

**COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY 10th JANUARY 2019,
COLTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Acting Chairman Mrs Shirley Barnett, Cllrs Mrs Sarah Plater and Matt Crompton, County Cllr Martyn Tittley (part of meeting only) and Clerk Alison James. 8 members of public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Mrs Emma Godwin

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: Matt Crompton – item 4 c) re HS2 power lines

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Maximum of 20 mins):

Chairman explained that standing orders would be revoked for items 4 and 6a) to enable members of the public to participate and these items were largely brought forward for discussion at this point.

Gas power station (item 6 a)) – Chairman thanked Ken Rider for the paper which he had drafted and submitted to the PC, explaining and correcting errors in the Issues Paper put to LDC's Planning Committee. It was important to correct errors to ensure any decision was made on the basis of accurate information. Chairman invited Ken Rider to make any further comments and he felt the paper was self-explanatory and it was for the PC to decide if it should be sent. If sent, he raised the question as to who it should be sent to.

Andy Chappell said he was waiting to see Statera's revisions to the Landscape Visual Impact Assessment document following stringent criticism from the planning consultant engaged by LDC and SBC who, in particular, said the impact should have been assessed as if a 100MW power station. Chairman asked Andy Chappell to share any comments he makes with the Clerk, when he had seen any revisions.

Parishioner: Fed up with the traffic lights by the station but could see they are needed for safety as the dropped manhole cover could kill a motorcyclist. Also noted that footfall to the station has increased again and with improved services and more carriages on certain services being introduced from May, parking and access is going to become more problematic.

Parishioner: Re footpaths (item 7 a) iii)), still waiting for some repairs to be done and keeps monitoring. Urged anyone out walking to report online to SCC if they find a problem. Also would like issue with Footpath 28 to be kept on the agenda.

It was suggested that an article, asking everyone to report online, be included in the parish magazine (**Clerk**).

HS2 (item 4) – Andy Chappell referred to email sent to Sarah Mallen and reply received from Rachna Shah, following up points on Colton's petition that still required pressure and needed to be monitored. Also, regarding potential power lines from Newborough 'Park Gate', he had just circulated more widely the minutes received from Abbots Bromley's first meeting on this, which he had attended. 3 councillors had responded that they felt the PC should not take part in those meetings and Andy said he would now withdraw from the group as aware of a conflict of loyalties.

Parishioner: Regarding traffic lights by station, he had seen conversations on Facebook where a Brereton parish councillor had said that Severn Trent Water thought their work was done and it was over to SCC now. He had responded to make it clear to them that work still needs to be done by STW.

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

1. Minutes of PC meeting and budget discussion meeting held on 6th December 2018

Clerk had revised the circulated draft minutes to take account of comments received from Emma Godwin. Revised minutes were approved and signed.

2. Chairman's Announcements

3 additional planning applications had been received since the agenda was issued, with deadline for comments to LDC being before the February meeting. These were an extension at Parchfields Farm; amendment to solar farm at Parchfields Farm; revised opening hours at The Yorkshireman. Once **CLRs** had had time to look at the application details, they should send any comments to **Clerk** to submit.

3. Payments

a) To approve the following payments:

i)	1721	Colton Village Hall – Room hire (Dec & Jan)	£24.00
ii)	1722	Stephen Perkin – Maintenance of Closed Burial Ground, Oct - Dec	£144.00
iii)	1723	Petty cash	£50.00
iv)	1724	HMRC – Payroll taxes, Oct – Dec	£191.56
v)	1725	Alison James – Clerk's salary, Jan (222.06); Home working exps, 4 weeks, 8 Dec – 11 Jan excluding Xmas week (16.00); Mileage, Oct – Dec (53.10)	£291.16

(Total payments above, to approve this month = £700.72)

All the payments were approved as listed.

4. HS2

- a) Update on response to petition – A response needs to be considered to the email sent recently by Rachna Shah.
- b) Agreement with HS2 for survey access at Stockwell Heath – Clerk confirmed £170 had now been received in the bank account from HS2 via Hinson Parry. **Clerk** to check with Hinson Parry about the further £1,000 thought to be due from the new licence agreement.
- c) Any other HS2 matters – Power lines; Additional Provisions deposit – No further discussion on this.

5. Police matters – Nothing to report.

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) – Update on any developments and further action required.
Further to discussions during Public Participation, PC agreed that Ken Rider's paper should be sent to the LDC planning officer, Michael Brown and other potential copy recipients were discussed. **Councillors** to send suggestions to **Clerk** to then issue paper. Chairman confirmed that the application was not listed for Planning Committee on 14th January and not likely to be listed for its February meeting either.

- ii) 18/01678/FUL – Hurst Wood Farm, Blithbury Road, Colton – Two storey extension to side to extend kitchen and form dining area and sun lounge, and form one bedroom and extend existing bedroom; installation of porch to front – No comments made (Clerk to submit).
 - iii) 18/01680/FUL – Fuchsias, Hollow Lane, Colton – Conversion of existing garage to form sitting room – No comments made (Clerk to submit).
- b) To report on decisions of the Planning Authority – No list received from LDC. Sarah Plater confirmed no recent decisions on LDC website.
- c) Any other planning matters:
- i) Works at Cedar Cottage, Bellamour Way – Take off agenda now (Clerk).
 - ii) Works at Heavy Plant Services, Colton Rd – Clerk had passed on councillors’ concerns about state of wall to LDC who had been to look at it and said they would be following it up.

