

Parish Council of Coleford

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Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 11th February 2026

Present Cllr Ham (Chairman) Allen, Banks, Bell, Douglas-Burke, Evans, Fisher, Moulding, Paterson, Pearce, and Townsend.

In attendance 2 members of the public present
The Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes

1. Public Forum

It was asked if there had been any news on the Gladman or Rainier applications. There hadn't. It was suggested that the Parish Council might want to ask the Planning Officer when there would be a final decision but after discussion it was agreed that there would be no action at this point.

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

Cllr Swords sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations granted since last meeting

There were none.

4. Approve the minutes from the meetings held on the 14th and 28th January 2026

The Clerk had circulated the draft minutes to all Councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Pearce and seconded by Cllr Allen that the minutes accurately reflected the meetings and should be signed by the Chair.

Vote: 11 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

5. Actions arising from the minutes

All actions were completed or would be dealt with as agenda items during the meeting apart from:

- It was noted that the sign at the entrance to Beacon View is bent and grubby. Cllr Townsend asked if we could get it repaired.

Action: Clerk to ask Coleford Shedders if they could repair the sign.

- Cllr Ham to chase up Somerset Highways Engineer Sara Davies for a response to the Clerks request for appropriate sites for Speed Indicator Devices.

Action: Cllr Ham to action

- Cllr Moulding reported that there is a broken bridge on the footpath from the top of High Street / Springer Hill to Holcombe

Action: Clerk to report to Somerset Rights of Way

- Cllr Bell asked if we can press to get a reduced speed limit implemented at Newbury school. The road also needs to be resurfaced.

Action: Cllr Ham to make a request to Somerset Highways Engineer Sara Davies

- Repaint request for 'Keep clear' on the road next to the old Co-op.

Action: Cllr Ham to make a request to Somerset Highways Engineer Sara Davies

- The missing no entry sign needs to be replaced at the Royal British Legion Coleford.

Action: Clerk to make a request to the RBL

6 Co-option of Councillors

The Council currently has one vacancy which we need to fill. Councillors to spread the word and the Clerk to actively promote the role.

Action: Clerk to advertise the role.

7. Reports from:

7.1 Somerset Council – The written report had been shared with all Councillors and is displayed on the Parish Council website for perusal.

7.2 PCSO - The written report had been shared with all Councillors and is displayed on the Parish Council website for perusal. During January there were 4 cases of violence against person, 2 of theft and 1 public order recorded.

7.3 Climate Action Group – Cllr Moulding explained that:

- 15/02/26 @ 5pm – There will be a Wassail ceremony starting outside the Hub with a procession down to the orchard in Coleford playing field and on up to the farm for celebrations. The event is being organized by the Wassail group.
- 18/02/26 from 2.30pm to 4.30pm – Sew and repair at the barn, The Old Mill
- 28/02/26 from 10am to 12 noon – Seed & Plant swap @ the Hub.

7.4 Coleford Shedders – There was no report. Cllr Ham said that work is expected to start soon on extending the shed.

8. Planning Applications

Appeal reference 6003059 – 4 Rope Walk, Coleford, Radstock

Planning application number 2025/1770/PIP - Permission in Principle for 6 dwellings & garages

Cllr Ham explained that they had met with the Planning Officer to discuss the appeal and how the Parish Council might respond. The Planning Officers said that there was nothing to gain by raising the Rainer and Gladman appeals as they were historical and not helpful in this instance. A copy of the draft response had been shared with all Councillors and after discussion and some minor amendments it was proposed by Cllr Allen and seconded by Cllr Bell that the letter recommending that the appeal should be refused, should be submitted to the planning inspectorate.

Vote: 11 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstention

Action: Clerk to submit the amended letter tonight to meet the deadline

9. Planning updates

There were none.

10. Consider the draft of the Emergency plan

A copy of the second draft of the emergency plan had been circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed that Cllr Moulding would approach the people that looked after the buildings mentioned in the plan to ensure that they give their consent for the building to be used as a safe place in the event of an emergency.

Action: Cllr Moulding to progress. Agenda item for March

11. Highways including:

11.1 Councilor update

Cllr Townsend confirmed that the following issues were reported to Somerset Council:

- Holcombe Brewery Lane - pothole by village sign Tinkers Lane to Charity Lane - check for surface erosion Church St junction opposite Co-op - pothole in middle Kings head bridge - potholes Stoke Bottom - dropped drain between stream and Giddy Lane Ham Hill - Give Way lines eroded at junction with Common Lane Charmborough Lane - Give Way lines eroded at junction with Charlton Rd Shepton Mallet - badly dropped drain opposite Bowlish School Anchor Rd - serious damage around pedestrian crossing by Anchor Close Charlton - stones on highway again at junction of Charlton Lane Vobster Hill - overhanging tree remains again Soho - damaged signpost Old Co-op - material from repair blocking drain Anchor Rd - missing COLEFORD sign at Lipyeate
- Street Lights - Lipyeate residents very concerned at safety aspects of failure to repair the 6 lights which have been out for over a year now. Cllr Townsend requested that this be elevated up the chain at Somerset Council.

