

Parish Council of Coleford

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Annual Parish Meeting held Wednesday 27th March 2024

Present

Cllr Henry Banks (Acting as Chairman presiding)

There were 19 members of the public present and the Parish Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes.

1. Apologies Absence (acceptance of any reasons offered)

Philip Ham (SC & PC & Resident), Alan Townsend (PC & Resident), Chris Pearce (PC & Resident), Annie Paterson (PC & Resident), Deborah Douglas (PC & Resident), Amy West (PC & Resident), Mark Barrett (PC & Resident), Rev'd Clarissa Cridland and Julia Neesam (Holy Trinity Church), Nic Edwards (Village Agent), Carrie Hemmings (Love to Move), Geraldine James (Knit and Natter) and Judith Stanford (Kilmersdon Gardeners)

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting 22nd March 2023

The minutes had been circulated and posted on the website for review. They were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and were therefore signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

- 3.1 A resident said that during the time that Douglas Yates Court was closed for refurbishment, it made them realise what an asset it was to the village and how much it was used for community events and meetings.
- 3.2 Now that the cones had been removed from outside of the Co-op, the parking has become an issue and its only a matter of time before there was an accident.
- 3.3 Is there any news on the new shop? The Parish Council hasn't heard anything.

4. Chairman's report

Philip Ham sent the following report:

Firstly, thank you all for attending the annual Parish meeting tonight, and please accept my apologies for not being with you tonight but I have another meeting which I had to attend in order that I could vote.

The Parish Council has had a busy year, held more meetings and working groups than ever, this is great but has only been possible by all the Councillor giving extra hours of time totally volunteering than would normally be expected of them. We have also been frustrated by the lack of planning decisions, Somerset Councils financial crisis, difficult budget setting, however the positives outweigh the negatives.

- 1) The Allotments at our new Vobster Quay site is up and running with nearly all the plots let. We got permission to build the Car Park in the last ten days, which will take place as soon as the weather allows. We also hope to have disabled and easy access plots, disabled on site toilets, and a community area installed this year.
- 2) The Football playing field: we are hoping our application will get approved very soon. On the advice of Sport England, the planners decided that conditions needed to be agreed regarding the seeding and preparation before football can be played, and a management plan for the aftercare of the new pitch. We have agreed those conditions.

- 3) The Hard Courts: we have completed the first stage with grant monies received from the Old Mendip District Council and the Halecombe Quarry Fund. We hope to complete the next stage this year.
- 4) The Community Plan: this has now been completed and an action plan commenced. There are a lot of projects that have started, but others will be harder but we will do our best to progress as many as possible.
- 5) The Climate change group has been formed and meets roughly every other month, and are working on ideas where we in Coleford can help the situation or even help our parishioners save money and keep warmer.

On top of these projects, we continue to consult on all planning applications, maintenance around the village, play parks, playing fields, youth club, cemetery and follow up and deal with many village issues. This year we rose the Council Tax for 2024/2025 for the reasons that we are not immune to price inflation and due to the financial problems of Somerset Council we will be expected to pick up non statutory services.

This year we have provided small grants to the value of £2500 to Community organisations in the village, these grants help the groups to flourish and encourage people to volunteer for the benefit of the community.

The Council is very active in trying to access grants to improve the facilities of the village, we are not always successful but as they say you won't win the lottery if you have not bought a ticket. Our forward programme is based on health and wellbeing and getting different groups interacting so we can make a quality application in early summer. We also want to complete our emergency plan, and work on the actions created in the Community plan.

I would like to thank all the councillors for all the work done over the last twelve months, their support for each other and covering for those suffering health issues. I know I, and all the councillors need to thank our Clerk, Vickie Watts for her steering work for the council and service to the public on all occasions. We really are thankful Vickie.

Again, sorry for not attending tonight, but everyone is always welcome to all Parish Council meetings, and you can follow us on the Council website and Facebook page.

6. Somerset County Council report

Somerset Councillors Barry Clarke provided the following report:

2024/5 Council Budget: Somerset Council has voted through plans to set a budget for the coming financial year but received a stark warning of significant challenges in the years ahead. Lib Dem Council Members unanimously agreed a range of measures to bridge a funding gap of £100m for 2024/25, including cost cuttings, increasing Council Tax by 5%, and using £36.8 millions of reserves (a council's equivalent of savings). The proposals also include a 'capitalisation direction' request of £36.9m – seeking permission from Government to borrow money or sell assets to pay for day-to-day running costs. Amid specific plans to cut costs and increase fees, around 1,200 jobs are expected to go at Somerset Council over the next three years equivalent to about a quarter of the workforce.

