

**COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022**  
**AT 7:30 PM AT COLTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Maximum of 20 mins at the beginning of the meeting to hear public questions and comments)** – No members of public present.

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

1. To note attendance and receive apologies for absence

In attendance were Chairman Sarah Plater, councillors Richard Birkin, Emma Godwin, Mel Havelock-Crozier, Steve Jenkinson, Nigel Parry and Noel Talbot, County Councillor Richard Cox and Clerk Alison James. Apologies received from District Councillor Shirley Barnett.

2. To receive declarations of interest

Emma Godwin – item 6 (HS2 generally and PC land off Heathway)

3. To approve minutes of budget discussion meeting and main meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Both sets of minutes were approved and signed.

4. Chairman's Announcements

It was commented that The Greyhound pub is an important village amenity but PC cannot do anything to help support it.

5. Payments

a) To approve the following payment:

- i) 1878 Alison James – Clerk's salary, January (269.98);  
Home working expenses, 4 weeks, 4 Dec – 7 Jan  
excl. Xmas week (16.00); Reimbursement for set  
of 4 printer cartridges (36.96); BGC Clerk salary,  
1 Oct – 31 Dec (137.50) less tax (27.50) £432.94

Payment was approved.

6. HS2

To consider any developments and agree any action required including

- a) Any further ideas for applications for Community and Business Funds – No further ideas received. Parishioners previously requesting allotment provision had responded to Clerk's reply suggesting land needed in heart of village, but this would be very difficult to find. As before, it was agreed to discuss all ideas at Parish Assembly.
- b) Follow up to letters and questionnaire from HS2 about PC land off Heathway and common land at Stockwell Heath – Nothing further heard.
- c) Recent letter about potential ecology and other surveys on part of PC land off Heathway including Health & Safety questionnaire – **Clerk** advised to ask Hinson Parry to complete, to ensure Health & Safety covered professionally.
- d) Annual Extraordinary Highways Sub Group meeting – any comments on notes and slides from meeting – **Clerk** to pass Andy Chappell's recent comments to HS2. Emma Godwin had circulated map showing HS2's proposal to put a hedge round corner of land by junction of Hollow Lane and Blithbury Road, which PC agreed would be a visibility and safety issue. **Clerk** to contact Liz Davis and also raise unsuitable gate installed on Colton 32

bridleway. **Clerk** to also write to landowner about electric fence blocking same bridleway further down.

- e) Online presentation about Early Civils and Environmental Work – any comments on notes and slides circulated – Sarah Plater had attended but expressed concerns that she did not fully understand or see implications and this would worsen as HS2 work stepped up. **Clerk** to ask Andy Chappell if he would be prepared to attend these as PC representative, given his greater knowledge and understanding. Emma Godwin pointed out that bridleway Colton 33 is due to be a haul route but nothing has yet been done on promised diversion. **Clerk** to raise with Liz Davis and point out that daytime presentations are no good for working councillors, with Sarah Mallen at SCC copied into correspondence. Emma Godwin expressed concern again about empty properties at Stockwell Heath, following a further break in.

## 7. Planning Matters

- a) To note any applications received and make observations to the Planning Authority:
  - i) 21/01991/FUL – Unit 5A, Rydal Estate, Colton Road, Colton – Erection of a temporary storage building to allow materials currently stored on the site to be stored in a secure, clean and dry environment – Response of no comments already submitted to LDC
- b) To report on any recent decisions of the Planning Authority – Application for septic tanks etc. at Hamley Lodge, Stockwell Heath, had been withdrawn.
- c) To consider any further action required on application 18/01303/FULM – Proposed gas fired power station on Land North of Bellamour Lane – Nothing to report.
- d) To consider any update on application relating to mobile home at Moor Lane – **Clerk** to chase up response before next meeting.

## 8. Highways, Footpaths and Open Spaces

- a) To report on progress and agree any action required:
  - i) Flooding including Blithbury Road and Colton Road by the Yorkshireman and Environment Agency's modelling of brook flow and recent request for landowner information to encourage tree planting – It was noted that there had been no further flooding at Blithbury Road after recent heavy rain, possibly because Highways had cleared the drains recently.
  - ii) Drain and gully clearance around the parish, including any response from Highways – Richard Cox confirmed that Highways intend to introduce a new county-wide scheme and would prefer us to wait and see how it works, although timing is unclear. However, he also confirmed that another parish council had been given consent and gone ahead with arranging drain clearance themselves. PC had still not received a reply from Garry Hunt to its request for approval to arrange and pay for clearance of some priority drains if required. **Clerk** to chase in a couple of weeks if still outstanding, as considered unacceptable. Mary Lee had commented but confused Colton with another parish.
  - iii) Roads to be included when PC pay for gritting not covered by SCC – PC agreed to cover the following: High St including extra raised section, Heathway, Lea Croft, Moorcroft, Manor Way, both sections of road at Littlehay Manor, Martlin Lane and approx. 50m of School Lane from main road. Based on previous quote for High St alone, it was thought cost would be maximum of £100 per time. **Sarah Plater** to confirm details with TGM. Emma Godwin and Noel Talbot will agree when needed and ring TGM, mainly likely to be in event of snow.

