

**COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2019,
COLTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Acting Chairman Mrs Shirley Barnett, Cllrs Mrs Sarah Plater, Mrs Emma Godwin and Matt Crompton and Clerk Alison James. New councillors Noel Talbot and Steve Jenkinson. 6 members of the public also present.

APOLOGIES: None

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: Emma Godwin – items 6, 15 (d)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Maximum of 20 mins):

Chairman announced that agenda items 6 (HS2) and 8 a) i) would be taken early and opened to public discussion.

Andy Chappell: More information had been received from HS2 about additional provisions. There had been only a slight change at Newlands Lane with an extra section of land required for switching for the new connection to Parkgate. AP2 changes related to the connection to the line at Hanch. There had been no reference to changes in footpaths as covered in the Colton petition and response. Had also received information about regional Highways groups and it was important to get representation and put our views across e.g. about flood mitigation. Emma Godwin had found and circulated a paper about the change of power connection from Rugeley to Parkgate, which contained much useful information. Believed, from Michael Fabricant's comments, that Cannock Chase District Council have supported that change – presumably because the landowners wish to see housing developments at Rugeley. So overall there remained quite a few things to keep an eye on.

Emma Godwin added that an HS2 meeting at Mavesyn Ridware had made a Freedom of Information request asking for numbers of lorries crossing roads.

Ken Rider: Re the gas power station, there is a chance that it will come before the Planning Committee in March or soon. Need to ensure that someone is properly briefed to be the one allowed representative. Also had just seen planning officer's response to his paper submitted by PC and said it was not a good enough reply. Maps included showed that planning officer had relied on a desktop survey, which is wrong. Had checked the area and no-one knows of any sewage pumping station on Bellamour Lane. Offered to prepare some further written comments for the PC to consider forwarding.

PC thanked him and would welcome his comments, to be sent to **Clerk** for submission.

Parishioner: Had no updates on resolution of various reported footpath issues but asked for the item to be kept on the agenda. Emma Godwin had seen some notices on footpaths at the top of the High St and on Blithbury Rd but it was not known what they related to.

Parishioner: Re item 15 d), asked that the PC representatives on the Parish Lands Trust report back so parishioners can hear what is happening on PLT.

Andy Chappell: Re power station, had done a paper which he had sent to PC earlier that day. Intends to submit to LDC as a formal objection himself but would have more clout if it came also from the PC. Ofgem had recently said that country does not need more generating plants but more effective use of existing system. Also, battery storage technology has developed massively since the EN-1 report, on which Statera had based their business case. Use of battery storage would not require location by a gas main, such as in Bellamour Lane, but could use an existing site e.g. Rugeley power station.

Parishioner: Re War Memorial, timing switch for lights had been replaced and does appear to be working but suggests monitoring. Also commented on the problem of the cars parking on the pavement by the Blue Wall, with 10 being there one day. Suggested CCRPG could use their contacts with operators.

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

1. Minutes of meeting held on 10th January 2019 were approved and signed.
2. Co-options of new councillors Noel Talbot and Steve Jenkinson

Chairman was pleased to have 2 new councillors and warmly welcomed them.

3. Declarations of acceptance of office and register of interest

Declarations of acceptance of office were signed by the 2 councillors and the Clerk as Proper Officer. Register of Interest forms had been supplied and needed to be completed and sent to LDC within 28 days (*They were completed at the end of the meeting*).

4. Chairman's Announcements

Chairman had recently sent sympathy cards from the PC and BGC respectively to Sue Pope and John Carter. Information had been sent about LDC's Local Plan and change to bin collection arrangements to the editor for the Parish News. Finally, the PC had been notified in the last few days that an invoice for a safety check on the old playground in spring 2018 remained unpaid and legal action was being threatened. At the time of instruction, the PC had agreed with the VHMC that it would pay the bill from its 2017-18 budget allocation for playground maintenance. Whilst the VHMC chairman was disputing whether the quoted work had been done, after some discussion the PC agreed that the bill for £200 plus VAT should be paid as it was addressed to the PC and was so long overdue that it was difficult to confirm and challenge the exact circumstances (Clerk to arranged cheque for signature tonight, to be ratified next meeting).

5. Payments

- a) To approve the following payments:

i)	1726	Colton Village Hall – Room hire (Feb)	£12.00
ii)	1727	Jack Hall – Felling of tree in Closed BG	£250.00
iii)	1728	Alison James – Clerk's salary, Feb (222.06); Home working exps, 5 weeks, 12 Jan – 15 Feb (20.00); Reimbursement for set of 4 printer cartridges (33.17)	£275.23

(Total payments above, to approve this month = £537.23)

The above payments were all approved.