Council papers are still predicting a further £103 million budget gap in 2025/26. Sadly, bankruptcy looks inevitable.

Gigafactory plans for Puriton site: Agratas, a new business within the Tata Group, has confirmed its plans to build a gigafactory producing EV batteries at the Gravity Smart Campus site in Puriton, near Bridgwater. A £4 billion investment, the factory will create up to 4,000 jobs and many more as part of the supply chain. There are reports that Somerset are putting in £150 million to the battery factory at Puriton. In fact, £100 million is from the Government and the £50million that is their input will be recovered from the scheme when in production. It is envisioned that the plant will be operational in the second half of the decade, eventually producing 40GWh of battery cells annually, enough to supply approximately 500,000 passenger vehicles. Once fully operational, the factory is set to be Britain's biggest battery factory, and one of the largest in Europe. Over the next five years, Somerset Council plans to invest in the infrastructure, skills, site access and connectivity which will be paid for by the Business Rates generated by the factory once it is operational.

Public libraries: Blood pressure monitors and heat surveying infrared cameras are now available to borrow free of charge for 3 days. They are owned by Somerset Council so please do use them.

Pot holes: It has been mentioned that 98% of claims are being rejected on the basis that they have not been reported to Somerset Council. If you see a pot hole that needs repair, please report it via the Somerset Council website under 'Report a problem on the road' section.

Local Community Networks: The groups have highlighted that one of the main topics of interest are Highways. There is a new scheme being introduced called the Highway Stewardship. This is when a man and a van are provided at an annual cost

of £50K per year. That person is able to complete drain clearance, sign cleaning and verge cutting but not pot hole repairs. Parish Councils are being encouraged to contribute to the scheme and will get so many hours service each month. It is questioned whether it will offer value for money. Cranmore Parish Council will monitor.

Heating Support Grant: The deadline for applications has been extended for an extra 6 month.

Planning: One of the biggest areas of concern has been the planning process. Cllr Barry Clarke said that he and Cllr Philip Ham were putting together a list of issues that had occurred where the process had failed and caused unnecessary delay. He encouraged the Parish Council to report any concerns so that they could be included in their report to the planning department.

Flooding: Cllr Clarke said that he and Cllr Ham were trying to get Somerset Rivers Authority to take an overall view of the actions of Defra, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group etc rather than them trying to fight them one at a time. They have a meeting planned with them shortly and will keep Parish Councils informed of the outcome.

7. Coleford Youth Club

Team Leader Chiara Docherty attended the meeting and reported that the Youth club meets each Thursday evening from 6.30 to 8.30pm during the school term times, supporting young people between the ages of 10 to 19 years of age. Due to an increase in members the club is currently at maximum capacity with a 1:10 staff /child ratio. Chiara confirmed that they are trying to obtain funding for an additional leader to enable more young people to attend. It has been frustrating that some young people have been hanging around outside the club, which has meant that a member of staff has had to monitor behaviour, which has detracted from activities inside the hall. The young people that do attend are really enjoying the sessions. It would be helpful to have more volunteers. Chiara will send posters to the Clerk to help raise awareness and encourage volunteers to come forward.

The Clerk said that she would speak with the PCSO to ask that they include the youth club within their patrols whenever possible.

A full copy of the 2023 report will be posted on the website with the draft minutes.

8. PCSO Report

No report had been received.

9. The Village Agent

Our Village Agent Nic Edwards had sent apologies but had agreed to come to a Parish Council meeting to discuss the work that the Village Agent completes in the near future.

10. Tuesday Afternoon Club

Eileen Smith attended the meeting and gave the following report:

We are celebrating 25 years in July. We meet fortnightly in the Royal British Legion Hall. We are very friendly and welcoming Club and host a variety of speaker meetings throughout the year, mainly with screen presentations such as from Somerset Coal Mining, War Graves Commission, St John Ambulance, Climate Change and Conservation to Story Telling and Demonstrations.

We also have some entertainment groups, Singing Guitar Group, Handbell Ringers, Ukelele Group and Minstrel Group. If possible, we try to have local speakers and give a donation usually to their chosen charity.

Members are interested in many subjects and are mainly over 65. We have 32 paid up members and we usually have 25 at meetings.

