

**COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2018,
COLTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Acting Chairman Mrs Shirley Barnett, Cllrs Mrs Sarah Plater and Matt Crompton and Clerk Alison James. 4 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Mrs Emma Godwin. Marisha Place on behalf of Police

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: Sarah Plater: Item 4 – Financial re house sale
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Maximum of 20 mins):

It was agreed that further public participation be allowed later, during item 4 on HS2.

Parishioner: Noted that platform for parish council website is being changed to offer more secure uploading. Had been notified by e-voice as acts as an administrator.

AGENDA (No member of public may address meeting hereafter):

1. Minutes of meeting held on 11th January 2018 were approved and signed.

2. Chairman's Announcements

Noted work on HS2 petition. Drew attention to information in parish magazine about mobile library service consultation. Concerned for future of Connect service.

3. Payments

a) To approve the following payments:

i)	1659	Colton Village Hall – Room hire, February	£12.00
ii)	1660	Toplis Associates – Audit of PC and BG accounts 16-17	£168.00
iii)	1661	Alison James – Clerk's salary, Feb (210.06); Home working exps, 4 weeks, 13 Jan –9 Feb (16.00); reimbursement for new printer (56.99)	£283.05

(Total payments above, for approval this month = £463.05)

All payments were approved. Matt Crompton asked how the PC monitors Burial Ground expenditure and Sarah Plater said that she had asked to receive a copy of groundsman's maintenance bills from April to check that costs are as expected under new arrangements.

4. HS2 – (*Standing orders revoked for public to participate for this item only*)

a) Petitioning including progress on LDC, SCC and Colton PC petitions – Chairman reported re SCC and LDC petitions that Andy Chappell had put together a list of issues. SCC had included some but not all and given reasons for those not included. Important that Colton submits its own petition so all its issues are included. Liz Davis from HS2 had still wanted a meeting to explain petitioning and to meet their petition management team but there had been a lack of feasible dates.

Andy Chappell explained that the petition is urgent due to deadline being 5pm on Friday 26th February. Still concerned about safety of B5013, with fast vehicles heading into bends, due to slow moving construction vehicles pulling out onto the main road. This particularly since Sarah Mallen has said that HS2 cannot put their traffic onto a haul route. Also concerned about junction between Newlands Lane and Moor Lane. Andy had looked at petitioning template and thinks he can put the issues into the necessary format.

Discussion was opened up to others present. There was widespread concern about the large trucks using narrow lanes around Stockwell Heath,

destroying the environment. Don't think HS2 realise that 2 vehicles cannot pass on those lanes. Highways have said the lanes cannot be widened as that would destroy traditional hedgerows. But latter will be destroyed anyway if HS2 are allowed to send their vehicles down so it is important that the point is strongly made.

One parishioner asked what will happen during winter flooding when Moor Lane becomes the only route for getting in and out of the village. Another parishioner asked how emergency vehicles would get through during floods or if stuck behind an HS2 vehicle.

Andy Chappell confirmed that these points had been or would be covered in the petition. The petitioning process is our chance to bring issues to the Select Committee and they would then expect HS2 to offer solutions.

[Andy Chappell](#) agreed to prepare a further version of the Colton petition in the template format required, with anyone welcome to contact him with any further points and it would be circulated to all interested parties. The final copy would be submitted by the [Clerk](#) on behalf of the PC, with a copy going to Craig Jordan, Sarah Mallen and Michael Fabricant. The PC approved the £20 fee for the petition, though not sure of exact method of payment yet.

- b) Meeting with HS2 Ltd – It was agreed that it was too late and unnecessary now to arrange a meeting with HS2 about petitioning.
- c) Any other HS2 matters - None

5. Police matters - None

6. Planning Matters

- a) To ratify/consider and make observations to the Planning Authority: None
- b) To report on decisions of the Planning Authority: None notified
- c) Any other planning matters:
 - i) Change of use to office building on Land Adjacent The Yorkshireman – Response received from Don Winn in LDC Enforcement that the low fencing could be erected without permission and visibility splays, car park surface and surface water drainage are satisfactory. However some of landscaping and planting had not been carried out as per plans and the brick wall was unauthorised so LDC would write to applicant.
 - ii) Station Works, Colton Rd – Concerns had been raised at a previous PC meeting about the new retaining wall. LDC consider the erection of the retaining wall constitutes engineering works and needs permission.
 - iii) Cedar Cottage, Bellamour Way – Matt Crompton believed that work had not started on site and other building materials seen may relate to works at Williscroft Place. [Clerk](#) was asked to contact Planning for them to notify us when any work was starting to ensure Traffic Management Plan is put in place beforehand.
- d) Neighbourhood Planning – [Clerk](#) was asked to locate copies of the Colton Parish Plan for Sarah Plater and Matt Crompton to see.

7. Highways & Footpaths

- a) Pending. To report on progress of pending issues:
 - i) Action on state of roads and pavements around parish – Flooding on river bridge; Flooding on B5013 to Abbots Bromley near Hamley Heath; Potholes on Colton Rd – It was noted that Highways had repaired potholes on Colton Rd the previous day so [Clerk](#) was asked to thank

Martyn Tittley and also send him a copy of Emma Godwin's list of Highway reports. Flooding near river bridge is still a problem.

- ii) Winter road treatment including Icebusters – Sarah Plater had the Icebusters equipment and Trevor Mellor had recently delivered saline liquid. [Sarah](#) would supply a brief note for March magazine.
- b) Matters arising since last meeting:
 - i) Tree roots lifting footpath in Heathway – Clerk had viewed and did not consider of great seriousness. However PC requested that matter was reported ([Clerk](#)).

8. Village Hall play area

Any update from VHMC/Playground Group – No update received but it was hoped further information would be available by the next meeting.

9. Refurbishment of War Memorial

Update on progress with proposed works and tenders – LDC had confirmed that planning permission was not required but nothing further heard from working group.

10. Bus service

Any update on future of Connect service – Information had been received from Kathryn Grattage at SCC about number of Colton users. Some users in village had said they would be prepared to make a contribution. [Clerk](#) to contact Hamstall Ridware and Hill Ridware clerks to see if they are considering or prepared to make a financial contribution alongside Colton.

11. Adoption of phone box

Sarah Plater had still not received any timescale from workman contacted. It was suggested [Sarah](#) contact Cawarden Reclamation for suggestions of other tradesmen. Considering cleaning and putting up shelves for a book swap once damp weather has passed.

12. Correspondence

To consider items of correspondence received:

- a) LDC – Papers for next Parish Forum meeting to be held on Weds 28th February at 7pm (Email, circulated to cllrs)
- b) Civic Voice – War Memorials news (Emails) and subsequent comments from parishioner about parish commemoration of 100th anniversary of Armistice (Email, circ to cllrs)
- c) SCC – Staffordshire in the Great War conference, Sat 10th March 10am-4pm at County Buildings, Stafford (Email, circ to Colton History Society and War Memorial Grp)
- d) Parishioner – Comments about commercial dog walking in village – Concerned about number of dogs from Border Collie Trust being walked. [Shirley Barnett](#) said she would speak to dog expert at LDC but did not think anything could be done.
- e) SCC – Staffordshire Libraries Consultation, with deadline for comments of 1st April (Email, circulated to cllrs and for parish magazine) – Parishioners urged to respond to consultation if they use mobile library service.
- f) Parish magazine editor – Information for contributors about forthcoming changes to printing (Email) – Laura Crompton thanked for work as editor.
- g) CCRPG – Papers for meeting held on Tuesday 30th January (Emails, circulated to cllrs)

- h) CCS – Staffs Diary of Village Festivals and Events (Email, sent to PCC and VHMC)
 - i) LDC – Parklife newsletter (Copy put on noticeboard)
 - j) Staffs Playing Fields Assocn – Advert of services and membership (Email)
 - k) SPCA – Weekly bulletins (Emails, circulated to cllrs)
 - l) Canal & River Trust – Information about what a local waterway can do for community and planning (Booklet)
 - m) CCS – Information about Best Kept Village Competition 2018 (Post) – Matt Crompton expressed interest in seeing information and whether there was support for entering in future ([Clerk](#) to supply scanned copy for magazine).
 - n) LDC – Longdon Neighbourhood Plan (Email)
 - o) LDC – Calendar of Meetings and Forward Plan (Emails)
 - p) Rural Services Network – Various bulletins (Emails)
- Shirley Barnett asked for a recent email about rules for parish councils funding works to local churches to be made available to BGC members ([Clerk](#)).

13. Committees

Burial Grounds Committee – Report of meeting held on 23rd January including 16/17 accounts – Alan Toplis had completed the 16/17 audit and the accounts had been put onto the Charity Commission website just before the end January deadline. BGC was still concerned about reimbursing the PC for the bills it had paid on the BGC's behalf in 16-17 and 17-18. [Clerk](#) to clarify how best to do this during her forthcoming meeting with Alan Toplis.

14. Finance

- a) Budget and Precept for 18/19 – The precept request had been submitted as agreed to LDC before the late January deadline.
- b) Receipt of Transparency Fund grant of £1,893.97 from NALC – Noted.
- c) 17/18 accounts – interim audit – Clerk had arranged meeting with Alan Toplis on 26th February.

15. Parish Council matters

- a) Registration of Council land – Access land at Heathway – In Emma Godwin's absence, no update on progress was available. But Hinson Parry had previously been instructed to prepare the new plan and access document.
- b) Parish Council website including transparency grant – PC confirmed it wished to go ahead promptly with commissioning a new website from Vision ICT, as referenced in the grant application ([Clerk](#)).
- c) Audit training session in Stafford for Clerk – PC approved Clerk's attendance, which was free of charge, with only cost being the mileage.
- d) Storage of Council papers – [Sarah Plater](#) had obtained the key and so would be checking out the filing cabinet and looking for boxes of PC paperwork shortly.
- e) Arrangements for Parish Assembly – To be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th April.

Next meeting date – Thursday 8th March 2018 (Matt Crompton gave his apologies).

Close of meeting at 8:25pm