6. HS2

- a) Update on response to petition – Discussed under Public Participation but noted that under the Additional Provisions, there is opportunity for further petitioning.
- b) Proposed Highways Sub-Group and annual meeting with parish councils – Nothing further to Public Participation.
- c) Agreement with HS2 for survey access at Stockwell Heath – Hinson Parry had confirmed that £1,000 is still owed by HS2 for the further survey access agreement and were going to contact the Access Manager. They had said there had been problems for clients actually getting their money from HS2 and suggested that if access is requested, it could be withheld pending receipt of the payment. Clerk to chase with Hinson Parry.

- d) Any other HS2 matters – Power lines; Additional Provisions deposit – Nothing further to Public Participation discussion.

7. Police matters

Police engagement information from Marisha Place – A specimen report had been circulated previously and a report received this afternoon for this meeting, from which the Clerk read brief extracts. Clerk to contact Marisha Place asking for earlier receipt for future meetings, to enable prior circulation to councillors.

8. 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) – Additional consultation and documents uploaded and any further action required – Chairman thanked all those who had been working hard on researching and responding to this application on behalf of the parish.
 - ii) 19/00002/FUL – The Yorkshireman Inn, Colton Road, Colton – Variation of condition 4 of application 16/00739/COU relating to opening times – Clarification sought from LDC and no comments then submitted. It was confirmed that the application sought only a 1 hour extension in the evening on Mondays to Thursdays.
 - iii) 19/00010/FULH – Parchfields Farm, Colton Road, Colton – Single storey extension to side and rear to form lounge, kitchen, bathroom and one bedroom – No comments submitted.
 - iv) 19/00019/FULM – Parchfields Farm, Colton Road, Colton – Variation of conditions 2,7 and 9 of permission 15/00834/FULM relating to approved plans, landscaping and flood risk assessment – No comments submitted
 - v) 18/00819/FUL – 9 Littlehay Manor, Colton – Replacement of hawthorn hedge and rail fence with stone pillars and feather edge board fencing and replacement of existing gate with solid wooden gate – Additional information uploaded. This was an amendment to the application submitted last year.
- b) To report on decisions of the Planning Authority – No further list received from LDC. It was noted that there had been problems accessing and finding information on LDC's planning website.
- c) Any other planning matters:
 - i) Works at Heavy Plant Services, Colton Rd – LDC had responded about safety of the Blue Wall but had not replied to concerns that concrete panels had been used on the Heavy Plant site, which did not comply with the planning approval. Clerk to contact Planning Officer to restate concerns about inadequacy of panels when they had been backfilled and heavy plant would be used above.
 - ii) Conservation Area permitted development rights – A concern had been queried with Planning, who said that certain developments were allowed unless permitted development rights had been withdrawn for that property. Clerk to check again with Planning Dept.

9. 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 –
Some progress as dropped manhole cover had finally been replaced but there had been flooding recently because of all the debris left on the road. The roundabout at the bottom of High St had been resurfaced. **Emma Godwin** said she would raise the flooding on the river bridge with Mary Lee. Sarah Plater said the footpath alongside Colton Rd was staying on her list as had still not been done.
- ii) Various footpath obstructions and damaged stiles/gates – Nothing further to report.
- iii) Bench at bottom of Martlin Lane – Still being progressed.
- iv) Parking on pavement by Blue Wall alongside Colton Rd/Proposed site meeting with Highways – Site meeting between councillors and Highways (Tim Heminsley) arranged for the following Tuesday.
- b) Matters arising since last meeting:
 - i) Gritting – Emma Godwin had raised this as certain roads had not been gritted prior to the first snow and ice, but they were gritted later. As before, only certain routes are gritted by Highways and that does not include High St. That was raised with Highways a year or so ago. Noel Talbot commented that High St is more dangerous and asked how much it would cost to have it gritted. **Clerk** to ask Highways.
 - ii) Complaints about mud build-up on Newlands Lane – Mary Lee had asked for information which Emma Godwin had promptly responded to. Mud was due to beet harvesting but would dissipate.
 - iii) Update on Footpath 28 – Paul Rochfort at SCC had said that Bagshaws were looking into possibilities on behalf of the landowner.

10. War Memorial Refurbishment - Light now appeared to be working correctly.

11. Mobile post office services

Emma Godwin had raised this as Abbots Bromley now had a mobile service. Clerk had sought further information from Royal Mail, whose reply was unhelpful. **Emma Godwin** offered to follow up as she had a contact phone number.

