

**COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2024
AT 7:30 PM (APPROXIMATELY) AT COLTON VILLAGE HALL (TO FOLLOW
BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING STARTING AT 7PM)**

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

Parishioners: Asked for help regarding the flooding by their home near the junction of Park Lane and Newlands Lane at Stockwell Heath. Gulleys are not taking the rain away and the road was flooded for much of last year. They need to get their car out to leave their home because of the depth of the water. The hedge is also being damaged as passing farm vehicles send a wave of water into their garden. The problem was registered more than once with Highways last year but nothing has happened.

Another parishioner commented that the gully there probably runs into the pond so must be blocked. Chair offered that PC would take up with County Councillor Richard Cox and **Clerk** was given their Highways report reference number to pass on to him.

Parishioner: Had been asked by Clerk to do various jobs for PC, including dealing with moles (in hand) and removing fallen wisteria in Open Burial Ground (estimate provided). Lime to be cut back by vicarage but needs someone more qualified to look at the brace on the other lime (**Clerk** to arrange). Vegetation hanging over pavement near Littlehay Manor would also be tackled and PC agreed it should be cut back 1.5 to 2m approximately.

Growth around the public footpath steps on High St would be reviewed once other work had been done.

(No member of the public may address the meeting hereafter)

BUSINESS AGENDA

1. To note attendance and receive apologies for absence

In attendance were Councillors Noel Talbot (NT), Richard Monbiot (RM) and Nigel Parry (NP) and Clerk Alison James. NT was nominated by NP and seconded by RM to chair the meeting. Apologies received from Garren Edwards (GE) and County Cllr Richard Cox (RC).

2. To receive declarations of interest - None

3. To approve minutes of meeting held on 28th August – Minutes were approved and signed by NT. RM asked about the PC's advert for a handyman and NT clarified that it was for low level tidying up and not technical work. **RM** to enquire whether it could be of interest for a Duke of Edinburgh Scheme task.

4. Chairman's Announcements - None

5. Payments

a) To ratify the following payment approved by email due to September meeting being brought forward:

i)	2030	TGM grass cutting in August (and 1 cut in July missed previously) - Village Hall, 2 cuts (191.70), Closed Burial Ground, 3 cuts (141.84), Stockwell Heath, 1 cut (31.52) plus VAT (73.01)	£438.07
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b) To approve the following payments:

i)	2031	St Mary's Church – Contribution to costs of printing Parish Magazine 2024 (1,425.00) and mowing Pedley's Croft 2024 (200.00) (subject to agreement at item 9)	£1,625.00 t.b.c.
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ii)	2032	Alison James – Clerk’s salary, October (356.93) Home working expenses, 4 weeks, 7 Sep – 4 Oct (16.00); Reimbursement for bank payment to magazine delivery girl set up for 27 Sept for October delivery (20.00); BGC Clerk salary for 1 Jul – 30 Sep (137.50) less tax (27.50); Reimbursement for PC Remembrance Sunday poppy wreath & delivery (24.49); Reimbursement for black XL printer cartridge ordered 22 Sep (22.04) plus VAT (4.41)	£553.87
iii)	2033	M B Contracts – Removal of fallen willow tree at ford/brook bridge on 24 th August (90.00) plus VAT (18.00)	£108.00
iv)	2034	CPRE – Renewal of PC membership to 7/11/25	£29.00
v)	2035	SLCC – Renewal of Clerk’s membership to 31/10/25	£112.00

(Total of new payments for approval at b) above is £2427.87, subject to confirmation of amount for cheque 2031).

All payments were approved except cheque 2031 to be discussed at agenda item 9.

6. Planning Matters

- a) To note any applications received and make observations to the Planning Authority:
 - i) 23/01249/LBC – Malt House Farm, Bellamour Way, Colton - Listed Building Consent for installation of chimney pots into existing chimneys, removal of 2 roof windows to extension and installation of electric car charging point - LDC deadline has passed; no objections raised

An additional application had recently been received for Border Collie Trust to vary a condition for dog walking times on their previously approved application for a change of use to land near the top of High St to become a dog exercise area. An additional noise assessment had been submitted suggesting no detrimental impact if times were amended to 8am to 6pm, provided dogs were walked at the northern end of the site further away from houses.

- b) To report on any recent decisions of the Planning Authority:
 - i) 24/00046/COU – Colton Lodge, Bellamour Way, Colton – Change of use of coach house and barn to 1 dwelling, erection of single storey rear extension, parking and external works – Approved

7. Highways, Footpaths and Open Spaces

- a) To report on new issues or progress and agree any action required:
 - i) Flooding and highways maintenance - Drain near bridge on Bellamour Way; Hollow Lane; poor state of Newlands Lane – It was noted that, whilst there had been some improvement in drainage, there was still flooding near the bridge. Hollow Lane had been badly flooded again in the recent heavy rain and there had not been any action on Newlands Lane yet. **Clerk** to raise these 3 issues with RC.
 - ii) SCC flood resilience projects – Chased again with LDC but no reply yet.
 - iii) Road closures – Any further issues – Various local closures had been notified and included in parish magazine and/or on residents Facebook page. Closure of A51 near Rugeley was having an impact.
 - iv) Pavement on High St near Littlehay Manor – Discussed under Public Participation and **Clerk** would raise condition of pavement again with SCC once overgrowth cut back.

