

**COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018,  
COLTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Mrs Shirley Barnett, Cllrs Mrs Emma Godwin, Mrs Sarah Plater and Matt Crompton, County Cllr Martyn Tittley and Clerk Alison James

**APOLOGIES:** None

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** Sarah Plater and Emma Godwin – item 4 (HS2) ; Matt Crompton – items 3 a) iii) and 8 (as now on VHMC)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Maximum of 20 mins):**

PC meeting had been preceded by a public meeting to discuss planning applications for a gas-fired electricity generating facility and access road off Bellamour Lane.

Andy Chappell – Re the power station, had further points to make about the plan for the haul road. Also concerned that once construction is over, both ends of the road should be closed off or will become a magnet for fly-tipping. Also commented about painting of internal fences, insufficient screening of the buildings and other errors on the plans. (Chairman asked him to email his comments to the Clerk). Having 2 separate planning applications made it difficult to see what is really going on. Hoped that George Burda was going to talk to Emma Godwin to construct a template and ideas of points to make and how to make them and email to those attending tonight.

Parishioner - Asked if the PC had a response to his recent email about the War Memorial.

PC thanked him for offering to sort out the problem with the light and also to put something in the planters and agreed he should go ahead.

Parishioner – Re power station, pointed out that Emma Godwin had confirmed there is only 1 access and so thinks could argue it is one large facility, not two smaller ones.

Chairman said that the items on the gas power station ( 6a) i) and ii) ) would be opened up to public participation when they were reached on the agenda.

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

1. Minutes of meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were approved and signed.
2. Chairman's Announcements

Tracey Horton PCSO was invited to speak as she needed to leave for another meeting shortly. She said she had been a PCSO for 9 years. She had checked crime records and found no concerns but need to stay vigilant and would issue another Smart Alert as a reminder.

3. Payments

a) To approve the following payments:

- |      |      |  |         |
|------|------|--|---------|
| i)   | 1700 | Clarke Computer Systems – 2.5 hrs IT support on 12 <sup>th</sup> September @ £50 per hr, plus VAT<br><i>(Deferred from previous meeting)</i>   | £150.00 |
| ii)  | 1701 | SLCC – Annual membership renewal 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov 18 – 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct 19  | £84.00  |
| iii) | 1702 | Colton Village Hall – Room hire, Sept (12.00) and Oct (12.00)  | £24.00  |
| iv)  | 1703 | Trent Grounds Maintenance – Grass cutting at Village Hall - 2 cuts in Sept (184.00); Various verges - 1 cut in Sept (95.00); strimming of footpath by Heathway land (45.00) plus VAT | £388.80 |
| v)   | 1704 | Campaign to Protect Rural England – 1 year's   |         |

		membership	£29.00
vi)	1705	Vision ICT Ltd – 2 hrs website training by phone plus VAT	£90.00
vii)	1706	Stephen Perkin – Maintenance of Closed Burial Ground, July – Sept	£180.00
viii)	1707	Alison James – Clerk’s salary, Oct (222.06); Home working exps, 4 weeks, 15 Sep – 12 Oct (16.00); Re-imburement for various printer cartridges (51.04)	£289.10
ix)	1708	HMRC – Payroll taxes, July – Sept	£191.56
x)	1709	St Mary’s Church – Contribution to special Remembrance edition of parish magazine	£150.00
xi)	1710	Colton History Society – Funding for exhibition for 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of end of WW1	£250.00
xii)	1711	Mark Dee – Refurbishment of phone box	£325.00

All payments were approved, with cheque 1710 confirmed as originally listed on the agenda and cheque 1711 revised to £325, as invoice had been received and included replacement of the window, additional to original quote.

(Total payments above, approved this month = £2,051.46 incl. additional £50.00 to Clarke Computer Systems not on previous agenda)

#### 4. HS2

a) Update on response to petition and proposed further meeting with HS2 Ltd

Andy Chappell was arranging a further meeting with HS2 on behalf of PC but had asked for a slight delay on the original date due to other issues going on. It had been pointed out by a parishioner that PC had previously paid for room hire for such meetings, which he did not feel was fair on council tax payers. PC had agreed that Clerk should ask HS2 if they were prepared to pay the room hire.

b) Community information event on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2pm – 8pm at Mavesyn Ridware Village Hall

This was another event, similar to ones held previously, open to any members of public to attend and ask questions and in particular about new power supply proposals.

c) Any other HS2 matters

Hinson Parry had confirmed they had not received any money or further paperwork for the new access agreement at Stockwell Heath. It was suggested that, if approached, PC should withhold permission for any further surveys until money had been received.

Andy Chappell said the Undertakings & Assurances team’s response to the petition did not mention footpaths so he would draft a letter for PC to send to ensure provision is built in. HS2 CEO had sent letter with certain assurances to Michael Fabricant. Andy Chappell had also circulated a draft article about the work the PC had done and what the petition had achieved and this was approved for the parish magazine (Clerk to submit) to publicise it to parishioners.

#### 5. Police matters – covered under Chairman’s Announcements

#### 6. Planning Matters

a) To ratify/consider and make observations to the Planning Authority:

- i) 18/01303/FULM (Full application (Major)) – Land North of Bellamour Lane, Colton – Proposed gas fired electricity generating facility (generating up to 49.99MW of electricity) including formation of new access road and associated structures/facilities

- ii) 18/01423/FULM (Full application (Major)) – Land North of Bellamour Lane, Colton – Formation of new access road to serve proposed gas fired electricity generating facility (generating up to 49.99MW of electricity)

Chairman summarised main points made during prior public meeting to discuss these applications mentioning: Stratera's clever use of 2 separate facilities/applications to avoid procedures for 1 larger facility; concerns about emissions, noise and vibrations; lack of publicity and notice given to parishioners; issues about the proposed new access road; potential damage to heritage assets such as Bishton Hall, Bellamour Hall site (archaeological survey not done) and to Cannock Chase AONB and wildlife; scale and appearance of power station and need for landscaping; potential conflict with HS2 traffic at time of construction; need to seek conditions on operating times.

Councillors were asked for their views and consensus was that the applications should be strongly opposed. (Clerk to submit official PC comments by 18<sup>th</sup> October). Everyone at prior meeting had been urged to put in comments to LDC and to base them on the Local Plan. It was hoped that George Burda and Emma Godwin would combine to produce a list of main points or a template as an aid to this.

- iii) 18/01380/FUL – Cregneebar, Hollow Lane, Colton – First floor and single storey rear extension to form utility and bedroom – Clerk to submit 2 sets of comments made by email.

b) To report on decisions of the Planning Authority: None

c) Any other planning matters:

- i) New building at Heavy Plant Services site – Don Winn had responded that it was not a new building, based on looking at images on Google Earth on various dates. This was disputed and so Clerk to ask him to make a site visit.

## 7. Highways & Footpaths

a) Pending. To report on progress of pending issues:

- i) Action on state of roads and pavements around parish – Potholes on Colton Road and elsewhere; Flooding on river bridge and under railway bridge; Flooding on B5013 to Abbots Bromley near Hamley Heath; Roundabout at bottom of High St; Footpath alongside Colton Rd – Martyn Tittley said that he had sent the Clerk a response that day about various chased items including the roundabout, gully clearing and Colton Rd footpath. It was reported that someone had been seen that day looking at the problem of the dropped manhole cover by the railway station. Cones had been put out and it was hoped a repair would be done soon.
- ii) Trees obscuring view at Rugeley Trent Valley station – Sarah Plater had been informed that Network Rail would do something before end Oct.
- iii) Speed of traffic on Bellamour Way and High St – Martyn Tittley said he would follow up previous PC request but speed checks do not normally show a problem with excessive speed.
- iv) Various footpath obstructions and damaged stiles/gates – Parishioner's reports had not yet been actioned and Martyn Tittley said that SCC has no money for such work. However Clerk said Ramblers and local access forum urged people to continue reporting all problems so that there was a true, indisputable record in the event of further budget cuts to rights of way work being proposed.

- v) Letter from parishioner about removal of road sign at Newlands Lane – Clerk had reported an issue with road sign but it was thought it may not actually be a problem. Item to be taken off next agenda (Clerk).
  - vi) Bench at bottom of Martlin Lane – Sarah Plater had asked locally for some quotes for repairs but not yet had any responses.
  - vii) Possible Small Scale Flood Alleviation funding application – Sarah Plater had looked into this but did not think it was feasible for PC to apply and what is available is not of much relevance to us. PC agreed to drop.
- b) Matters arising since last meeting:
- i) Email of 14/9 from Blithfield PC asking for interest in arranging a meeting of local parish councils about the state of the roads to pursue joint action and to discuss other matters of common interest - Clerk was asked to reply supportively. PC would see whether it proved worthwhile as others involved were in East Staffs BC area.
  - ii) Email of 18/9 from Mary Lee as Community Highways Liaison Officer about possible parish visit and meeting – Emma Godwin and Sarah Plater were in the process of arranging a suitable time to meet her.
  - iii) Height signs at Rugeley Trent Valley railway bridge – Following another stuck lorry, Clerk had reported to Highways that signs showed different heights. It was thought that Network Rail may be responsible for them.

