

Parish Council of Coleford

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Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

Newsletter for May 2024

Planning

There were no planning applications considered by the Parish Council during the month.

2024/0310/VRC – Variation of condition 2 (drawings) of permission 2022/0854/FUL (Erection of dwelling house – Land South of 62 Mendip Vale, Coleford, Radstock)
Approved by Somerset Council

2023/0492//FUL – Leveling of Highbury Playing Field.

Pennys have confirmed that they are currently working on discharging the 3 planning conditions which formed part of the planning permission. They have received a quote for the surface water drainage system and have instructed them to proceed. They will be in touch to discuss timescales etc in near future.



Highways

The following report had been submitted by Cllr Townsend:

1. Anchor Rd/Brewery Lane - the patching work done is just that, patches only, only done half the job and nothing on the left along Brewery Lane.
2. Stockhill - defects reported and minimal patching done.
3. Charity Lane - defects in front of Newbury House reported
4. Cherry Gardens Lane - pothole reported and filled. Surface breaking up again just north of Lipyeate Farmhouse.
5. Charmborough Lane - pothole reported by entrance to Hill Farm
6. Springers Hill - overhanging tree and surface erosion reported.



The following new issues are to be reported:

1. The surface on Vobster Hill has deteriorated to the extent that it is difficult to cycle up.
2. The trees adjacent to Preachers Vale green need to be cut back by Somerset Council

Update on Allotments

Great news, the car park is complete! Huge thanks to Hansons Quarry who delivered 200 tonnes of stone free of charge to create the parking area, which has been very much appreciated. They have agreed to deliver 3 further loads, again at no charge, to be used for the base of the compostable toilet, path and sumps. The order for the compostable toilet has been placed and will be delivered in approx. 3 weeks.



The next job will be to install the pipework to allow access to water in 3 additional locations around the allotment field, which is much needed now that all 60 plots have been let.

Finance

During the meeting held on 8th May the Council agreed:

- Year-end accounts 31st March 2024
- Asset Register 2024/25
- Financial Risk Assessment 2024/25
- The Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2023/24 was also completed



All documents can be found on the parish council website: <https://www.colefordpc.org.uk/>

Annual Parish Council meeting

The Annual meeting was also held on the evening of the 8th May. Cllr Ham was re-elected as Chair and Cllr Pearce as Vice Chair. The following roles were allocated to Councillors:

Working Party

Playing Fields, Play areas & Pump Track

Environment & Cemetery

Allotments

Finance, Pay Review

Small Grants

Lead Councillor

Cllr Barrett

Cllr Evans

Cllr Pearce

Cllr Townsend

Cllr Banks

Team members

Cllr Allen / West / Ham / Drescher

Cllr Allen / Paterson
Townsend / Moulding

Cllr Ham / Drescher / Allen
Townsend / Moulding

Cllr Ham / Pearce / Bell / Moulding
Clerk

Cllr Pearce / Evans

Lead / Link Councillors

Footpaths / Rights of Way

Highways

Open Spaces & Trees

Community Plan

Young People

Climate

Cllr Barrett

Cllr Townsend / Pearce

Cllr Barrett / Drescher / Moulding / Allen

Cllr Townsend / Bell / Paterson

Cllr Ham / Banks

Cllr Moulding

Representatives

Local Community Network

@ The Hub

Football Club(s) Representative

PCSO Scheme

Somerset Association of Local Councils

Quarry Liaison Group

Mendip Country Practice Patients Group

Parochial Church

Bishop Henderson School &

Children's Centre

Cllr Pearce / Townsend (Cllr Pearce has voting rights)

Cllr Banks / Ham / Townsend

Cllr Drescher / West

Cllr Banks / Evans

Cllr Evans

Cllr Pearce / Bell / Townsend

Cllr Townsend / Paterson

Cllr Townsend

Cllr Drescher / Allen / West

Date of Next Meetings

12th June 2024

26th June 2024

Parish Council Meeting

Planning 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 Check out the website www.colefordpc.org.uk

Philip Ham
Chair of Coleford Parish Council

Somerset Council

Somerset Councillors Philip Ham and Barry Clarke circulated the following report:

Suez waste collection contract: The Council's waste contractor, SUEZ, has disclosed figures showing significant annual losses on its £24m a year contract. It has made a number of contractual claims seeking adjustment to payment and while these are in dispute, without an increase in payments there is a risk that SUEZ may exit the contract, to limit its losses over the contract's remaining six years. A report to the Council's Executive Committee meeting recommends giving the Council's Chief Executive a mandate to negotiate with SUEZ to broker a deal which would stop SUEZ exiting the contract. The ongoing rerouting of collections is helping make rounds more efficient and as cost effective as possible, but even with this SUEZ considers the contract unviable.

Revised waste collection routes: Recycling and rubbish collection days are changing for 92,000 households in eastern parts of the county in June following changes made to the rest of the county earlier this year. From Monday June 17th, new collection routes are being introduced for many homes in the former South Somerset and Mendip districts. The new routes will make rounds more efficient, more manageable for crews while reducing mileage and carbon emissions. The changes come at no additional cost to the council.

Roadside grass-cutting: From May 2024, where safe to do so, mowing routines across managed highway verges, open spaces, country parks and council property grounds will be reduced although safety and visibility around verges and public spaces such as play areas will be cut more regularly. On wider verges, only a 1-meter swathe is mowed, leaving the rest untouched to maintain biodiversity. Further information on the cutting schedule can be found at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/grass-cutting/>

Subsidised Bus Fares in Taunton: Somerset Council has announced revised bus fares for the Taunton Town Zone to keep services sustainable. From 1 June this will be £1.50 for any adult single fare and 80p for a child. The new fares will be reviewed at the end of this year. Across the rest of the county the cost for any single fare will stay at £2 until December 2024, part of the national Government-funded initiative. The fare for the Park and Ride service in Taunton remains £1 for a single fare.

Children and Young Peoples Plan : The new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for Somerset sets out the Council's aims for 2024-2030 including how services and communities are accountable for children and young people and how they will work together to ensure the ambitions of the plan are achieved. Members of Somerset Youth Forum have suggested that the most important priorities are:

- Having a better experience in education
- Leading healthier lives
- Help to improve your mental health
- Living in safer communities
- Building better relationships
- Being prepared for adulthood



The Council wants to encourage all individuals under the age of 25 to share their thoughts on these priorities via the online survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/dNHr44HCfn>

Volunteer Drivers: Since Covid-19 the numbers of volunteer drivers in Somerset has reduced by about 67 per cent. These dedicated drivers play a pivotal role in the community, providing essential transportation services to residents so the Council are calling out for new volunteers. Many residents who need the service live in rural areas with little or no access to public transport and are unable to drive. If you are working part-time, a parent, retired or just have some spare time on your hands and you have a car and at least half a day to a day to offer then you can get involved and make a positive impact on people's lives. Volunteer drivers receive training and are reimbursed expenses at 45p per mile (or 50p per mile with passengers).