

**COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY 8th NOVEMBER 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. County Cllr Martyn Tittley arrived at item 10. Also 4 members of public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Mrs Emma Godwin

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: Sarah Plater – item 4 (HS2)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Maximum of 20 mins):

Chairman said that standing orders would be revoked to enable members of the public to participate in agenda items 4 (HS2) and 6 a) i) (Power station application).

Andy Chappell: Re dropped manhole cover (item 7), commented that there are no warning signs (which are mandatory) and the cones do not cover the problem. Very dangerous being on the corner. Thinks it is responsibility of BT but Highways are responsible for chasing up the utility companies. Offered to draft an email referring to legislation. Also, re item 7 a) iv), said that the elevated walkway under Bellamour Lane bridge is overgrown with brambles, which are a tripping hazard.

Sarah Plater offered to report the pathway. Clerk to chase up re the manhole cover. Sarah Plater said that it had been raised during meeting with Highways Liaison Officer Mary Lee and chased up several times already.

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

1. Minutes of meeting held on 11th October 2018 were approved and signed.
2. Chairman's Announcements

Chairman had collected wreath for Remembrance service and Martyn Tittley was to leave his wreath with a parishioner as unable to attend Colton service. Chairman also offered thanks to Bill Brown and Laura Crompton and others involved in the production of the special commemorative edition of the parish magazine, which she felt was an exceptional edition and fine record. Chairman asked that if any spare copies were available they be sent to the Imperial War Museum, Stafford archives and Civic Voice.

3. Payments

a) To approve the following payments:

i)	1712	Colton Village Hall – Room hire, November	£12.00
ii)	1713	Trent Grounds Maintenance – Grass cutting at Village Hall - 1 cut in Oct (92.00); Various verges - 1 cut in Oct (95.00) plus VAT (37.40)	£224.40
iii)	1714	LDC – Annual playground inspection	£62.40
iv)	1715	Terry Bailey – Grass cutting at Stockwell Heath pond - 4 cuts, July - Oct	£68.00
v)	1716	Alison James – Clerk's salary, Nov (222.06); Home working exps, 4 weeks, 13 Oct – 9 Nov (16.00); Mileage, July – Sept (56.70)	£294.76

(Total payments above, to approve this month = £661.56)

All the payments were approved as listed.

4. HS2

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

Andy Chappell had drafted email to Rachna Shah, which Clerk had now sent to follow up various issues. Email should also be sent to Sarah Mallen and

Martyn Tittley for Highways to ensure pressure is kept on all parties. Felt that HS2 Ltd are paying lip service to what was agreed at the Select Committee and not picking up the importance of the kerb design at the under bridge at Newlands Lane. By extension, this is also needed at the bridge on B5013 and all bridges around the country.

Ken Rider said he had corresponded recently with Rachna Shah about the power line and whether it would run from Newborough or Rugeley Power Station. He had been told Jeremy Croxall would respond. Also said he went to a recent Abbots Bromley parish council meeting where they are putting together an action group. Chairman of SCC had turned up to answer questions. Thought it may be included in the additional provisions bill and that may be laid shortly before Christmas, to reduce consultation time! Did not think it had yet been decided where power would come from but if not from Rugeley, then the required sub-station would be the size of 5 football pitches.

b) Agreement with HS2 for survey access at Stockwell Heath

Clerk had received letter from Hinson Parry saying that HS2 were now proposing to make any access payments direct, rather than via agents.

c) Any other HS2 matters - None

5. Police matters

Recent burglaries in Hollow Lane and Bellamour Way – Had been distressing for those concerned. The criminals had been seen around the village, knocking on doors and if someone had answered they had pretended to ask for directions etc. Matt Crompton said the police's first question had been whether anyone had CCTV but, on this occasion, no-one had any footage of the men. He encouraged everyone to consider having CCTV for their own property. The police will use as evidence if it is a serious criminal offence such as this (but not for something like dog fouling). A parishioner reported that PC Alison Lewis and a PCSO had attended church coffee morning and were taking the crime seriously and following up about security. They advised that if someone comes to the door like that again, ring 101 and report it.

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 and 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) – Further information added and LDC Planning Committee issues report seen.

Chairman had brought along a copy of the issues report put to LDC Planning Committee for anyone who wanted to see it. The PC had submitted its objections and also a number of residents and Chairman was pleased to see that the Statera application near Kendal had been turned down. Questions had been put to planning officer Michael Brown about concerns with the planning portal.