8. Village Hall play area - Nothing to report and Clerk to take off agenda now.

#### 9. War Memorial Refurbishment

Parishioner thanked for offer to sort out problem with light and also to fill planters. Sarah Plater had obtained a quote for a curved bench which was very high due to cost of treated oak. It was suggested asking a local firm if they would donate the wood. Sarah Plater was asked to pursue further quotes and bring options to next meeting.

#### 10. Remembrance Day and commemoration of 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of end of WW1

Road closure notice had been obtained and arrangements made for road to be closed at both ends by 2 parishioners. PC wreath had also kindly been ordered on its behalf by David Bradbury.

11. Adoption of phone box – Payment for refurbishment works approved at item 3 so item could now be taken off agenda (Clerk).

#### 12. Correspondence

To consider items of correspondence received:

- a) Calleva Community Energy – Invitation to drop in event on 11<sup>th</sup> October 3pm – 7pm about solar farm at Parchfields Farm (Email, circulated to cllrs) – Noted that farm already had planning approval but it was thought there had been some changes to the design which were now being publicised.
- b) HS2 Ltd – Phase 2A power supply newsletter (Email; circulated to cllrs)
- c) HS2 Ltd – HS2 Phase 2A support for farmers and rural landowners (Post)
- d) Parishioner – HS2 meeting costs at Village Hall should be borne by HS2 and not by PC and its parishioners (Email) – Already noted at item 4.
- e) Produce Guild – Reminder about TGM agreement to replace strimmed tree at Village Hall (Email, taken up with TGM) – Tree to be replaced this month.
- f) SPCA – Weekly bulletins including letter from SCC about its budget and medium term financial strategy (Emails, circulated to cllrs)
- g) CCRPG – Documents for meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September (Email, circulated to cllrs)

- h) LDC – Agenda for Parish Forum meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 7pm and invite from Council Leader for Chairman/Vice Chairman to meet Cabinet members at 6pm (Emails, circulated to cllrs)
- i) Staffordshire Police – Newsletter, October (Email)
- j) SCC – Weekly news updates including pothole repairs (Emails)
- k) LDC – Calendar of Meetings and Forward Plan (Emails)
- l) Rural Services Network – Various bulletins (Emails)

Emma Godwin asked about LDC Forward Plan and cancelled Friarsgate scheme. Martyn Tittley explained that, whilst it had been seen as something of a disaster, it was the developers who had lost money. LDC had acquired the land and he is positive about what will be developed there instead.

### 13. Committees

Burial Ground Committee – Update on any matters arising – John Carter is chasing report on the inspection of the headstones in time for meeting later this month.

### 14. Finance

- a) Report on income and expenditure against 2018/19 budget for 6 months, April to September – Clerk explained that, on trying to update the accounts recently, she had realised that the software was not loaded on new laptop and was awaiting advice from IT lady. Clerk to circulate report once done.
- b) Internal Auditor's comments including revision of standing orders and financial regulations – Clerk had not had time to pursue this yet.
- c) Review of Risk Assessment – Nothing yet heard back from Internal Auditor.
- d) Licence for land at Heathway – Hinson Parry had retained copyright so had to be the ones to make annual updates to licence. However, they had agreed to do free of charge so worth continuing with them in case of any legal changes in future. They had sent copies out to licensee and PC for signature. Item to be kept on agenda until licence update completed and fee received.

### 15. Parish Council matters

- a) Registration of Council land – Access land at Heathway – New licence had recently been sent out to proposed licensee, enclosing copy for landowner, and would need to be followed up if nothing heard (Clerk). Clerk to also chase solicitors about correcting land registration.
- b) Development of new Parish Council website using transparency grant – Clerk had received a telephone training session and had managed to upload some information about this evening's meeting. But further practice and potentially another training session were still needed (Clerk).
- c) General Data Protection Regulation – Information and Data Protection Policy approved following email circulation and review and to now be put on website (Clerk).
- d) Next meeting date – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Martyn Tittley confirmed that SCC is £35 million overspent and was struggling, having already made substantial savings. He said parish councils would have to 'step up to the plate'. Future grass cutting would probably only meet statutory requirements and be 2 cuts per year.

Close of meeting 8:30pm