

COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2023
AT 7:30 PM AT COLTON VILLAGE HALL
(FOLLOWING BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Maximum of 20 mins at the beginning of the meeting to hear public questions and comments)

A group of parishioners attended to express their serious concerns about speeding in and near the village, having witnessed various crashes and near misses, which they consider intolerable. They would like to start a Community Speed Watch (CSW) to prove the speeding which is happening and to encourage appropriate speeds. Also suggested a 20mph speed limit near the school, 30mph from Bishton back to B5013 and 40mph from Admaston Bank to Bellamour Corner. Other issues mentioned were tractors speeding, blind exits for those living on Bellamour Way due to the parking, the previous lack of consultation e.g. having give way signs on both sides of the brook bridge and the need to prioritise the safety of pedestrians, for instance near The Maltings where there is no pavement and generally around the school. A complaint was made again about the yew hedge on Bellamour Way being overgrown and forcing people into the road.

There was a general discussion about the best way to proceed and the warning to be careful of ending up with traffic calming measures such as speed humps or parking restrictions, which might ultimately be more unpopular and create more problems. NT acknowledged the strength of feeling and offered for PC to initially find out what is involved in CSW (**Clerk**).

Another parishioner asked why the section of footpath by Williscroft Place had been closed for so long. **Clerk** to try to find out.

BUSINESS AGENDA

1. To note attendance and receive apologies for absence

In attendance were Cllrs Noel Talbot (NT), who acted as chair for this meeting, Garren Edwards (GE) and Nigel Parry (NP), District Councillor Keith Vernon (KV) and Clerk Alison James. Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Birkin (RB) and County Cllr Richard Cox (RC). Several members of the public observed the meeting and/or attended for Public Participation.

2. To receive declarations of interest – None

3. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 5th July

These were approved and signed by NT.

4. To co-opt new councillor Lynne Richardson (LR)

Lynne had observed a few meetings and confirmed that she was happy to join the PC and was warmly welcomed. LR confirmed that her email address could be published on the website and in the magazine as her means of being contacted.

5. To receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office

This had been signed by LR and was subsequently signed by the **Clerk**, who would notify LDC.

6. Chairman's Announcements

NT noted the sad passing of Mrs Dorothy Bradbury who, as well as being an active parishioner for very many years, had also served devotedly on the Burial Ground Committee (BGC) for almost 40 years. A minute's silence had been held in her memory at the start of the preceding BGC meeting.

7. Payments

- a) To note the confirmed amount and details of payment approved at the last meeting:

i) 1962 TGM – Grass cutting in late May and June – Village Hall, 1 cut (94.75); Closed BG, 3 cuts (139.05); Stockwell Heath, 1 cut (30.90); Heathway footpath, 1 cut (46.35); Verge from bridge to B5013, 1 cut (72.00); Corner by vicarage, 1 cut (25.00) plus VAT (81.61) £489.66

- b) To ratify the following payments approved by email during August:

i) 1963 TGM – Grass cutting in July - Village Hall, 2 cuts (189.50); Closed BG, 3 cuts (139.05) plus VAT (65.71) £394.26

ii) 1964 Alison James - Clerk's salary, August (336.13); Home working expenses, 3 weeks, 8 Jul – 4 Aug excl. 1 week of leave (12.00); Reimbursement for bank payment on 31 July to magazine delivery girl for August (20.00); Reimbursement for printer cartridge (22.55); Reimbursement for mobile phone top up on 5 Aug (10.00); Reimbursement for renewal of McAfee Live Safe subscription for 2 years to 11 Sep 2025 (129.99) £530.67

iii) 1965 Vision ICT – Website hosting & support, October 2023 – September 2024 (134.38) plus VAT (26.88) £161.26

- c) To approve the following payments:

i) 1966 SPCA – Councillor Fundamentals course for Garren Edwards, July (30.00) plus VAT (6.00) £36.00

ii) 1967 Alison James – Clerk's salary, September (336.13); Home working expenses, 5 weeks, 5 Aug – 8 Sep (20.00); Reimbursement for bank payment on 28 Aug to magazine delivery girl for September (20.00); Mileage claim for Jan – July (90.00) £466.13

iii) 1968 TGM – Grass cutting in August – invoice expected after issue of agenda but before meeting – amount t.b.c.

