

COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 6th JULY 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)

2 members of the public observed the meeting, one of whom had expressed interest in joining the council.

BUSINESS AGENDA

1. To note attendance and receive apologies for absence

In attendance were Councillors Noel Talbot, who chaired this meeting, Mel Havelock-Crozier, Steve Jenkinson and Nigel Parry, County Councillor Richard Cox and Clerk Alison James. Apologies received from Councillors Richard Birkin and Emma Godwin and District Councillor Shirley Barnett.

2. To receive declarations of interest - None

3. To approve minutes of meeting held on 1st June 2022 – Approved and signed

4. Chairman's Announcements - None

5. Payments

a) To ratify details of payment approved at previous meeting:

- i) 1906 Birmingham Drain Services Ltd – Hire of tanker & operatives for 1 day for drain clearing and disposal of arisings (865.00) plus VAT (173.00) £1,038.00

Cheque had been left with Emma Godwin for second signature but had gone missing on its return in the post to the Clerk so to be cancelled. New cheque 1909 was written and signed at the meeting. **Clerk** to send cheque and letter of instruction, with company to agree exact details of time and gullies to tackle with **Steve Jenkinson**.

b) To approve the following payments:

- i) 1907 TGM – Grass cutting, late April and May – Village Hall areas, 1 or 2 cuts (109.00); Stockwell Heath, 1 cut (30.00); Area by brook bridge, 1 cut (60.00); Closed BG, 2 cuts (90.00) plus VAT (57.80) £346.80
- ii) 1908 Alison James – Clerk's salary, July (315.33); Home working expenses, 5 weeks, 4 Jun – 8 Jul (20.00); BGC Clerk salary, 1 Apr - 30 Jun (137.50) less tax (27.50) £445.33

(Total of all payments above is £1,830.13)

Payments approved.

c) To note the following payments which will be required in August and authorise them to be approved by email when received and then ratified at September meeting:

- i) TGM for grass cutting in June and possibly July
- ii) Clerk's PC salary and reimbursements for August
- iii) Any other payments falling due, provided in line with approved budget

Payments approved in principle. Invoice received from TGM after agenda issued, for June grass cutting, was approved for payment.

6. HS2

To consider any developments and agree any action required including

- a) Various outstanding queries raised with Liz Davis – Some responses received but **Clerk** to check outstanding item(s).

- b) Re-arrangement of meeting with HS2 and Environment Agency to discuss flooding issues – 28th July put forward by HS2 which Emma Godwin was unable to attend. **Clerk** to ask Andy Chappell if he would be prepared to do site visit(s) as sole Colton representative, check availability of room for evening and finalise arrangements with Liz Davis. **Mel Havelock-Crozier, Steve Jenkinson** and **Noel Talbot** would be prepared to attend evening presentation.
- c) Enforcing correct routes for construction vehicles – Details of number plates had been passed on to Liz Davis when possible and further request made for 'No construction vehicle' signs, which were now in place.
- d) Ideas for environmental action to link with Carbon Neutral Colton – **Clerk** to check how this item had arisen. **Nigel Parry** to send Clerk a wish list, such as EV chargers, solar panels, to raise with HS2 what might be possible without having to complete lots of lengthy applications for funding.

7. Planning Matters

- a) To note any applications received and make observations to the Planning Authority:
 - i) 22/00806/HST – Land in the vicinity of Hamley Heath, Jonghams Lane, Hamley Heath, Rugeley – Earthworks (Schedule 17, paragraph 3): The creation of 3 ecological mitigation ponds, an associated area of raised ground levels, 2 associated bunds, 6 permanent gates and permanent fencing (Area 4, application 7) – On last agenda as a pre-application with reference 22/00639/PREHST but now an application - PC response had been submitted. Further comments from a parishioner were too late for deadline.
 - ii) 22/00868/HST2A – Land in the vicinity of Stockwell Heath, Newlands Lane, Blithbury, Rugeley – Schedule 17 Phase 2a application Area 3 (application 6): Earthworks required for the creation of 6 ecological mitigation ponds and associated area of raised ground levels, the location of permanent fencing and 3 permanent gates.
- b) To note additional comments submitted re application 21/00817/FUL for Redevelopment of site and additional industrial units etc. at Heavy Plant Services, Colton Road – Clerk had emailed some further PC comments in response to additional SCC document uploaded on LDC website.
- c) To report on any recent decisions of the Planning Authority – Not checked.
- d) 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.
- e) To consider any update on application relating to mobile home at Moor Lane - Update had been requested by **Clerk** but Richard Cox reported that officer had left LDC and advised contacting generic Enforcement email address.

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 – Dave Hughes had recently provided update to affected residents and PC. Noel Talbot did not think it added much but suggested awaiting outcome of meeting with HS2 and Environment Agency.
 - ii) Drain and gully clearance around the parish – Covered at item 5 a) i).
 - iii) Any footpath/Rights of Way issues – Nothing to report.