We have 5 outings each year now restricted to lunches and a Garden Centre visit and this year A Canal Boat trip. This is due to mobility problems with some members and we like to cater for everyone.

Sadly, we have lost some members as they are now unable to get to the Royal British Legion Hall.

All our meetings are Open Meetings also on the outings we accommodate visitors at a small extra fee.

Coach charges have now increased dramatically this year and will have to rethink next year, but the days are appreciated as it is the only long trip some people do.

We have a raffle at each meeting and have had small private donations. We are very grateful for the Grant from the Parish Council towards transport costs.

11. Coleford Athletic Football Club

Darren Willis attended the meeting and confirmed that the Club now has 3 Adult teams with 60 adult members. 2 teams play on Saturday and the over 35 team play on a Sundays. There are currently 2 youth teams - an under 8 team and under 13 team. Next year there will be 2 more teams, an Under 7, Under 9, Under 13 and Under 14. Youth teams play at Leigh on Mendip playing field. Most over 16's from the village, play for the adult team.

12. Coleford Theatre Group

Katherine Billing attended the meeting and reported that the Theatre Group meets each Monday at the Royal British Legion. There are 2 shows a year, on 17th May, for one night, there will be a Murder Mystery and the pantomime will take place November / December for 4 nights plus a matinee. This year it will be Rapunzel which will see new members and some returning members put on a show to remember. The group is always looking for volunteers to help behind the scenes and on the stage.

The Grant from the Parish Council has been much appreciated.

13. @ The Hub

Henry Banks attended the meeting and explained that the Trustees run the Hub. It started in 2014 with the intention of raising funds to support the Youth Club. The lease has since been taken on from Somerset Council which has made it easier to apply for grants to maintain and improve the facilities.

Over the last few years, a new boiler and radiators have been installed, the car park has been resurfaced with tarmac and the boundary wall has been repaired and lowered to improve visibility when leaving the car park. It is hoped that in the near future it will be possible to build a porch to keep warmth in.

Income is generated from hall hire but there are services that are provided where no charges are made like the Post Office, the Youth Club each Thursday during the term times plus the warm space sessions. The hall is used for regular parties, wakes, Dagmar's Café up to 3 times a week, table tennis and acoustic nights and meetings. Spread the word to all that the hall is available for hire.

14. Love to Move

Carrie Hemmings did not attend but sent the following report:

From January to now we have been meeting in the Mendip Country Practice meeting room due to Douglas Yates Court having a refurbishment. The Refurbishment is now complete and we will be returning to our shiny newly done up room at Douglas Yates Court on the 8th April.

I have changed the name of the sessions to 'Fabulous, Fun & Fit' and I'm focusing now on general fitness where anyone at any level of fitness is welcome. We have a range of ages and abilities who regularly attend our sessions and have formed a wonderful social of friends. We all have a good laugh and the sessions are interactive and personal, where I have taken song requests from attendees, worked out a routine and then we all exercise to the song requests. One of my attendees provided one of their favourite songs with some actions and this is one of the group favourites so exercise and sing along to. We also have a keen knitter in the group who has knitted us all very fashionable sweatbands and a tea cosy for our famous and well-loved teapot and a clever lady who made us all handcrafted Easter Baskets made and weaved from patterned paper cups filled with chocolate eggs, yummy. We are not just an exercise class, we are a fun-loving group that socialise, drink tea and keep healthy and moving.

I have enclosed a poster for your information. Now that we are back at Douglas Yates Court, I will start to distribute posters on the public notice boards around Coleford and surrounding areas to hopefully increase the numbers.

15. Holy Trinity Church

Julia Neesam and Phil Brewer, the Church Wardens did not attend but provided the following report:

In May last year we held a flower festival with afternoon tea afterwards, it was attended by about 20 people and much appreciated.

The coffee mornings now called Friendship Fridays held every other week are continuing and are enjoyed by all with much needed money being raised for the church.

The benefice services are continuing to be held every 5th Sunday of the month when this occurs, collecting members of all three parishes together, Holy Trinity taking its turn in this.

The three art weekends were held in the church hall in September and tea and coffee were served in the hall for members of the public, who in the afternoons were looking at the galleries. This raised money which went to the church.

At the Harvest festival, Bishop Henderson School attended the church on Friday 6th October whilst the main service for Holy Trinity was on Sunday 8th October; these were both well attended.

