

Parish Council of Coleford

Miss V Watts
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Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
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BA3 5YB

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

Present Cllr Ham, (Chairman presiding) Banks, Evans, Paterson, Pearce, and Townsend.

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

1. Public Forum

- 1.1 It was noted that the pot holes at the top of Dark Lane have been filled.
- 1.2 A complaint had been received from an allotment holder at the Vobster allotments stating that the amount of ragwort was unacceptable. This will be covered under agenda item 5.3.

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

Cllr Allen, Barrett, Bell, Douglas-Burke, Drescher, Moulding and West and PCSO Mortimer had sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

There were none.

4. Agree response to the publication of Mendip Local Plan Limited Update

A first draft had been circulated to all Councillors. After discussion it was agreed that reference to the unacceptable levels of sewage discharges within the village should be included. The letter will not be sent until after the briefing on the 29th July to ensure that no other amendments are required.

Vote: 6 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstention

A second letter had been prepared and circulated re 2024/0163/OUT to cover the response to the management consultation request from the traffic and transport development group. It was agreed that additional photos should be included before sending.

Vote: 6 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstention

Action: Clerk to send the amended letters as directed

5. Update on Allotments

5.1 Update on installation of compostable toilet for the allotments

Delivery of the kit has been received. Cllr Pearce proposed that the offer from a well-qualified volunteer to construct the cabin and install the compostable toilet in exchange for 1-year free allotment rent should be accepted, which was seconded by Cllr Banks.

Vote: 6 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstention

Action: Cllr Pearce to act as the point of contact with the volunteer.

- 5.2 Review and approve water pumping procedure notes and risk assessment
The Clerk has been working on the draft which will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Action: Agenda item for next meeting

- 5.3 Discuss and agree maintenance for the orchard at Vobster and the Playing Field
The long grass around the boundary of the field (outside of the allotments) has been cut however the area around the outside of the fruit tree guards needs to be strimmed. The Clerk has asked the grass cutting contractor to quote to complete the strimming. The area inside the tree guard already has a weed suppressing mat so no further action is required.

It was noted that there is a large amount of ragwort in the field and although it is not harmful to people and is a good pollinator it was agreed that the allotment holders would be asked to help pull the plant to reduce the chance of more seeds being spread to either the allotments or the neighbouring farm land.

Action: Clerk to seek quote for strimming. Arrange ragwort pulling.

6. Finance

- 6.1 Review and Agree 1st Quarter Budget review
The Clerk had circulated the summary of receipt and payments which shows actual figures alongside the budget and the report showing listing of payments and receipts in each code for all cost centres for the 1st quarter of 2024/25. It was agreed that the review accurately reflected the financial situation and should be signed by the Chair.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

The Clerk confirmed that a VAT claim of £2,253.83 had been submitted for the 1st quarter of 2024/25.

- 6.2 Accounts approved for payments:
The following invoices were presented for payment:

HMRC – National insurance & tax	£102.87
Read Agri – Safety equipment	£198.12
SLCC – Annual membership to be shared with CrPC & HPC	£188.00
Chris Pearce – Allotment materials	£ 19.42

It was agreed that the payments should be made. Cheques were signed by Cllr Ham, Townsend and Banks.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

7. **Update on the Health & Wellbeing grant application**
This will be progressed and considered at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to draft notes for the application. Agenda item for the next meeting.

8. Correspondence

11/07/24 - Somerset Council - Email about future ground maintenance and street cleansing. No action to be taken.

23/07/24 – Somerset Council – Email about Litter and dog waste bin charges 2025/26.

Action: Cllr Evans to complete review of the bins. Agenda item for the August meeting

24/07/24 – Pennys request to complete soakaway testing w/c 29/07/24.

Action: Clerk to confirm testing should take place & notify CAFC

13/07/24 – Request received to relocate dog waste bin and address overhanging trees. Clerk has responded with advice on overhanging branches and details on how to contact Somerset Council regarding the trees.

Action: Clerk to respond regarding the dog waste bin. The Council will only consider if an appropriate site can be found and would need to be funded by the person requesting it be relocated

22/07/24 – Request to plant St Johns Wort at the bund in the allotment car park.

Action: Clerk to confirm the plant can be planted.

24/07/24 – Shepton LCN hosting Emergency Planning Workshop on 13/08/24 from 2pm til 5pm.

Action: Cllr Pearce to attend

Date of Next Meetings:

13th August 2024

Parish Council meeting

28th August 2024

Planning meeting

The meeting ended at 21.30hrs