

Parish Council of Coleford

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Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 23rd April 2025

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

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

1. Public Forum

- 1.1 The Unknown Woman in War will be unveiled at a small ceremony on Thursday 8th May at the junction of Beacon View with Anchor Road starting at 5.30pm.

Action: Cllr Banks to install the statue ahead of the event. Cllr Swords and the Clerk will advertise the event,

- 1.2 Cllr Evans offered to empty the bin at Roman Way if it was owned by Coleford Parish Council and we were having to pay Somerset to empty it. The Clerk confirmed that it was a Somerset owned bin and therefore not one for use to fund.
- 1.3 The Shepton Local Community Network meeting scheduled for 28th April 2025 has been postponed to the 13th May.
- 1.4 A parishioner had expressed concern that a tree at Careys Mead was diseased. The Clerk noted that it was on Somerset owned land so had reported it via the Somerset website.

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

Cllrs Allen, Bell, Swords and Paterson sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

Cllr Ham declared an interest in Agenda item 5.3

4. Co-option of Councillors

There were none.

5. Planning Applications

- 5.1 2025/0580/CLP - Application for a proposed lawful development certificate for erection of a single storey rear extension.
4 Mendip View Highbury Street Coleford Radstock Somerset
For notification only and therefore no action required
- 5.2 2025/0471/CLE - Certificate of Lawfulness of existing use for internal alterations to the first floor to form a new airing cupboard and loft access in accordance with approval 2020/0872/LBC as varied by approval 2023/0986/VRC - Montrose, High Street, Coleford, Radstock
For notification only and therefore no action required

- 5.3 2025/0652/AGB - Application for prior notification of agricultural development for a proposed building. Land At 370070 150383 Charity Lane Babington Frome Somerset
For notification only and therefore no action required

6. Planning updates

Cllr Ham and Townsend met with the Somerset planning officer to discuss the Gladman and Rainier appeals. It was established that there is little that the Parish Council can do to fight either application. The changes made at the end of last year to the national planning policy meant that the harm caused by a potential planning developments had to be severe to be stopped and it is not felt that either of these applications fall into that category.

Although we had hoped that we had good grounds for it be challenged over highway safety, Somerset Council planning office have no evidence from the Highway Authority of any incidents within 500m of the site over the last 5 years and is therefore deemed safe.

The housing need for Somerset has increased from 420 dwellings, to 620 and are now being told that its 990 new dwellings per year. The new local plan is unlikely to be approved by 2029.

It was agreed that the Council should make the Planning Inspectorate aware that it has not been given the full consultation period to seek expert advice and that it would like extra time to do this. Permission would also be sought to become a Role 6 participant in the limited enquiry which is due to take place on the 10th and 11th of June.

Action: The Clerk and Cllr Townsend to draft a request to Planning Inspectorate

If extra time is allowed then the Council will need to seek quotes to help decide whether to instruct a Transport specialist at a future Parish Council meeting.

Action: Agenda item for the next meeting

7. Finance

7.1 Agree Bank Reconciliation

To be completed at the next meeting.

Action: Agenda item for next meeting

7.2 Review year-end accounts 31st March 2025

The Clerk had circulated the year end accounts which showed the actual figures alongside the budget.

Receipts budget £69,965.00

Receipts actual £72,637.31

Difference £2672.31

Payments budget £60,160.80

Payments actual £63,670.39

Difference £3509.59

It was agreed that £2,500 be earmarked for the financial year 2025-26 for the installation of the fence at Highbury car park and to replace the noticeboard at Underhill. Both were included in the budget for 2024-25 but are due to be completed soon.

Councillors agreed that the accounts should be approved and that the £2500 should be earmarked for the next financial year.

Vote: 6 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

7.3 Approve Asset register April 2025

The Clerk had circulated the asset register ahead of the meeting. It was agreed that the compost toilet should be added to the asset register but otherwise was correct.

Vote: 6 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

7.4 Approve Financial Risk Assessment April 2025

The Clerk had circulated the risk assessment ahead of the meeting. It was agreed that the financial risk assessment should be approved.

Vote: 6 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

8. **Update on the Community Shed meeting – Saturday 26/04/25 @ 10.30am**

Cllr Pearce confirmed that the event had been well publicized with posters, social media and emails sent direct to those who attended the original meeting. Patrick Abrahams of the Men's Shed Association had agreed to attend the meeting

9. **Update on the Allotments including discussion / agree water connections**

Cllr Allen had completed the installation of the new pump and the water system is now working again. Cllr Ham and Allen have agreed the requirements for the installation of the additional tanks to the new water points and it is hoped that this will be completed within the next few weeks.

10. **Approve Parish Council dates for 2025**

The Clerk had circulated the dates for the next 12 months which were approved.

Vote: 6 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

11. **Date of Next Meetings:**

14 th May 2025	Annual Parish Council meeting
14 th May 2025	Parish Council meeting

The meeting ended at hrs