- iv) Rats at Stockwell Heath pond and any response from LDC Environmental Health – LDC officer to visit site again this week.
- v) Erosion of path alongside Moreton Brook - Enquiries about land ownership – **Mel Havelock-Crozier** to use map from **Emma Godwin** and **Clerk** to see if enquiries of long-standing resident are feasible now.
- vi) Safety issues at junction of B5013 and Bellamour Lane – Mel Havelock-Crozier thought road had been quieter recently, possibly due to greater police presence. But there was a fatality a few weeks ago and a reduced speed limit was suggested. Richard Cox said such a change was a long and costly process. As he was meeting with Highways the following day Mel Havelock-Crozier drafted an email on behalf of the PC formally asking him to take forward the request. Richard Cox added that the new policing model may make it easier for the police to enforce and offered to liaise.
- vii) Action on weeds on pavements around village, particularly High St – Magazine article advertising proposed spraying on High St and Bellamour Way had so far raised 1 request from a home owner to exclude their frontage, with deadline given as end of July. **Steve Jenkinson** to get quote from TGM with a view to spraying in early August and PC authorised expenditure of up to £500. Further adverts to go on Facebook, noticeboard and possibly magazine again so pet owners aware of timing.
- viii) Condition of road surface on Newlands Lane – Emma Godwin had reported that grass in middle of road had recently been removed.

9. To consider progress on installation of new village signs including quote from SCC's own contractor

PC agreed to accept the quote for installation by SCC's own contractor as this simplified the process and was not significantly higher than other quotes (**Clerk**).

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

Nigel Parry reported that a further meeting of the group would be held the following day. It was hoped to run a repair café once a month at the village hall, with perhaps PC initially covering the hire cost and HS2 to be asked thereafter.

11. To consider outcome and expenditure on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the parish

Consensus was that celebrations had gone really well and it had been a lovely weekend. Exact spend not yet known but it was thought PC should get some of its contribution returned. Noel Talbot presented accounts for the duck race which had raised £132.50 each for church and school. **Clerk** to put an item on November PC agenda to discuss an annual village event, for a day and evening perhaps.

12. To consider request of 13 June from parishioner for PC to fund supply and ongoing emptying of dog waste bins around village

LDC had quoted £310 plus VAT to install a bin and £3 per bin per week for emptying. Councillors commented on absence of a bin at top of village but thought there were already bins where needed by the Martlin, brook path and Village Hall. **Clerk** to ask parishioner for further details of what they had in mind.

13. Correspondence

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

- a) SPCA – Draft welcome pack of Powerpoint slides for new clerks and councillors (Email, circulated to councillors)

- b) Staffs Police – Launch of its new local policing model for the county, bringing 'significant investment in the number of officers responding locally' (Email, circulated to cllrs) – Richard Cox commented that this should be good news, with an operational base in Lichfield and greater visibility and quicker responses, especially for rural areas. Recent Staffs Police performance had been poor but new Chief Constable was making an impact and proposed changes had lifted morale.
- c) HS2 – Update on local works activity engagement, Festival of Archaeology 16th-31st July, and Forestry Commission update including funding opportunities for woodland planting; also general Project Update newsletter
- d) HS2 – Closure of A38 southbound slip road at Streethay for 15 months from 1 August (Email, circulated to cllrs) – This may cause increase in traffic on other local routes.
- e) HS2 – Phase 2a Local Area Engagement Plan, 2022 (Email, circ. to cllrs)
- f) NALC – Update newsletter on Civility and Respect Project (Email)
- g) SCC – Details about registration for Summer Holiday Activities and Food programme, for children receiving free school meals (Email)
- h) SPCA – Weekly bulletins (Emails, circulated to cllrs)

14. Committees

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

15. Finance and audit

- a) 2021/22 – To receive update on progress with Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) including submission of Certificate of Exemption to external auditors – Certificate of Exemption submitted to Mazars in June and required information for transparency put on PC website, with period for exercise of electors' rights open until early August.

16. Parish Council matters

- a) To update on progress with advertising and filling councillor vacancy – **Clerk** to chase response from LDC as to whether PC could co-opt, as casual vacancy notice period had expired. **Clerk** to contact other person to see if still interested in the vacancy. If so, 2 candidates to be considered before September meeting (**All councillors**).
- b) To update on arrangements for functioning without elected chairman and who could carry out various tasks including holding keys and payment for magazine delivery – Nigel Parry reported that Village Hall were happy to have a PC key box so **Mel Havelock-Crozier** to purchase and reclaim cost from PC. **Clerk** to contact magazine deliverer to arrange BACS payment and then reclaim from PC
- c) Farmers' spraying pesticides and impact on bees (item raised by councillor) – Mel Havelock-Crozier said something had happened locally such that bees had disappeared from gardens. She had made enquiries of many nature organisations. No reason had yet been identified but it was very concerning.
- d) Date of next meeting – Wednesday 7th September at 7.30pm (No meeting in August). **Mel Havelock-Crozier** offered to chair. Nigel Parry gave apologies for September and October meetings and Richard Cox for September.

Clerk was asked to look into internet banking, though cheques to be kept as well.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.