(Total of new payments at items b) & c) above is £1,588.32 plus 1 invoice t.b.c.)

All the above payments were approved. Cheque 1968 was made out in the sum of £299.10 as the invoice had now been received and details would be recorded on the next agenda.

8. HS2

To consider any developments and agree any action required including

- a) Initiative to progress projects and applications for funding from Community and Environment Fund – Proposed further meeting with HS2 and Balfour Beatty – Proposed meeting had been put back to October as progress had been limited over the summer holidays.

9. Planning Matters

- a) To note any applications received and make observations to the Planning Authority:

i) 23/00905/FUH – 1 High Street, Colton – Erection of first floor rear extension and formation of off-road parking at front – No objections

raised but it was thought that the front wall had already been removed. However there are other precedents nearby and the property was thought to be outside the conservation area.

- b) To report on any recent decisions of the Planning Authority:
 - i) 23/00190/COU – 8 Old Wood Farm, Blithbury Rd, Colton – Conversion and alteration of agricultural buildings to form 1 dwelling and ancillary annex – Considered at LDC’s Planning Committee on 3 July with approval recommended in report but no decision recorded yet.
 - ii) 23/00523/FUH – Bank Top View, Hollow Lane, Colton – Erection of single storey extension to form kitchen – Approved.
 - iii) 23/00758/FUH – The Hayloft, Bellamour Lodge Farm, Colton Road, Colton – Erection of conservatory – Approved (*PC does not appear to have received the original consultation*). LDC had apologised that PC had not been notified about the consultation. **Clerk** to get on circulation of weekly lists again as an additional means of picking up Colton applications.

A further application had been received on the day of the meeting for an extension at 5 Coachman’s Walk and initial looks had not raised any concerns.

10.Highways, Footpaths and Open Spaces

- a) To report on progress and agree any action required:
 - i) Flooding or drain issues – Sewage drainage issue raised by parishioner at July meeting – KV reported that he had passed on to the Colton parishioner the contact details of the Hill Ridware resident who had pursued a similar issue with Severn Trent and the Ombudsman. Although winning the case, Severn Trent did not have the money to put in the required larger sewers. So Colton parishioner was likely to put in a 1-way valve to protect his house. The piece in the parish magazine asking if anyone else in Colton had experienced similar issues had only raised 1 call referring to bad smells from drains in the vicinity of Williscroft Place, which may or may not have been a similar issue.
 - ii) Parking issues in the village – Email from parishioner of 7 August; Draft article from councillor for parish magazine – PC agreed that the parking article drafted by **NP**, based on the Highway Code, should be submitted. **Clerk** to ask RB if he had made any progress with enquiries about potential enforcement.
 - iii) Overgrown hedge at Aspley House – Owners had been waiting for nesting season to finish but it had now been done.
 - iv) Potential joint hire of road sweeper with PCC and Burial Ground Committee – **Clerk** to ask Mel Havelock-Crozier if she is still interested in pursuing this.
 - v) Overgrown state of Narrow Lane (at end of Heathway) – The Highways online reporting system makes clear that the responsibility for hedge cutting lies with the landowners. **Clerk** to try to find out who the relevant landowners are. PC might later ask its contractors to clear the soil in the middle of the lane.
 - vi) Potholes on Newlands Lane – A parishioner had been corresponding with Richard Cox. On inspection by Highways, more potholes were found than had been reported. So it would require more substantial work and a road closure and no date had yet been fixed.

11.To consider progress on reducing dog fouling around village

To hear update on proposed installation of bag dispensers -

NP had sourced suitable bags. GE had found a suitable design of dispenser and PC agreed that **GE** should order 2 of them.

12. To discuss arrangements for Remembrance Sunday (12th November) including road closure application and wreath

LDC had approved the road closure application for Bellamour Way and **Clerk** would submit the notice for the magazine and put on noticeboards. **RB** had offered to purchase the PC wreath.