- v) New SCC Environment team – Any tasks to suggest for their work list – **Clerk** had become aware of the new team whilst working for another council and would put together a list of potential jobs for Colton and try to establish with RC what the new team are equipped to undertake.
- vi) Improving the appearance of the parish and any jobs for parish handyperson and
- vii) Litter picking – these 2 items covered earlier.
- viii) Issue of speeding in the village raised by parishioners - Proposed purchase and installation of speed detection device – NP said a prototype is being developed and should be available in a few months and PC had permission from SCC for its installation on a lamppost.

8. To discuss arrangements for Remembrance Sunday

Road closure order and PC wreath obtained – **RM** agreed to look after the wreath obtained by Clerk and to discuss with GE who might lay it, as NP and NT are unable to attend.

9. To discuss requests from PCC for contribution to annual costs of printing parish magazine and mowing Pedley's Croft

PC approved making its previously agreed one third contribution to printing costs for 2024, which is £1,425. A parishioner had questioned the cost and value of having the magazine printed and whether people actually read it. Councillors disagreed and felt that it is a valuable community contribution which a lot of people would not otherwise see if only available digitally. However, **Clerk** to see if a link to the digital copy could be added to the PC website. Some other changes such as the paper quality could be considered, subject to views of others from PCC and PLT.

PC agreed to make its budgeted contribution of £200 to the costs of mowing Pedley's Croft as it improves the appearance on entry to the village.

10. To discuss plans for Colton Summer Festival in June 2025 including insurance cover

Another planning meeting to be held on 8th October. On checking PC insurance cover, the only omission appeared to be events near water (so tug o' war would be advertised as being at own risk for anyone taking part) and private bookings would be required to have their own insurance e.g. bouncy castle. NT had confirmed band booked for evening of Saturday 28th June and a curtain-sided vehicle was arranged for their performance.

11. To discuss ideas to raise profile of PC on social media and with younger generation

Any follow up on draft Engagement Plan circulated by Noel Talbot – Nothing to report yet.

12. Correspondence

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

- a) HS2 Ltd - HS2 Phase 2a remediation works and farewell from Liz Davis as Community Engagement Officer (Emails, circulated to cllrs) – Thanks had been sent by PC and others to Liz Davis.
- b) PCC – Invitation to new vicar's welcome/licensing service (Email, circulated to cllrs)
- c) SCC Highways – Road closure overnight (10pm to 5am) from 7th to 12th October on B5013 Colton Rd from its junction with Blithbury Rd to the River Trent overbridge for works to railway bridge (Email; posted on village Facebook site)

- d) Mavesyn Ridware PC – Mavesyn Ridware Neighbourhood Plan consultation (Email)
- e) Staffordshire Commissioner – ‘Have your say on Policing and Fire and Rescue in Staffordshire’ consultation, open until 21 October (Email)
- f) Chief Fire Officer – ‘Community Risk Management Plan 2025-2028’ consultation, open until 5th November (Email)
- g) NHS – ‘Join the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board People’s Panel’ which is a group of residents who take part in surveys to express their views to help shape health services in the area (Email & poster for noticeboard)
- h) SPCA – Various correspondence including the returning weekly bulletins, new NALC website, details of AGM to be held on Monday 16th December at 7pm at Staffordshire Place and new County Officer and his request for feedback on relationships with Police and ideas for best practice (Emails, mainly circulated to cllrs) – PC comments on police were a lack of visibility and that PCSOs had not attended when asked to a PC meeting to discuss parking issues in the village. **Clerk** to feed back to SPCA.

13. Committees

To hear any update or request for funds from the prior Burial Ground Committee meeting – BGC had requested a further £500 to ensure it could cover ongoing maintenance before its next meeting. Additional cheque number 2036 was written and signed at the end of the meeting and would be formally recorded on the next agenda (**Clerk**).

14. Finance and audit

- a) To hear any update on banking arrangements and consider options for online banking – NatWest’s website still states that its free Bankline for Communities online banking system is only available to new customers and not to existing customers ‘for technical reasons’. Views from other clerks were generally positive about both Lloyds, which is free and Unity Trust, which charges and both offer dual authorisation. It is not clear if Unity Trust offer a reserve account facility with balance sweeping. The VHMC is happy with its experience of using Lloyds. PC agreed to pursue a move of its banking to Lloyds (**Clerk**).
- b) To note inclusion of approved Model Publication Scheme for Colton on PC website – Noted.
- c) To agree a date and time for the annual budget discussion meeting – Budget meeting to be held at 6.45pm on Wednesday 4th December before the PC meeting (starting at 7.30pm approximately).

15. Parish Council matters

- a) To update on renewal of the grazing licence and obtain signatures – Hinson Parry was being wound up and certain staff were now working for Bagshaws. The fee quoted by the latter for preparation of the licence was considered disproportionate and so PC had prepared its own licence. This was signed and witnessed by Chair and Clerk respectively and would be sent to the licensee for signature (**Clerk**).

16. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 6th November at 7pm

NP offered his apologies.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm