombe Quarry who have awarded the Council a grant of £1270 to create a rainwater harvesting structure at Goodeaves allotment, which will really help to maximise crop production next summer.

### Allotments:

As part of the lease agreement for the new Coleford allotments, the Parish Council had to agree to create a car parking area to prevent allotment holders from parking on the access road to the Vobster Quay. The application has been submitted and is currently awaiting validation.



We still have some allotments available so please do get in touch if you want to know more.

[clerk@colefordpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@colefordpc.org.uk)

### Road safety

Coleford Parish Council is looking to gather data on accidents that have happened within the village over the last year and any that might happen in the future. Accidents are not acknowledged by Somerset Highways unless they are reported to the police which then results in them visiting the scene. We are trying to build a case that the approaching roads to Coleford are of poor quality and unsafe, we need data to prove this to Somerset Highways safety Department.

If you have information about an accident that you are prepared to share, then please send it to [clerk@colefordpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@colefordpc.org.uk) with details of the accident eg. Date, time, location, how it happened,

whether the police were called and if there was an injury caused. The Council will collate details and remove names and address and only hold the data for as long as required. If you are able to help it would be much appreciated.

### **New fence for the hard courts**

After receiving a grant from Mendip District Council's Community fund last year plus further funding from Halecombe Quarry earlier this year, we are delighted to be able to finally have the new fence installed around the hard courts at Highbury playing field. Work will start on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> October and will take all week to complete. We would ask that you respect that the courts will be closed during the process and apologise for any inconvenience this might cause. It is the Council's intention to further improve the courts over the course of the next year.

### **Date of Next Meetings:**

8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023, both starting at 7pm @ The Hub



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**

Somerset Cllr Philip Ham gave the following report:



**Register to vote:** Residents are being urged to check their electoral registration details or risk losing their chance to vote on decisions that affect them. Letters have gone out to an initial 83,000 houses across the County and all other households will be written to later this month. Residents can tell the Council of changes and if there are new people eligible to be registered at their address, they will receive an 'invitation to register form' either through the post (or via email, if this contact method has been provided).

**School admissions 2024:** Somerset parents and carers of children due to start school or move on to their next school in September 2024 are being urged to apply for their place online and on time. The application website for children moving to Secondary and Upper Schools is now open and parents and carers can apply for places from now until 31 October 2023 by visiting [www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/starting-at-a-secondary-or-upper-school-in-september/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/starting-at-a-secondary-or-upper-school-in-september/). The website for children starting school for the first time is open until 15 January 2024 at: [www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/apply-to-start-school-for-the-first-time/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/apply-to-start-school-for-the-first-time/)

**Go Green grants:** 'Go Green Scheme' and the 'Somerset Green Business Grant Scheme' are being introduced to offer businesses help and financial support to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions. The scheme offers free energy audits and support to develop individual, costed and prioritised sustainability plans. Grants can be capital and/or revenue and fund up to 50% of total eligible project costs, with the remainder funded by the applicant. The scheme is now open for applications for activity and expenditure which must be completed by end of March 2024. The deadline for submission is 31<sup>st</sup> October. Further information is available at [www.somerset.gov.uk/business-economy-and-licences/funding-and-grants-for-business/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/business-economy-and-licences/funding-and-grants-for-business/)

**Plastics recycling:** Every piece of plastic Somerset Council collected from households and via the recycling sites last year was recycled in the UK. In total 6,500 tonnes of plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays all went to UK companies to be turned into new products and packaging –

everything from plastic wrapping and compost bins to fleece jackets. The figure is up from 99.4% the previous year.

**Youth Parliament:** Young people aged 11 – 17 who live in Somerset or who go to school, college or a youth club in the County have the opportunity to influence change by nominating themselves to stand for election as a Member of the Youth Parliament (MYP). The deadline for nominations is midnight Sunday 12 November. Somerset's MYPs represent 3 areas – Taunton Deane & Somerset West, Bridgwater & Sedgemoor, and South Somerset & Mendip. Those wishing to stand should visit [www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/the-local-offer/having-your-voice-heard/democracy-and-young-people/webpage](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/the-local-offer/having-your-voice-heard/democracy-and-young-people/webpage) to register their interest. Somerset's 3 elected Youth Parliamentarians and their deputies represent Somerset at the national UK Youth Parliament. The County's current MYPs will hand over to the newly elected MYPs from next year, and their new term of office runs from March 2024 until February 2026.

**Hosting:** Autumn sees the return to university or college for many young people in Somerset, often leaving parents or carers with a sense of longed for peace and quiet. For others, a spare room gathering clutter and dust may also be ripe for a sort out and some useful employ. Hosting could be the answer, as the need continues for more host families to help support Ukrainian nationals forced to flee their homes and seek sanctuary in a new and unfamiliar setting. Since the Homes for Ukraine scheme was launched in March 2022, Somerset has welcomed over 1,500 Ukrainians to date, with host families playing a pivotal role in creating a safe environment for guests to re-settle and rebuild their lives in some way, supporting and helping them navigate a new life in the UK. Visit [www.somerset.gov.uk/housing-support/homes-for-ukraine/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/housing-support/homes-for-ukraine/) for more information.

**Green libraries:** Libraries Week, 2nd – 8th October, celebrates the nation's libraries and this year's theme is 'Green Libraries' which encourages communities to be more sustainable and support climate action. To mark the week, Somerset Librarians have launched a free loaning scheme of Thermal Imaging Cameras to help residents identify heat loss in their homes and take action to improve its energy efficiency and reduce fuel bills this winter. Residents can borrow the camera for three days by simply visiting their local library and speaking to a member of staff who can reserve the kit for them. Full details of the scheme can be found at [www.southsomersetenvironment.co.uk/thermalimagingproject](http://www.southsomersetenvironment.co.uk/thermalimagingproject)

**BT prosecuted:** British Telecommunications (BT) has been fined for carrying out work on Somerset's highway network without adequate traffic management or a valid street works permit. The utility firm was fined £12,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,158, plus a £2,000 victim surcharge by Taunton Magistrates after it pleaded guilty to offences.

**Wells Christmas Market:** The traditional 'Christmas in Wells' will again operate from 9am – 3pm on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and will welcome more than 100 stalls to the Market Place and on the Bishop's Palace Green. Visitors can enjoy seasonal gifts and local food and drink with live music and entertainment