In October Clarissa went to Bishop Henderson School to ask for pictures to be painted in readiness for the Christmas cards which were to be printed for distribution in the village. Bibles were again handed out to the relevant classes at Bishop Henderson School. One of our younger members of the congregation was confirmed at Wells Cathedral and was a much-enjoyed occasion, with quite a few members of the congregation attending to support him, this was with Bishop Michael presiding.

The Christmas services were well attended with Bishop Henderson School being first on the 15th December, followed by the carol service on the 17th December. All the Christmas services were enjoyed and fairly well attended.

On to a new year and Easter. We have had lots of special services and we hope to continue to provide service to the community.

16. Coleford Gospel

Howard Coles attended the meeting and gave the following report on the activities which take place:

Mission – Purpose:

- to Communicate that Christianity is unique
- Easter Time – the time of resurrection – a vital core truth
- to make Christ known – as a living Lord and Saviour
- to encourage people through faith to know a personal relationship with Him

Weekly:

- regular family services each Sunday @ 4.00 p.m. with brief message from visiting speakers from all walks of life
- each Thursday @ 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 in school terms times – Carers and Tots
- each Thursday at 2.30 p.m. – ladies meeting – short talks - variety of speakers

Monthly:

- once a month the Family Gospel Service @4.00 p.m. becomes a Tea and Talk
- on the first Tuesday of each month @ 10.00 am. – Coffee Morning
- on the third Saturday of each month @ 9.00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast
- during the winter months on the fourth Saturday of each month - Bible Study meeting at 7.00 p.m.
- available on Zoom – ID: 852 0463 3192 – Passcode: John3v16.

Periodically:

- Holiday Bible Club for children of school age each year during the February School half term – Monday to Friday – 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 – with a National Children's Worker - Craft – Bible stories – choruses
- Saturday - Family Bible Craft Days – (this coming Easter Saturday) 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Web Site:

- colefordgospelhall.org

17. Coleford Conservation Volunteers

Andy Conn attended the meeting and gave the following report:

Introduction:

Thank you for invitation. It's good that a busy PC makes the time to keep in contact.

Brief Background:

We started what became CCV during Winter 2016, with the first clearance of brambles at the Butterfly Bank, Lower Coleford PF.

Butterfly Bank was a Millenium project to create an open, sunny wildflower bank to attract butterflies and other insects, but it had become overgrown.

We got support from residents, the PC and the SWT, all recognising the importance of wildflower grasslands

Since 2016 clearance has continued.

During the last few years, cutting has been done by the PC's contractor, leaving volunteers to rake and tidy, so the work is more manageable.

Recent Changes:

We now have some momentum – we get up to 20 volunteers turning out

We had other ideas and a grant offer by Coleford Revival Group during its winding up.

By 2022 we were confident enough to create a small formal committee and a constitution, so that we could have a bank account and bid for more grants.

In the past 18 months we have attracted some £1775 in grants, inc £125 from the PC. Main spends so far are £800 for tree work and over £500 on wildflower seeds and plugs.

Recent Work:

- 1) We have continued with Winter and Summer maintenance at the butterfly bank
- 2) We have completed two projects to spread selected wildflower seed and plant plugs (January 23 and October 23)
- 3) We collected yellow rattle seed (thank you to Chris Pearce amongst others for permission) to spread and reduce grass, helping other wild flowers
- 4) We paid for tree pruning and removal at the Butterfly Bank. The work was carried out during last Winter by the PC's contractor
- 5) We helped plant the first community orchard at the Lower PF (Winter 22/23) and second community orchard at the new allotments (Winter 23/24). We worked with the PC to choose trees, which were bought by the PC, and drum up volunteers for planting. These were popular events. We also watered the PF trees during dry spells in 2023.
- 6) CCV also planted the willow dome at the Lower PF (Winter 24) The kit was bought by the PC with advice from CCV. (The dome is in bud now.)
- 7) On March 17th we carried out the planters project at the garden opposite the surgery on Church Street. Three planters were refreshed with native wildflowers. There will be some details in the next Magazine.
- 8) We arranged two wildflower walks last Summer – one from the Hub the other from Ham to Edford Meadows – both were well attended
- 9) Two of the committee worked with Coleford Acoustic Club to hold a wassail event (postponed from January due to a storm) and held on 18th February. About 40 people attended a musical procession down Church Street from the Hub to the orchard at the Lower PF. We had tree blessings with cider and toast, an ode from Coleford's poet and a tiny Wassail Queen.