12. Correspondence

To consider items of correspondence received:

- a) Blithfield PC – Invitation to meeting of local councils about common SCC issues on Weds 6th March at 7pm at Admaston (Email, circulated to cllrs) – Idea of meeting was that councils might have more clout if they banded together, though many of the other councils were in East Staffs. **Sarah Plater**, and possibly Shirley Barnett, had offered to attend to see whether the meeting was of any value.
- b) LDC – Information about new Objective Connect system for secure document exchange for elections etc. (Email)
- c) LDC - Local Plan Review: Preferred Options and Policy Directions consultation, open until 18th March, and drop-in sessions (Email, circulated to cllrs)
- d) LDC – New website for information about plans for the Birmingham Road site in Lichfield (Email, circulated to cllrs)
- e) CCRPG – Papers for meeting on 29th January (Email, circulated to cllrs) – **Clerk** to send to Noel Talbot for consideration.

- f) SCC – Final ‘Staffordshire in the Great War’ conference: Reflections, on Saturday 30th March in Stafford (Email, circulated to various organisations and individuals)
- g) SCC – Survey about ‘Highways your way’ website (Email; survey completed by Clerk)
- h) Keep Britain Tidy – Seeking council support for The Great British Spring Clean, 22nd March – 23rd April (Email)
- i) Community Foundation for Staffordshire – Information about Best Kept Village Competition 2019 (Email)
- j) SPCA – Weekly bulletins (Emails, circulated to cllrs) including unchanged subscription for 19/20; SCC to continue funding of school crossing patrols for time being; Parliamentary Report on Standards in Public Life
- k) SCC – Weekly news updates (Emails)
- l) LDC – Calendar of Meetings (Emails)
- m) Rural Services Network – Various bulletins (Emails)

13. Committees

Burial Ground Committee – Report of meeting held on 30th January – Main issue was that of unsafe memorials and how to alert the appropriate relatives to the need for remedial works. Article to be put in Parish News. John Carter is pursuing possible repair of Closed BG cast iron gate post. TGM will be taking over the grass cutting from 1st April.

14. Finance

- a) Report on interim audit on 25th January – Clerk reported that internal auditor was happy with interim accounts. He would be arranging transparency check of new website before year end audit arranged for 24th May.
- b) Update on accounts processing – Clerk had received favourable quote for use of RBS Alpha system due to her use of Omega at another council. But still needs to see demo of Scribe, which was recommended by other Staffs clerks (Clerk).
- c) Setting of budget and precept request for 2019/20 – Request was submitted by Clerk and acknowledged by LDC. LDC’s increase in council tax not yet known.
- d) Formal instruction of TGM for 2019 grass cutting work – Sarah Plater had supplied a draft email and table of all requirements and quotes, which Clerk needed to send on.
- e) Internal Auditor’s comments including revision of standing orders and financial regulations - Clerk had discussed further with Alan Toplis, who had agreed that NALC template for standing orders was rather extensive for a small PC. However, it was agreed that for ease, Clerk should use the NALC template and make minor revisions where required.
- f) Grazing licence for land at Heathway – Clerk confirmed further monthly payment had been made by licensee. However, his signed copy of licence not yet received so Sarah Plater/Clerk to chase.

15. Parish Council matters

- a) Registration of Council land – Access land at Heathway – Clerk had written again to solicitor but would contact again and Emma Godwin offered to help explain details. It was agreed that solicitor should be retained and, despite belief that an oversight had been made, if necessary be paid to complete the work for speed.

- b) New Parish Council website – Clerk reported that she was able to make the regular monthly amendments but might require further training for ad-hoc amendments. PC approved that training be obtained as required, using the remainder of the NALC transparency grant which was earmarked for that.
- c) Arrangements for local elections in May – Publicity; May PC meeting date – There will be specified procedures to apply for re-election and details should be appearing on the LDC website soon. LDC had recently notified of a briefing session for candidates and clerks on 6th March, which unfortunately clashed with the Blithfield PC meeting discussed earlier. Clerk explained that due to legal requirements and timescales for summoning councillors, the May PC meeting could not be held on the second Thursday of the month as usual. The meeting was rearranged for the third Thursday of the month, 16th May. Clerk to update diary and rearrange village hall booking.
- d) PC representatives on Parish Lands Trust – PLT Clerk had asked if PC were happy for the 2 existing PC representatives Sue Pope and Tony Winter to continue for a further 4 year term. PC agreed but asked Clerk to remind them that PC would like a regular report from its representatives.
- e) Arrangements for Parish Assembly – To be held on Thursday 11th April so Clerk to issue usual invitations.
- f) Training courses and SLCC branch meeting – Clerk had provided information to new councillors about SPCA's upcoming Local Councillor training course. It was commented that reading the Good Councillor's Guide was probably just as good. Clerk hoping to attend next SLCC branch meeting on 14th March.
- g) Next meeting (provisional) – Thursday 14th March 2019 at 7pm

Clerk to check requirements for updating Register of Interests and to ensure completeness of councillors' information on PC website and LDC website.

Close of meeting 8:50pm