

Parish Council of Coleford

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 24th January 2024

Present Cllr Pearce (Vice Chairman presiding) Allen, Banks, Bell, Douglas-Burke, Evans, Paterson, Moulding and Townsend

In attendance: 10 members of the public present.
The Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes

1. Public Forum

- 1.1 Cllr Townsend spoke with the PCSO at the recent Warm Space event. They talked about highway safety on Charmborough Lane and outside of the Co-op. They agreed to meet for further discussions on how the inconsiderate parking around the co-op junction might be addressed.

Action: Cllr Townsend to progress

- 1.2 It was asked if the dog waste bag dispensers could be refilled.

Action: Agenda item for February

- 1.3 There are still 2 pot holes opposite the Vobster sign that have not yet been filled.

Action: Cllr Townsend to report

2. Apologies for Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

Cllr Ham, Barrett, Drescher and West sent apologies which were accepted by the Vice Chairman.

3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

There were none.

4. Planning Applications

Rainier's plans for Land off Anchor Road, Coleford

Members of the public raised the following points:

- Concern over the road infrastructure – namely Charmborough Lane and Brewery Lane.
- Concern over how the school, doctors' surgery and sewage system would cope with the additional demand.
- Coleford is not sustainable.
- Why is there so much development in this area?

It was highlighted that when the Local Plan Part II was approved in 2021 it was delinquent in meeting the required target of 505 houses and the revised housing calculation of 600 houses per year in Mendip, also known as the 5-year plan, was not met. The good news is that the housing calculation figures are now advisory rather than mandatory.

The Somerset Highways department did not object to the Gladman's application but it has since been established that there were 7 x RTAs recorded in recent years.

In -November 2023 the application for 4 houses at Rope Walk was refused on the basis that the quota mentioned within the Local Plan Part II had been exceeded by 224%. Highways were not used as a reason for the refusal.

It was asked what was currently happening with the Gladman application. There were many reserved matters which had to be overcome before the application could be progressed. It could be that the site is deemed unviable due to those issues but the Parish Council has no further information on the progress of the development.

After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would approach Mendip Country Practice to establish whether they could cope with another development in the village.

A planning consultant was employed by the Parish Council to defend the Gladman application and it may be considered that this is required again. A quote should be sought from the planning consultant.

The Clerk will encourage residents to report any road traffic accidents that have occurred on Charmborough Lane and Brewery Lane.

Actions: The Clerk will:

- *Speak with Mendip Country Practice to establish if they could cope with another development*
- *Seek quote from a planning consultant to defend a potential application*
- *Record data for RTAs on Brewery Lane and Charmborough Lane*

5. Planning updates including enforcement issues

The Clerk provided an update on planning application decisions and confirmed that she had contacted the planning officer for those that were outstanding and overdue.

Cllr Townsend confirmed that he had written to the planning officer and head of planning department regarding the suggested conditions for allotment car park application and asked that they reconsider the proposed conditions given the size of the project.

6. Discuss whether to remove or replace the bin outside Church Hall.

It was proposed by Cllr Allen and seconded by Cllr Evans that the bin should be removed.

Vote: 9 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to seek quotes for the removal of the bin

It was noted that the grit bin at Careys Mead had been damaged.

Action: Clerk to investigate

7. Finance

7.1 Discuss and agree 3rd Quarter Budget Review for 2023/24

The Clerk had previously circulated the budget review as at the 31st December 2023. It was proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Paterson that the review should be signed off.

Vote: 9 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

7.2 Discuss and agree Budget and Precept for 2024/25

After the discussion from the last meeting and the amendments made to the 2024/25 budget, it was proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Allen that the precept should be increased to a total of £64,446. This equates to a Band D homeowner paying £1.64 per week, which is an increase of 38 pence per week on last year. The increase will ensure that the agreed budget is met and the reserves are lifted to the minimum level of 6 months running costs.

Vote: 9 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to make the precept request from Somerset Council.

7.3 Accounts approved for payments:

The following invoices were presented for payment:

Reads Agri-services – Rain water harvesting	£ 55.30
V Watts – Defibrillator pads & Refreshments for warm space	£ 184.35
Scribe Accounting software – Annual fee	£414.72
LSJ Grounds Maintenance – VAT element for January	£207.62
Water 2 Business – Changing rooms water supply	£282.63

Cllr Bell proposed and Cllr Paterson seconded that the payments should be made.

Vote: 9 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

8. Correspondence

The Clerk confirmed that the Community Payback team will be visiting the village every 6 weeks starting from 7th February and that there will be no charge for the service.

9. Date of Next Meetings:

14th February 2024 - Parish Council meeting

28th February 2024 – Planning meeting