

**COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 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)**

Parishioner: Asked what had been put forward in response to request a year or so ago from HS2 and SCC for suggestions to improve connectivity of existing rail system with HS2 and points he had addressed to PC e.g. connections to Stafford and disabled access at Rugeley Trent Valley.

Chairman and Clerk did not remember this correspondence. **Clerk** to check emails and, in any case, to raise these points with Liz Davis, copied to Sarah Mallen. A date is awaited from HS2 for a meeting to discuss flooding issues on Fradley to Colton route.

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

1. To note attendance and receive apologies for absence

In attendance were Chairman Sarah Plater, Councillors Steve Jenkinson, Mel Havelock-Crozier and Nigel Parry and Clerk Alison James. Apologies received from Councillors Richard Birkin, Emma Godwin and Noel Talbot and District Councillor Shirley Barnett. 2 members of the public observed.

2. To receive declarations of interest - None

3. To approve minutes of meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Approved.

4. Chairman’s Announcements - None

5. Payments

a) To approve the following payments:

i)	1879	Cllr Richard Birkin – Reimbursement for 10 signs and pins for defibrillator, incl. VAT	£27.49
ii)	1880	WALC – Climate Change online conference attended by Cllr Nigel Parry on 19 January, incl. VAT	£36.00
iii)	1881	Colton Village Hall – Room hire for Jan, Feb and March meetings	£36.00
iv)	1882	Petty cash (for magazine delivery for Feb & March etc.)	£50.00
v)	1883	Alison James – Clerk’s salary, February (269.98); Home working expenses, 4 weeks, 8 Jan – 4 Feb (16.00);	£285.98

All payments above, totalling £435.47, were approved.

6. HS2

To consider any developments and agree any action required including

a) Any further ideas for applications for Community and Business Funds – Nigel Parry said that, during Climate Action discussions, improving access to Rugeley Trent Valley, especially at night, had been suggested. Sarah Plater commented that HS2 had previously said their funding could not be used to maintain the footpath and their limit of £10K would not cover a new cycle path, nor was SCC likely to undertake that level of expenditure.

b) Letters and questionnaires from HS2 about PC land off Heathway and common land at Stockwell Heath and potential ecology surveys – Clerk had asked Hinson Parry to complete the recent Health & Safety questionnaire but not yet had a response. **Clerk** to chase.

- c) Response from Liz Davis to queries raised at last meeting – Queries acknowledged and passed to relevant teams for answer, including looking at offering evening sessions for presentations and security at Stockwell Heath. One of empty properties there now up for rent. Andy Chappell had agreed to attend presentations on PC's behalf, where possible, to lend his expertise.
- d) Potential multi-agency meeting to discuss flooding issues in Fradley to Colton – No date yet fixed but Sarah Plater had said she would attend.
- e) Impact of temporary road closure on Moor Lane/Newlands Lane – Road closure had happened and no flooding in village at the time fortunately.

## 7. Planning Matters

- a) To note any applications received and make observations to the Planning Authority - None received.
- b) To report on any recent decisions of the Planning Authority - None
- c) To consider any further action required on application 18/01303/FULM – Proposed gas fired power station on Land North of Bellamour Lane – Confirmation of case officer received from Andy Chappell who had also confirmed that George Burda was still prepared to speak against the application at LDC on PC's behalf when required.
- d) To consider any update on application relating to mobile home at Moor Lane - According to LDC, the landowner intends to put in another application.

## 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 request for landowner information to encourage tree planting – EA consultant had circulated some initial results of modelling and asked whether there had ever been any flooding behind school, as predicted by model. He had also requested details of schemes for funding tree planting were passed to landowners but not clear how viable these were.
  - ii) Drain and gully clearance around the parish, including any response from Highways – Mary Lee's email appeared to be giving approval for PC to arrange drain clearance itself. **Clerk** to seek confirmation and also ask when Highways anticipate doing outstanding works listed for Bellamour Way. Also to emphasise that drains on Bellamour Lane had definitely not been cleared in the last few years and need doing.
  - iii) Provision for PC gritting of roads not covered by SCC – Had not been required so far but arrangements in place to initiate if it was.
  - iv) Any footpath/Rights of Way issues – Unsuitable gate and electric fence on bridleway Colton 32 – Clerk had written to HS2 and landowner respectively but nothing heard back so far.
  - v) Potentially diseased ash trees by B5013 towards Admaston – Responses from landowners – Several landowners had responded to letters sent, questioning which trees or whether on their land. Sarah Plater said trees had been identified by observation and there was no adequate map to circulate. **Clerk** to reply saying position would be reviewed in a few months when trees were back in leaf.
  - vi) Rats at Stockwell Heath pond and response from LDC Environmental Health – LDC had written to parishioner about leaving food out. **Councillors** passing pond were asked to monitor situation.

## 9. To receive update on delivery and installation of new village signs

Signs were ordered in December but no delivery date yet notified. **Clerk** to send details of signs to **Mel Havelock-Crozier** to seek a third quote for installation.

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

Richard Birkin had obtained signs so **Clerk** to ask if he can put them up.