The Future:

- 1) We are planning summer maintenance at the Butterfly Bank. Then Winter 25/26.
- 2) We are hoping for more wildflower walks this summer and we are thinking of a hedgerow walk too and tree seed and more yellow rattle seed collection.
- 3) Maybe refreshing more village planters if people like those at Church Street
- 4) Wild flower surveys at the Butterfly Bank – to assess the results of seeding and planting
- 5) A native tree nursery project has started. 3 volunteers visited Westbury Sub Mendip project, whose leaders also came to talk at the Hub. People are experimenting with collecting seed locally (with permissions) and how to get germination. We are talking with the PC about use of a space at the new allotments as a nursery, from which small trees (whips) can be given to interested people.

6) And, finally, perhaps another Wassail in 2025!

Conclusion:

The CCV view is that it is good to work with the PC – there are advantages for both
The PC can provide support, formal powers, sites, small grants, and arrange contractors for bigger jobs.
CCV can provide workforce, ideas, research, and attract in grants from other bodies.
Jobs get done. People enjoy the projects. The place gains.

18. Coleford Methodists

Mary Pearce reported that the Methodists in Coleford are a small group, unlike days gone past when John Wesley visited often.

All of our meetings are held in Douglas Yates Court.

We meet twice a month on Sundays when we share lunch at 12.30 for 1.00 pm. and then share fellowship at 2.00pm. We usually number about eight. We have a new minister, Rev. Andrew Prout. His great grandmother came from Frome, but he comes from Exeter and is a joint owner of Exeter Football Club. I understand that they play with a round ball.

We also meet twice a month on Tuesdays 2.00 for 2.30. pm, when we invite Christian speakers to talk about anything that they like. We found out that the Salvation Army was formed when the Methodist Church rejected poor or homeless people from their meetings. Hopefully that has changed. We have had virtual tours of places far and near, and once tried to make flowers from paper. We usually number about eight, but this can vary with health and medical appointments.

Both of our meetings are ably supported by Ron Brewer on the piano and he is much appreciated. Also, both of our meetings can be affected by extremes of weather.

Douglas Yates Court Lounge was out of use during January and February, when we had already planned to not meet in case of bad weather, so the closure did not affect our meetings at all. However, the closure did show us and others just what an asset the room is to the village, especially the piano. We really appreciate meeting in the refreshed Lounge again. Why bother, you may well ask for such a small group? Our members are mostly elderly, who may not drive. Buses do not run on Sundays; we offer a good alternative to staying at home alone. Warm, comfortable and easily accessible.

19. Knit & Natter

Geraldine James attended and gave the following report:

Our group is a very happy one and we have achieved a lot in the past year. We come together to relax and share our hobby, and to catch up with what's going on in the wider world.

We have +- 12 members, and one home member. We had 3 new members, 2 of whom are men, and they are learning to knit, and doing very well.

We work on our own projects, and support various local charities, and selected overseas charities.

We have donated to:-

- Julian House
- The Gospel Hall
- Operation Christmas Child (shoe box appeal)
- We sent a box to P.U.M.A. A group who are based in Plymouth, who go every six weeks to Ukraine, to bring warm knitted & Crocheted goods, food & medical supplies to orphans, the elderly, and the disabled people who are left behind in Ukraine.
- We have given cash donations (out of our £1 a week subs) to Coleford Food Bank.

At the start of the year, we had to find a new venue to meet temporarily, as Douglas Yates Community Room was to be refurbished. So, Dagmar's Cafe at the Hub kindly said we could meet there, so a big thank you to Dags.

We are now meeting back at D.Y.C. as usual.

We thank the Council for their £50.00 donation which enables us to buy new yarn which is required for some of our projects.

20. Kilmersdon Gardeners

Judith Stanford provided the following report:

The year 2023/2024 was a very interesting year all round. We had new members join through Trisha Jordan's interesting write ups in the local press, backed up by our website entries, www.kilmersdongardeners.org; and our facebook page Kilmersdon Gardeners. Trisha has since retired from doing the write ups, continuing as a member of the club.

We hold our meetings in Kilmersdon Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month, apart from August. The doors are open to welcome members and visitors alike at 7.15pm, each month we aim to have a speaker who starts at 7.30pm. Membership has not been increased this year so is at the reasonable sum of ten pounds a year, less than a pound a meeting, which includes free refreshments, visitor charge is three pounds per meeting which also includes free refreshments.