- iv) Any footpath/Rights of Way issues – Nothing to report.
  - v) State of service road from Martlin Lane to sewage works – Severn Trent had arranged repairs but workers said a more permanent repair was needed. **Clerk** to point this out to Severn Trent contact. Item to be monitored but taken off agenda for now.
  - vi) Potentially diseased ash trees by B5013 towards Admaston – **Clerk** to send out drafted letters to landowners.
  - vii) Overgrown hedge on Bellamour Way – **Clerk** to send drafted letter.
  - viii) Rats at Stockwell Heath pond and response from LDC Environmental Health – Environmental Health had spoken and written to person leaving food out, without success, and said they would revisit this year.
  - ix) Email of 21/9 from parishioner about weed cover on Stockwell Heath pond and any response from LDC Ecology – No response obtained but weed cover now much reduced so **Clerk** to take item off agenda.
- b) To report on items arising at or since the last meeting:
- i) Dog fouling on village hall playing field – VHMC had been advised by LDC that it was landowner's responsibility and it would not get involved unless occurring on public land.

Richard Birkin had submitted photos to SCC of the state of the pavement at the top of High St, as it had further deteriorated since previous reports.

#### 9. To agree any further action required on proposed new village gating/signs

Signs had been ordered from Glasdon. PC approved, in principle, a cheque for £2,650.56 plus VAT, which could be signed if payment became due between meetings, as delivery date currently unconfirmed. In addition to existing quote for installation, Steve Jenkinson had obtained a further quote but Clerk had not received response from another local contractor. So **Mel Havelock-Crozier** agreed to seek required 3<sup>rd</sup> quote from another. Sarah Plater had completed Highways form for permission to install.

#### 10. To receive update on possible signage for village defibrillator

Richard Birkin had found signs for purchase online at about £5 each, which could be put on noticeboards and other locations around village. **Richard Birkin** was authorised to purchase 10 signs and would also speak to latest Greyhound landlord.

#### 11. Correspondence

To note items of correspondence received and agree any actions required:

- a) LDC – Notification of bin collection calendar being online only (Email)  
**Clerk** to write to LDC expressing dissatisfaction and stressing need for some printed copies, to cater for those who do not have online access.
- b) SCC – Details of Stoneyford Lane temporary traffic lights, weekdays Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 9am to 5pm, then road closed weekdays Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 9am to 3.30pm, for HS2 survey works (Email, circulated to cllrs and parish magazine)
- c) SCC – New system for notification of road closures (Email; Clerk has opted in to receiving emails direct)
- d) Severn Trent Water – Information about their Community Fund to support local projects to reduce emissions and help communities care for nature (Email, circulated to cllrs)
- e) Community Foundation for Staffs – Grants available from the Let's Create Jubilee Fund to support voluntary and community groups to develop

creative and artistic activities as part of the 2022 jubilee celebrations (Email, circulated to cllrs)

- f) Officer Lieutenancy – Further information about plans for beacons for Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations on 2 June 2022 (Email, circ. to cllrs)
- g) LDC – Proposal to send us quarterly planning decision lists and also link to menu for monthly planning information by parish (Email)
- h) SPCA – Weekly bulletins (Emails, circulated to cllrs)

## 12. Committees

To receive any update from Burial Ground Committee – Nothing to report.

## 13. Finance and audit

- a) To confirm precept request for 2022/23 being submitted to LDC – Chairman signed form requesting precept of £12,427 and **Clerk** to submit.
- b) War Memorial - To consider progress on arranging a professional inspection and estimate of re-instatement value for insurance – Armitage and Handsacre PC had used the same stonemasons for its war memorial works as had failed to respond to previous PC request and one quote obtained elsewhere had been very high. **Clerk** was asked to prioritise finding alternative. Parishioner had confirmed that memorial is regularly cleaned so a professional clean is not required.
- c) To follow up actions on revised Risk Assessment including safe document storage – **Clerk** to pursue actions minuted at previous meeting.

## 14. Parish Council matters

- a) To consider any feedback on shortened version of minutes in parish magazine – No comments received from parishioners to date.
- b) To discuss progress with reverting to delivery of parish magazine to all households – Arrangements in place for printing and delivery to start in February alongside delivery of Rugeley Advertiser. **Clerk** and **Sarah Plater** to arrange monthly payment from petty cash. 2 volunteers had come forward to editor following article in January magazine seeking help with distribution to outlying areas of parish not receiving the Advertiser.
- c) To update on progress with next tree inspection report – Chosen consultant had carried out inspections in December and would provide report soon.
- d) To consider ideas/scope for working towards a carbon neutral parish including feedback from gathering in December – Nigel Parry reported on various ideas that had been put forward at meeting including ‘quick win’ pledges for action e.g. I will recycle one extra item each day. Also exploring how to get an assessment of Colton’s carbon footprint and whether funding might be available for a professional assessment e.g. by a university. **Richard Cox** offered to forward an SCC template which might enable PC to calculate itself. Tree planting had also been discussed and January magazine article asked for any landowners who might have space to come forward. It was suggested that Parish Lands Trust and church could be approached. Another idea was a repair shop, with village or outside experts asked to give demos. Another meeting arranged for 23<sup>rd</sup> February.
- e) To register any interest in SPCA and other training courses - **Clerk** to book Nigel Parry onto forthcoming online Climate Action Conference.

f) To agree a revised date for next year's Parish Assembly – Intention is to have a more sociable evening and to discuss topics of community interest. **Clerk** to check availability of Village Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> May, as Assembly has to be held before 1 June. Mel Havelock-Crozier offered to arrange some food and drink.

a) Date of next meeting – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 7.30pm

Future meeting nights to remain as arranged for the time being. After consultation, 1 councillor would prefer Thursdays but another could not make that night whilst other councillors had no particular preference. Clerk preferred current 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month.

**Clerk** to ask SPCA what PC would do if no councillor came forward to take over as Chairman, as Sarah Plater is to step down in May.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm