

# Parish Council of Coleford

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Miss V Watts  
Clerk to the Council  
Tel: 07971 516916 / 01749 880428  
Email: [clerk@colefordpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@colefordpc.org.uk)

Gallant Hill Farm  
Foxcote  
Radstock  
BA3 5YB

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Present** Cllr Ham (Chairman) Allen, Bell, Banks, Evans, Fisher, Moulding, Paterson, Pearce, Swords and Townsend

**In attendance** 5 members of the public present  
The Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes

### 1. Public Forum

It was noted that the Asset of Community Value certificate obtained for the Coleford British Legion is due to expire June 2026. It was asked if the Parish Council will be looking to request an extension.

*Action: Agenda item for next meeting.*

### 2. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies received.

### 3. Declarations of Interest and dispensations

There were none.

### 4. Co-option of Councillors

Mr Chris Palmer had submitted his application for co-option. He introduced himself and said that he was community minded and had already taken on the role of Chair for the Coleford Menshed and had been instrumental in helping to get the group set up and established within the village. He was happy to get involved with village life and felt that becoming a Councillor was a logical step. After consideration, it was proposed by Cllr Allen and seconded by Cllr Bell that Mr Palmer should be co-opted.

*Vote: 11 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions.*

*Action: Clerk to ensure email set up and paperwork is submitted to Somerset Council*

### 5. Planning Applications

2026/0440/PAF at Church Farm, Church Street, Coleford, Radstock

Prior Approval for Change of Use of Agricultural Building to operate as small-scale pottery and artist studio.

For information only

### 6. Planning updates

Gladman Planning Ref 2024/1898/REM - Reserved matters approval for details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline planning permission reference 2019/2345/OTS (Application for Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved for the erection of up to 63 dwellings). (Add/amended info. rec'd 18.02.2026).

In light of an extension being given by Somerset Council, it was agreed that the response objecting to the abovementioned application would be circulated to all Councillors for comment and submitted to the planning officer before the 1<sup>st</sup> of April.

*Action: Clerk to ensure the response is submitted before the deadline*

7. **Consider whether a further response is required regarding the Freedom of information request**  
Cllr Townsend to draft a response for circulation to all Councillors for comment. This will then be discussed as an agenda item at the next meeting.

*Action: Cllr Townsend to share a response. Agenda item for April meeting*

8. **Finance - Accounts approved for payments:**

The following invoices were presented for payment.

HMRC		£194.37
PATA Payroll		£ 52.30
Reimbursement of the Clerk:	Pump for allotment	£64.98
	Allotment kit	£32.96
		£ 97.94
Geeking It Simple – Antivirus protection annual fee		£ 39.60
Hire of Coleford @ the Hub (Sept 2025 to March 2026)		£370.00

*Vote: 11 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions.*

It was proposed by Cllr Townsend and seconded by Cllr Allen that the payment should be approved. The Clerk will set up the payments via the online facility with Cllrs Banks, Townsend and Ham authorizing.

*Action: Clerk to set up the payments.*

9. **Update on the grant applications for the integrated goals and basketball hoop for the hard courts**

The Clerk confirmed that a partial award of £3000 had been approved from Somerset Community Foundation and a full award of £4000 had been approved by Halecombe Quarry. Funds were expected with 14 days. An order for the integrated goals and hoops has been placed and it is hoped that the installation will take place within the next 8 weeks.

10. **Agree Parish Council dates for 2026/27**

The dates circulated were agreed and will be displayed on the notice boards and website.

11. **Correspondence**

10/03/26 – Email from Mells Parish Council requesting possible funding from the Gladman and Rainier developers.

*Action: Agenda item for April meeting*

10/03/26 – Report from recent Mendip Community Car Scheme meeting

*Action: Agenda item for April meeting*

11/03/26 – Bristol Water. Confirmed that rather than a road closure, there will be 2-way traffic lights at Lipyate rather than the road closure.

12/03/26 – SALC & SPARK Community Health & Wellbeing Roadshow. The events are designed to strengthen collaborative working between parish, town & city councils and voluntary organisations and community groups. No further action required.

12/03/26 – Wessex Water Community Drop in @ Radstock Library. Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 10 – 12 noon. The Clerk has publicized on the Parish Council website and Facebook.

23/03/26 – A report was received from Coleford Conservation Volunteers confirming that the village planters had been renovated and replanted. The Parish Council passed on their thanks to all the volunteers for taking the time to refresh the planters and make the village a more pleasant place to be.

23/03/26 – Road closure of Soho Hill, Leigh on Mendip has been extended until the 27<sup>th</sup> March to allow the work on the bridge to be completed. The Clerk has publicized on the Parish Council website and Facebook.

12. **Date of Next Meetings:**

8<sup>th</sup> April 2026                      Parish Council meeting  
22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026                    Planning meeting

The meeting ended at 19.25hrs