Over the past year our subjects have been talks on Plant Names, common and binominal, Organic Gardening, working with nature from Oliver Jones of Ammerdown gardens. In September we had an evening of Trug making by 'A miserable old trugger' which he may have been when he arrived, after selling the majority of his trugs to members I'm sure he went home a very happy trugger!

November we had an extremely interesting and charming speaker who entertained us on stories of his father who was the classic Victorian Head Gardener, you could hear a pin drop everyone was so interested. Need less to say he has been rebooked for 2025/6. Our piece de resistance was our enjoyable Wreath Making Saturday morning which our programme secretary ran at the beginning of December in aid of the club, we had a lot of interest and everyone enjoyed themselves and asked for a repeat this year! Members went out for a Christmas Meal at the Old Down Inn in December which was followed by a quiz!

Looking forward to this year's meetings, this month our speaker was Helena Crouch, botanist and member of Cam Valley Wildlife Group, who gave us an insight into Beautiful Burial Grounds in this area. Helena explained the way forward for churchyards with unused overgrown areas that can be encouraged to become beautiful and full of species of flowering plants to help the survival of both plants, some rare, and insects who need these environments to continue their future. Our next meeting on 10th April is entitled Tales from an Elizabethan Still Room, May is a talk on Gardening for Moths.

One of our most important events of each year is our well attended Plant Sale which is on Saturday 18th May, doors open at 10.30am until 12.30pm. Plant donations, veg, flowers, shrubs, anything growing (in the soil!) that is saleable may be brought to the hall on Friday 17th May from 6.30pm – 7.30pm. Plants left at the end of the sale will be taken great care of and taken to our stall at Writhlington Flower Show and Fete in the Village Hall, opens at 2.30pm. Our Plant Sales are a must to ensure we have enough income to cover the ever increasing fees speakers charge with travelling costs on top.

Thank you for listening, we hope to see you at a meeting or two, you won't be disappointed!

21. Coleford Climate Action

Melanie Moulding Chair of Coleford Climate Action attended the meeting and gave the following report:

We are living with the threat of the climate emergency that effects all life on earth. Coleford Climate action is an enthusiastic group trying to find ways that we can become one of the leading lights to protect the environment and become carbon neutral, as part of the initiative to cope with the effects of the emergency. Our projects will be community led, knowing the power of what can be done, if we work together.

CCA has received its first grant of £150.00 from the Parish Council to set up a Coleford Climate Action website, which has recently been launched. The website address <https://colefordclimateaction.org.uk/> is up and running and full of useful information. Energy saving training has been given to group members and we will be sharing this to the village in the future. The first major project of the CCA being Green Open Homes Energy Efficiency events. We will be looking for people who have made changes to their homes to make them resilient to the extremes of the weather who will be happy to open their homes to share their ideas. The Steering group has gained support and training from the Centre for Sustainable Energy through their Rural Community support Network. This gives CCA access to grants up to £5000.00. Which will support and empower us all to look at our own homes and see what we can do to have healthy, warm homes while being energy aware. The CCA have agreed with the Community Magazine to publish monthly tips to support our community become energy aware.

Alongside the above project we have widened our network of support by attending meetings with other community groups. These include Transition Bath events, Eco Together, Mendip Country Practice, Somerset Bus Partnership and Frome e-Bikes Project. We are also members of Somerset Climate Action Network and Community Action Group. In addition, within the community magazine is a monthly article written by a member of the steering group on encouraging wildlife into our outdoor spaces.

We will have four public meetings a year which will be intersperse with relevant events, speakers or films. We recently ran a World Cafe style public meeting to engage and gather feedback on project ideas. We have 33 members now and all who wish to be involved to be part of the movement in the village towards net zero - a target of completely negating the amount of greenhouse gases produced by human activity, to be achieved by reducing emissions and implementing methods of absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

There is a warm welcome to Coleford Climate Action to all and we encourage our members to share ideas on our Facebook page to further the aims of the group.

22. Coleford Table Tennis

Adam Drescher said that the Cobra Tale Tennis Club meets at the Hub on Mondays at 7pm, those attending need to bring their own bat. The club won its first match last week!

23. Date of the next Annual meeting of the Parish

Wednesday 26th March 2025

Meeting closed at 21.15hrs

These minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting held on 27th March 2024 and were duly signed by the Chair:

Dated 26th March 2025