13. To consider request from PCC for contribution to parish magazine costs for 2023

PCC had requested PC make its agreed 1/3 contribution to this year's parish magazine costs. Total costs were likely to be lower than last year as fewer copies were now printed each month. PC agreed to contribute the requested £1,300 and subsequently additional cheque 1969 was written to St Mary's Church and signed (**Clerk** to reply to PCC).

14. Correspondence

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

- a) Staffordshire CC – Possible change to mobile library visiting time from 11.35am on a Thursday to 9am on a Friday – official consultation to follow but comments sought from any users (Email, circulated to cllrs) – LR pointed out that the van normally stops near the school which would potentially still be busy with traffic and parked cars at the earlier time. **Clerk** to notify SCC.
- b) SCC – Road closure, with signed diversion, on Uttoxeter Road, Blithbury and Lichfield Road, Abbots Bromley (B5014) between Pinfold Lane and Newlands Lane from 14th September to 1st December for brickwork repairs (Email)
- c) SCC – Funding available from Climate Action Fund for sustainable projects (Email circulated to cllrs)
- d) VHMC – Details of AGM on Weds 27th September at 7.30pm and opportunity for PC representatives (Email, circulated to cllrs)– NP is currently the PC representative and new councillor LR is already on VHMC as secretary and WI representative, so no further nominations were thought to be required.
- e) LDC – Details of draft strategy for 'Lichfield District 2050' and consultation survey (Email)
- f) Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Consultation on draft recommendations for division boundaries in Staffordshire, but no changes proposed affecting Colton (Email)
- g) HS2 – Latest Phase 2a newsletter for July (email, circulated to cllrs)
- h) SCC Library newsletter – Book and talks by author about history of Great Haywood and exhibition about Rugeley Power Station (Email)
- i) SPCA – Invitation and papers for AGM on Monday 30th October at 7pm at Staffordshire Place (Email)
- j) SPCA – Weekly bulletins including appointment of new Chief Executive, new Health and Wellbeing Officer and government request to ensure all defibrillators are registered on The Circuit (Emails, circulated to cllrs)

15. Committees

To note any update from preceding Burial Ground Committee meeting – The condition of the Open Burial Ground was much better now, though a couple of issues to be looked at. No further funds needed from the PC at the moment.

16. Finance and audit

- a) To approve and sign the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy Annual Report for 2022/23 for submission to LDC – Required report was approved but in practice there had been no CIL receipts or expenditure in 2022/23.
- b) To confirm successful update to bank mandate and any update on options for internet banking – GE had been successfully added to the mandate and LR would be added in due course (**Clerk/Cllrs**). Unfortunately, no new applications were currently being accepted for NatWest's new Bankline for Communities facility.
- c) To hear update on actions from review of PC's risk assessment – GE had provided some information about IT options in the cloud and **Clerk** to look further into these. **Clerk** to distribute further copies of her updated notes in the event of her unexpected absence.

17. Parish Council matters

- a) To review any progress in recruiting new councillors including posters – Advertising to continue on noticeboards and in magazine.
- b) To consider suggestion of PC organising annual summer event – NP said that the last 2 years' events had been much enjoyed and it had been suggested to him that PC should organise an event annually. PC agreed to invite discussion under Public Participation at the next meeting and advertise for parishioners to come along to offer their views or help (**Clerk/NP**).
- c) To discuss ideas to raise profile of PC on social media and with younger generation – **Clerk** to keep on agenda but put earlier in meeting to encourage more discussion.

KV mentioned that he sings with a lady and they offer to put on concerts free of charge. **Clerk** to pass information on locally e.g. for Xmas lunch or Friendship Club.

GE said that he had reported the state of various footpaths including the one across the fields to Rugeley Trent Valley and paths near the brook overgrown with nettles. PC agreed to put this on the next agenda for discussion about how to get some action to clear them (**Clerk**).

- d) Date of next meeting – Wednesday 4th October (Agenda to be issued early around 21st September due to Clerk's annual leave)

Meeting closed at 8:50pm