#### 11.To discuss action on Climate Change and working towards Carbon Neutral Colton

Nigel Parry had circulated report of ideas and avenues being explored. Meeting attendees had discussed preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and referred to documents prepared by previous working group and those of other parishes. Contact made with Woodland Trust about a grant for tree planting, with clearer idea of potential locations needed. Village Hall happy to have some beehives at top of field. Other ideas were a car share scheme, wildflower seeding, a cycle path to Rugeley and setting up a repair workshop. EV chargers considered but Village Hall does not currently have money for them. A list of possible pledges individuals could make as their contribution to climate action is being compiled and could be advertised at Parish Assembly. **Nigel Parry** to contact school to try to get them involved. Nigel Parry also reported on Climate Action conference he had joined online and had used their and SCC's information to compare Colton's carbon footprint to national average and calculate his household's carbon footprint. Sarah Plater said it would be most useful to know how to calculate your own footprint and to hear what simple, practical steps can be taken to reduce that. Next meeting to be held later in month at Dun Cow.

#### 12.To discuss ways to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the parish

An open meeting was to be held the following evening for those with ideas and interest in getting involved. Village Hall was already booked for a private event on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June so any event there would need to be held on the Saturday. The Dun Cow were probably going to organise some events on their premises. As PC had been prepared to support a post-Covid event last year, which had ultimately had to be postponed, it agreed to put up the same amount of up to £1,000 for Jubilee events, if matched by VHMC and all spend supported by evidence.

Nigel Parry updated that VHMC has not banned fireworks at the Village Hall (as recorded at item 12 of December 2021 PC meeting minutes). VHMC has instead inserted clauses in the hirer's contract limiting times and requiring villagers to be notified in advance.

#### 13.Correspondence

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

- a) HS2 – Temporary road closures on Jonghams Lane, 27-28<sup>th</sup> January, 9am – 4pm and Moor Lane/part of Newlands Lane, 31<sup>st</sup> January – 4<sup>th</sup> February, 9am – 4pm for ground penetrating & other surveys (Email, circulated to councillors & parish magazine)
- b) SCC – Road closure on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February (or as near as practical), 9.30-3.30, on Moor Lane from junction with B5013 Uttoxeter Rd, for pole testing work (Email, circulated to cllrs and parish magazine editor)
- c) HS2 – Further virtual one-to-one appointments available on various dates in February – June for any residents, businesses, local organisations etc. to ask questions of the HS2 engagement team (Email, circulated to councillors and parish magazine)
- d) LDC – Printed copy of bin collection calendar can be obtained by ringing the Joint Waste Service on 0345 002 0022 (Email, circulated to cllrs & parish magazine)

- e) PCC – Note for information about glebe land (Email, circulated to cllrs)
- f) CPRE – Newsletter including invitation to join their Annual Star Count between 26 February and 6 March (Email)
- g) LDC – Electoral register request form for December 2021 register and updates (Email; request form returned by Clerk and register received)
- h) LDC – 3,000 trees to be planted across Lichfield and Burntwood in partnership with Severn Trent and Birmingham 2022 (Email)
- i) HS2 - HS2 to be powered by zero carbon energy from day one (Email)
- j) SCC – Consultation on a draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Staffordshire, open till 20 February (Email)
- k) SPCA – Member Survey 2022 (Email; online survey completed by Clerk)
- l) SPCA – Weekly bulletins (Emails, circulated to cllrs)

#### 14. Committees

To receive any update from Burial Ground Committee – **Chairman** was asked to approve 2 memorial applications recently received.

#### 15. Finance and audit

- a) To note submission of precept request for 2022/23 to LDC – Noted.
- b) To confirm terms of instruction of TGM for grounds maintenance 2022 – **Clerk** to instruct on same terms as last year.
- c) War Memorial - To consider progress on arranging a professional inspection and estimate of re-instatement value for insurance – Clerk awaiting response from another firm approached, which had also been recommended by 2 other Staffordshire clerks.
- d) To follow up actions on revised Risk Assessment including safe document storage – Clerk had researched costs of a fireproof deeds box, which would hold a small volume of A4 documents but not one of the larger Burial Ground registers. It was suggested that instead the Burial Registers be scanned and stored electronically (**Clerk** to progress).

#### 16. Parish Council matters

- a) To review progress on delivery of parish magazine to households and PCC's update on magazine printing costs – Sarah Plater confirmed that February magazine had been distributed with Rugeley Advertiser to those in village. A volunteer had come forward to try to organise distribution to those outside Advertiser delivery round. **Clerk** to send parishioner the link to online version.
- b) To agree any action required following tree inspection report – **Clerk** to circulate report again and **Councillors** asked to consider action needed.
- c) To review draft information pack for new councillors – Clerk had added to original version put forward by Nigel Parry and circulated for comments. PC agreed copy, subject to a section being added about PC finance (**Clerk**).
- d) To register any interest in SPCA and other training courses – **Nigel Parry** attending a further climate action course at end of February. **Clerk** to take item off agenda in future.
- e) Date of next meeting – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30pm

Apologies received in advance from Chairman, Vice Chairman and also Emma Godwin. Other councillors would agree a chairman on the night, subject to quorum of 3 to enable meeting to be held. Meeting closed at 8.55pm