Action: Cllr Ham to report to Somerset Council

- Quality – It was noted that repairs appear to be carried out to minimalist standards, for example at Brewery Lane, Holcombe. Do we have other examples?

Action: Cllr Townsend to gather examples for submission to Somerset Highways.

11.2 Report of any new issues

- The road from Kilmersdon to Haydon has deteriorated and needs repair
- The road that runs towards Vobster, parallel to the cycle track along from the Junction on the Kilmersdon road just up from Kilmersdon bridge.
- Hoares Lane surface has deteriorated and needs repair.
- The road outside Halecombe Quarry is in a poor condition.
- Hedges at Vobster have branches falling into the road.
- Potholes at Vobster.
- Kerb is broken outside 98-97 Mendip Vale.
- Coleford indicator sign is pointing in the wrong direction at Vobster.

Action: Cllr Townsend to report to Somerset Highways

- Wainwrights have offered to provide traffic management to allow Charmborough Lane to be closed for litter picking. It was agreed that the village litter pick will take place on the same day (Saturday 21st March 2026)

Action: Cllr Townsend to make arrangements with Wainwrights

12 Consider 2025 tree survey and quote to address issues

It was proposed by Cllr Ham and seconded by Cllr Bell that the trees that need to be removed at Vobster allotments should be left out of the quote so that Cllr Allen can remove them for his personal use. Over recent years he has given a lot of time to help set up the water system and provide continuing maintenance and support. This is well deserved and will also save the Council money. Quotes to be reviewed at the Planning meeting

Vote: 11 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstention

Action: Agenda item for the Planning meeting

13 Update on the allotments

It was agreed that a working party meeting for the allotments will take place on Weds 18th February. Cllr Pearce to prepare an agenda. This will take place on the same night as the meeting for Highbury Playing Field working party. The Clerk to prepare the agenda for the playing field.

Action Cllr Pearce and Clerk to prepare agendas.

14 Update on Community Car Scheme

Cllr Townsend to meet with representatives from Mendip Country practice to discuss the Community Car Scheme.

Action: Agenda item for next meeting

15 Consider and agree the colour for the renovation of the Careys Mead telephone

The Parish Council consulted with the residents who overlook the telephone box and after taking the votes into consideration with the Councillors, it was agreed that the phone box should be painted yellow. (11 votes yellow – 9 votes red)

Action: Clerk to notify the Menshed who will complete the renovation work

16 Finance

16.1 Agree Bank Reconciliation – The January bank reconciliation was agreed at the last meeting.

16.2 Agree 3rd Quarter budget review for 2022/26
The 3rd Quarter budget review had been shared with all Councillors. Cllr Allen proposed and Cllr Bell seconded that the 3rd Quarter review was accurate as at the 31/12/25 and should be signed by the Chair.

16.3 Accounts approved for payments:

The following payments were presented for payment:

V Watts – Expenses	£ 65.46
V Watts – Key cutting for changing rooms	£ 25.00
HMRC	£194.37
Starboard Systems Limited T/A Scribe Accounts	£580.61
Water 2 Business – Changing rooms water supply	£280.61
Mark Barrett – Strimmer training	£312.00

It was agreed that all payments should be paid with electronic payments rather than by cheque. The Clerk will set up the payments which will then be authorized by either Cllrs Banks, Evans, Ham or Townsend.

Vote 11 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstention

Action: Clerk to set up the payments

16.4 Notification of monthly payments made by standing order

The following payments are made by monthly standing order:

V Watts – Salary	£1181.64
Somerset Council – Clerk Pension	£ 365.23
LSJ Gardening services – Grass Cutting	£1527.48
EDF – Electricity at the Changing Rooms	£ 33.04

17 Meetings to attend / attended

Cllr Banks and Evans to attend Code of Conduct training 14/04/26 at 6pm

Action: Clerk to book with SALC

16/02/26 @ 6pm - Cllr Fisher to attend Data protection for Councillors
12/02/26 between 10 and 12 noon - Wessex Water drop in at Midsomer Norton Library
13/02/26 @ 10am - National Allotment Society South West
18/02/26 @ 7pm - Playing Field & Allotment working party meeting
11/03/26 @ 10am - Halecombe Quarry Liaison & Community Fund meeting
11/03/26 @ 3pm - Wainwrights Quarry Liaison & Community Fund meeting
11/03/26 @ 5.30pm - Torr Quarry Liaison & Community Fund meeting
27/04/26 Time and venue TBC - Shepton LCN

18 Correspondence

Allotment magazine – passed to Cllr Ham

Unity Bank Interest rate has reduced

Devon & Somerset Fire & rescue service survey. Understanding Risk – Posted on PC social media

Adult and Social care consultation – posted on PC social media

19 Date of Next Meetings:

25th February 2026 Planning meeting

11th March 2026 Parish Council meeting

The meeting finished 9.08pm