Andy Chappell said that he had prepared a briefing presentation for the Clerk, which he suggested should be sent to all LDC councillors. It was important to oppose the application on planning criteria and demonstrate that the Statera proposal does not comply with the Lichfield District Local Plan nor Colton Parish

Plan. Another parishioner had taken photos near the site for him, showing the overhead power line and giving a clearer idea of the height of the building and its stacks and how the proposed landscaping will not mitigate the visual impact for a long time, if at all. Also, the 2 connections to the power lines will be big structures and on higher ground and are not presented in the Statera application.

Andy Chappell had attended the LDC Planning Committee with 2 other parishioners and had a useful conversation with Michael Brown afterwards. LDC and Stafford Borough Council are commissioning landscape impact surveys. Andy also said later that there were lots of inaccuracies in the LDC planning issues report.

PC agreed that Andy Chappell's presentation be sent to all LDC councillors (Clerk).

Chairman commented that as LDC member, she has to be very careful how she acts to ensure that she can still speak against the application in committee. She and the applicant would be allowed to speak and also 1 other person, so the Colton community needs to decide who else should be chosen to speak on its behalf.

It was noted that there had been a confidential pre-application from Statera earlier in the year at a site slightly further east but LDC did not disclose details.

Chairman thanked those present for their interest and thorough research and compilation of information and noted that there would be something included in the parish magazine.

- ii) 18/01503/FUL – 7 Martlin Lane, Colton – Installation of 1 new window to rear, serving kitchen – Nil return submitted
 - iii) 18/01240/FUL – Hamley Heath Barn, Jonghams Lane, Hamley Heath – First floor extension to side – Amended plans lodged – No further comments to be made as believed amendments had resolved concerns.
 - iv) 18/01580/OHL (Overhead electricity lines) – Newlands Grange, Newlands Lane, Blithbury – Replacement of 13 spans of Low Voltage Overhead Line and 15 poles
- b) To report on decisions of the Planning Authority: None received by Clerk but Sarah Plater reported that the application for stables on Blithbury Road had been approved.
- c) Any other planning matters:
- i) New building at Heavy Plant Services site – After further PC comments, Don Winn had subsequently confirmed that the building was additional to approved plans and a new application was needed for it.
 - ii) Commencement of works at Cedar Cottage, Bellamour Way – Clerk had passed on concerns to LDC as to whether approval conditions were being met e.g. whether traffic management plan in place, and in particular the working hours. Although these were thought to have improved, Peter Gittens had promised to speak to Planning Officer and update PC.

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; Dropped manhole cover by railway station; 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 – Largely discussed under Public Participation and awaiting Martyn Tittley.
 - ii) Trees obscuring view at Rugeley Trent Valley station – Sarah Plater had followed up as not cut back as promised by end October.

- iii) Speed of traffic on Bellamour Way and High St – Agreed to take off agenda as realistically SCC would not do in current financial situation.
 - iv) Various footpath obstructions and damaged stiles/gates – Those reported by parishioner remained unresolved.
 - v) Bench at bottom of Martlin Lane – Sarah Plater reported that 1 quote had been received using seasoned oak but 2nd quote had not materialised. PC agreed that a 2nd quote should be obtained and if it was under £750 then discretion was given to Sarah Plater and Matt Crompton to choose contractor to get work done.
 - vi) Email from Blithfield PC about meeting of local parish councils to pursue action on roads etc. – Clerk had responded with PC interest in being involved but no further response or arrangements received yet.
 - vii) Meeting with Community Highways Liaison Officer, Mary Lee – Sarah Plater and Emma Godwin had met Mary Lee in the parish and discussed various issues. It had been a nice meeting but had not yet achieved any positive results.
 - viii) Height signs at Rugeley Trent Valley railway bridge – Believed that Martyn Tittley had sent an email to Network Rail during the previous PC meeting.
- b) Matters arising since last meeting:
- i) Parking on pavement by Blue Wall alongside Colton Rd – Previously the police have said that they can issue notices if cars are obstructing. However, when this specific problem was reported by Clerk a couple of years ago, they said it was better than the cars parking on the road! However, Chairman reiterated that no one can get passed on the pavement now and there are many more cars parking there now, so Clerk to go back to Police again.

8. War Memorial Refurbishment

Chairman thanked everyone who had been involved in work or finance, which had resulted in a superb refurbishment. It was pointed out that the contractor was still due the retention amount so Clerk to check with Mike Pyle that he was happy for it to be paid now. Sarah Plater had pursued options for a bench inside War Memorial and Goulds had agreed to supply wood free of charge. 2 quotes had been obtained and PC agreed to go ahead with one from David Wilson.

