

Parish Council of Coleford

Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB
Miss V Watts, Clerk to the Council
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 22nd November 2023

Present Cllr Ham (Chairman presiding) Banks, Bell, Drescher, Douglas-Burke, Evans, Paterson, Pearce, Townsend and Moulding (Part)

In attendance: No members of the public present.
The Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes

1. Public Forum

- 1.1 The Frome Christmas Get Together will be taking place providing refreshments and entertainment on Christmas Day. Transport can be provided.

Action: Clerk to promote on the website and Facebooks

- 1.2 Cllr Bell thanked Cllr Townsend for his help in arranging for the Highways department to clear the flood water on Charity Lane. It was suggested that work needs to be completed to prevent this from happening in the future as there had been several near misses as a result of the flood.

Action: Cllr Townsend to investigate

- 1.3 It was suggested that the signage indicating the way in and out of the Royal British Legion be updated as there is currently confusion which could result in an accident.

Action: Cllr Townsend to investigate

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Allen, Barrett and West, which were accepted by the Chair.

3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

There were none.

4. Planning

2023/2084/CLP - Application for a proposed lawful development certificate for stationing of a caravan for ancillary residential use (Class C3)

Arabesque, Church Street, Coleford, Radstock

All Councillors had considered the application ahead of the meeting. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Townsend and seconded by Cllr Paterson that the decision should be left to the planning officer.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstention (Somerset Councillor)

Action: Notify the planning office of decision

Cllr Moulding arrived 19.26hrs

5. Discuss Asset disposals by Somerset Council

A letter had been received from Somerset Council regarding their intentions for disposing of assets to help address the financial situation. The Clerk also read out the letter sent by Coleford Parish Council to Somerset Council in response to their plans to auction land adjacent to the bungalows at number of 11 and 12 at Stockhill. The Parish Council has highlighted the

reasons why this should not take place. It was proposed by Cllr Ham and seconded by Cllr Townsend that a statement would be put together and posted on Facebook to make the parishioners aware of the situation.

Vote: 10 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

Action: Cllr Townsend and Ham to draft a statement to be promoted

6. Finance

- 6.1 Bank Reconciliation – This will be signed off at the December meeting

Action: Agenda item for December meeting

- 6.2 Consider Budget and Precept for 2024/25 – A first draft had been shared with all Councillors for consideration. Further work needs to be done to refine the forecast ahead of the next meeting but all Councillors were encouraged to consider funding requirements for the 2024/25 financial year.

Action: Clerk to continue to work on the budget document. Agenda item for December

- 6.3 Consider 2 x small grant applications – Applications from Bishop Henderson School and the Table Tennis Club had been received after the deadline. Cllr Townsend proposed that the £570 which was unallocated should be awarded to the Table Tennis club and Bishop Henderson School despite the late receipt. There were no seconders to the proposal. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Paterson and seconded by Cllr Douglas-Burke that the applications should not be accepted due to them missing the deadline.

Vote: 9 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstention

Action: Clerk to notify the applicants

- 6.4 Consider purchasing Christmas Lights & hosting a switch event at Highbury Playing Field
As other Christmas light events are now planned in the village it was proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Paterson that the Parish Council do not proceed with the purchase of lights to decorate the Highbury Playing Field tree on this occasion.

Vote: 10 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

- 6.5 Consider and accept quote to replace smashed outside light at Coleford Changing rooms
The outside light at the changing rooms had been smashed and needed to be replaced. Quotes had been sought and it was proposed by Cllr Paterson and seconded by Cllr Ham that the quote of £70 from A F Denning be accepted.

Vote: 10 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

Action: Clerk to notify the contractor

6.6 Accounts approved for payments

The following payments were presented for payments:

Clerk back pay due to national pay award (01/04/23 to date)	£ 342.52
HMRC back pay (01/04/23 to date)	£ 362.76
Pension back pay (01/04/23 to date)	£ 149.71
National Grid - Install 3 phase electrical supply to the Changing rooms	£3,527.57
LSJ Gardening services – VAT	£ 207.62
Reach Publishing – Advertising for grass cutting contract	£ 94.80

It was proposed by Cllr Paterson and seconded by Cllr Bell that the payment be made.

Vote: 10 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

Action: Clerk to update the standing orders for signing at the next meeting

7. **Consider & accept quote for the removal of Ash trees from the Butterfly Bank**

It was proposed by Cllr Ham and seconded by Cllr Pearce that the quote of £600.00 from Isaac Gregory, to fell the diseased ash trees whilst completing the other management work at the Butterfly Bank should be accepted.

Vote: 10 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

Action: Clerk to notify the contractor

8. **Update on the Allotments**

Cllr Pearce confirmed that the planning application for the car park had been verified by Somerset Planning department with the decision date being 26th December 2023.

Councillors were urged to consider different compost toilets with a view to making a decision on which to purchase at the next meeting.

Cllrs Drescher and Ham were to pass contact details to the Clerk for quotes to be sought for the ground work to create the car park.

Action: Cllrs Drescher and Ham to provide contact numbers for ground work

9. **Correspondence**

EDF – Changing room electricity charge will remain the same – No action required
Halecombe Quarry Community Fund is open for applications – Clerk to promote
Thank you card from the Coleford 1st Scouts for the small grant – No action required
War memorial newsletter – Passed to Cllr Townsend
Allotment magazine – Passed to Cllr Pearce
Adapting to Climate Change on Somerset Levels – Passed to Cllr Moulding

10. **Matters of Urgency**

Douglas Yates meeting room is closing for a few weeks to be decorated.
PCSO will be a Leigh on Mendip Village Hall on 25/11/23 from 10.30 til 12.30pm

Meeting finished at 21.40hrs