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; Roadsweeping –
- This item was taken early as Martyn Tittley had to leave for another council’s meeting. Re the collapsed manhole by the station, he explained that a replacement cover was being fabricated. The original was probably Victorian and so replacements were not readily available and were probably being made abroad. SCC put in the traffic lights for safety reasons and STW are being fined for the privilege of having them. He stressed they were doing all they could to get it repaired as soon as possible.
- Re footpaths, he echoed the comments during Public Participation about reporting any problems, to try to protect the budget when the cuts come in April. SCC are £35 million overspent and there will be swingeing cuts, because of the need to meet statutory requirements for services for vulnerable people and children.
- He said he had also followed up the issue of cars parking by the Blue Wall, forcing pedestrians to walk in the road. He had emailed Highways and would contact SCC’s Enforcement Officer to ask him to send traffic wardens out to ticket the cars during the day. He said that the idea of installing bollards was unlikely to happen in the short term due to budget issues.
- Chairman added that LDC had said that roadsweeping, including pavements, was scheduled for February and they had also been asked to look at the road condition down by the temporary traffic lights.
- ii) Trees obscuring view at Rugeley Trent Valley station – These had now been cut down rather than the trimming originally requested!
 - iii) Various footpath obstructions and damaged stiles/gates – Nothing further to add to comments made during Public Participation.
 - iv) Bench at bottom of Martlin Lane – Matt Crompton reported that he had been able to source the timber at a better price and suggested investing in stainless steel bolts for durability. He offered to do the work to fit the slats and drill in the bolts. PC authorised up to £300 to be spent by Matt Crompton and Sarah Plater on materials for this.
 - v) Parking on pavement by Blue Wall alongside Colton Rd – see 7 a) i).
- b) Matters arising since last meeting: None

8. War Memorial Refurbishment

Sarah Plater suggested chasing up quotes for the new blue bricks at the back and for the additional tarmac at the foot of the memorial by the road. The bench, to be donated by the PC, was currently being made by the chosen contractor in the village and Goulds had kindly donated the wood (**Clerk** to write letter of thanks for this and work on Stockwell Heath willow)

9. Correspondence

To consider items of correspondence received:

- a) SCC – Consultation about Community Funded School Crossing Patrols (Email) and enquiry from Whittington and Fisherwick Parish Council about other councils' responses (Email, circulated to cllrs)
- b) SPCA – Weekly bulletins (Emails, circulated to cllrs) including news of Local Government Finance Settlement and that council tax referendum principles will not be extended to parish councils in 2019/20
- c) LDC – Settlement Sustainability Study, looking at range of services and facilities available in towns and villages (Email; Clerk replied to confirm Colton details)
- d) LDC – Consultations on modifications to Local Plan Allocations; Sustainable Design Supplementary Planning Document; Statement of Community Involvement (Emails with links, but all info available on LDC website)
- e) SCC – Weekly news updates (Emails)
- f) LDC – Calendar of Meetings (Emails)
- g) Rural Services Network – Various bulletins (Emails)

Sarah Plater restated her offer to help the Clerk sort through old PC papers.

10. Committees

Burial Ground Committee – Any updates before next meeting on 30th January – Chairman reported that pillar by entrance to Closed BG is broken and she had offered an old pillar from her own house if it was suitable, to save money. The cherry tree by the entrance to the Closed BG was to be felled the following week as recommended by Gareth Hare. Arrangements had been made for the timber to go to Rev Anne Noble, who had kindly offered a donation.

11. Finance

- a) Update on accounts processing – Clerk had sought advice on preferred accounts packages from other clerks at the recent SLCC branch meeting and would further investigate the package Scribe, whilst maintaining this year's accounts in Excel spreadsheets.
- b) Setting of budget and precept request for 2019/20 – Following the budget discussion meeting in December, the draft budget spreadsheet had been circulated to cllrs, with no further comments received. **Clerk** had prepared the precept request form, for signature at the end of this meeting and submission to LDC before deadline of 25th January.
- c) Formal instruction of TGM for 2019 grass cutting work – Sarah Plater reported that she was waiting for some final prices from TGM for cutting of some extra areas. So it was agreed to wait for those before sending formal instruction.
- d) Internal Auditor's comments including revision of standing orders and financial regulations – **Clerk** to progress revision of standing orders, for discussion with Alan Toplis during his interim audit visit later this month.

- e) Grazing licence for land at Heathway – Clerk confirmed receipt of 4 months’ fee from licensee, as agreed, and commitment to pay monthly in advance hereafter. Copy of licence signed by PC to be sent to licensee requesting his signed copy for PC records (Clerk).

12. Parish Council matters

- a) Willow tree by pond at Stockwell Heath – Goulds had very kindly offered to remove the fallen branch & pollard the tree free of charge (Clerk to thank).
- b) Registration of Council land – Access land at Heathway – Clerk to contact solicitor again re completing registration. No reply or fee had been received for the new access licence so letters to be sent to tenant and adjacent landowner with 1 month deadline (Clerk).
- c) New Parish Council website – Clerk had still to work out how to add certain documents. It was also suggested Clerk ask Emma Godwin what best to do with the old website, including arranging redirection to the new site.
- d) Arrangements for local elections in May – Publicity; May PC meeting date – SPCA had provided templates to publicise elections. Clerk to supply an advert seeking candidates as councillors for the parish magazine.
- e) Next meeting – Thursday 14th February 2019 at 7pm

Close of meeting 8:25pm