9. Remembrance Sunday and commemoration of 100th anniversary of end of WW1

As discussed previously, there was to be the usual morning service at the War Memorial and then an evening service at the church to specially commemorate the 100th anniversary, with bells to be rung afterwards as part of national event.

10. Correspondence

To consider items of correspondence received:

- a) SPCA – Invitation and papers, including Annual Report, for SPCA AGM on Monday 3rd December at 7pm in Stafford, including address from Chief Executive of NALC (Post)
- b) LDC – Creation of land ownership GIS layer and collection of land and property ownership data from parish councils (Email, circulated to cllrs)
- c) LDC – Order form for copy of parish's Register of Electors and updates (Email)
- d) Staffordshire Police – Online chat hosted by local officers and open to all Lichfield District residents, Tuesday 13th November at 7pm at <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/lichfield>

- e) SCC – Information about survey work for HS2 to be carried out in various areas around Lichfield in November by Cadent Gas and by Balfour Beatty (Emails, circulated to cllrs)
- f) CCRPG – Minutes of meeting held on 25th September and notification of next meeting on Tuesday 27th November (Email, circulated to cllrs)
- g) St Mary’s Church – Note of thanks for PC contribution to special November edition of parish magazine (Email)
- h) SPCA – Weekly bulletins (Emails, circulated to cllrs)
- i) Civic Voice – War Memorials News (Email)
- j) SCC – Weekly news updates including pothole repairs (Emails)

Martyn Tittley, having arrived at this item, stated that he had chased up Highways items including the roundabout at the bottom of High St and would continue to do so.

- k) LDC – Calendar of Meetings (Emails)
- l) Rural Services Network – Various bulletins (Emails)

11. Committees

Burial Ground Committee – Update after October meeting

Clerk had received letter from current groundsman quoting a substantial price increase. As PC needed to set its budget for next year before the next committee meeting in January, BGC members would be consulted by email as to what they wished to do (Clerk/Sarah Plater).

12. Finance

- a) Update on accounts processing including report of income and expenditure against 2018/19 budget – Clerk had not been able to produce an up to date report because the accounts package Quicken was no longer supported in the UK so not available on the new laptop. She had made enquiries of Alan Toplis about other accounts packages and had also obtained a spreadsheet system from another clerk. In view of cost of accounts packages, Clerk would try to compile the figures using Excel and circulate report before the budget meeting.
- b) Setting of budget and precept request for 2019/20 – It was agreed that the next PC meeting would be brought forward to Thursday 6th December and have an earlier start at 6pm, with the budget discussion meeting following immediately afterwards. Clerk to notify editor for parish magazine diary.
- c) Internal Auditor’s comments including revision of standing orders and financial regulations – Clerk had started to amend NALC’s template for standing orders, incorporating specific details from the existing orders. But template is 20+ pages long and is much more detailed. Some elements followed legislative changes which needed to be retained but others could perhaps be omitted. Clerk to circulate a draft to cllrs.
- d) Review of Risk Assessment – Comments received from Internal Auditor, which included that any groundsman/contractor must have PLI. Sarah Plater said that current groundsman had confirmed he did have PLI and was sending a copy to Clerk. Risk assessment document to be confirmed and put on website (Clerk).
- e) Licence for land at Heathway – Clerk had contacted licensee about exchanging signed copies of the licence and obtaining fee due and was awaiting response.

13. Parish Council matters

- a) Fallen branches by pond at Stockwell Heath – Clerk had received 1 quote, which was a bit higher than expected and Matt Crompton had asked another

contractor for a quote. Shirley Barnett provided details of another contractor who had done work for other local parish councils (Clerk to pursue). PC would wait for alternative quotes and check with residents before deciding whether to just have broken branch removed or to also get tree pollarded.

- b) Registration of Council land – Access land at Heathway – Sarah Plater offered to contact the parties who had been sent the new licence for the access land, as no response received by Clerk who was uncertain if address was correct. Clerk had chased up response from solicitors about land registration and they had queried why PC thought they should rectify at their own expense. Clerk to consult Emma Godwin.
- c) Development of new Parish Council website using transparency grant – Clerk to give priority to familiarising herself with the process for making updates and add additional documents.
- d) Next SLCC branch meeting on Thursday 13th December, 10.30 – 12.30 in Uttoxeter – Clerk hoped to attend if PC agreed to time being spent.
- e) Next meeting – Thursday December 6th at 6pm (NB 1st Thursday of month and earlier start time) for PC meeting and budget discussion meeting.

Close of meeting 8:50pm