

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

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

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Mrs Emma Godwin and Steve Jenkinson

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Maximum of 20 mins):

Chairman explained that, as previously, agenda items 4 and 6 would be opened here to Public Participation to enable members of public present to contribute.

Andy Chappell – Re item 6 a) i) on gas power station, Highways had recently stated that the required heavy loads for construction could not go over Blithfield Reservoir due to the weakness of the bridge. Although the date for the determination meeting has not yet been announced, thinks that Colton should agree what they will say, possibly by means of a meeting of the key individuals beforehand. It would help to know what Shirley Barnett, as District Councillor and a member of LDC's Planning Committee, is allowed to say. Also thanked Clerk for editing and submitting Ken Rider's and his papers of points on the planning application, although there had initially been a problem with them appearing on the LDC website, now resolved.

Shirley Barnett responded that the previous planning meeting on 11th March was cancelled due to lack of business, with next meeting scheduled for 8th April. She said she would explain at item 6 on the agenda what she is able to say and do at Planning Committee. She thanked Andy Chappell and Ken Rider for their efforts and thoroughness in researching issues and providing drafts for PC to submit.

Andy Chappell – Re item 4 on HS2, assurances were given by the Select Committee about linking footpaths and mitigation measures re Newlands Lane substation. But could not find any mention in Additional Provision 2, so need to keep on to Sarah Mallen at SCC to ensure these items are not overlooked. Nothing yet heard about dates for the promised Highways group and need to ensure our interests are not forgotten. Also still have interest in safety on B5013 and the potential for higher speeds when cars hit the bends near Hamley Heath.

Parishioner: Would like to hear update on parking on pavement by Blue Wall as recently saw 9 cars there. Also had complained to council at the time about the work being done by the wall and the horrible fence now there. Noted that a 10-12 ft section had been rebuilt and ordinary mortar used, which looks out of place, rather than a dark mortar. Also, another section looks like it is nearly coming down.

Chairman explained what PC had been doing and told that LDC Building Control have been to look at it. **Clerk** to contact Enforcement for a further update.

Parishioner: Concerned about flood on B5013 beyond Hamley Heath. Believes the culvert, which is supposed to channel water under the road there, is blocked or has collapsed and has not had any attention in living memory. It is an accident waiting to happen.

Noted that, longer term, HS2 should cure the problem. **Clerk** asked to contact Tim Heminsley and Martyn Tittley, asking for a site meeting.

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

1. Minutes of meeting held on 14th February 2019 were approved and signed.

2. Chairman's Announcements

Election details including nomination forms were available, though copies of the electoral register with the numbers needed should be available after 18th March. It was commented that, rather than submit a nomination form, interested parties could just wait until after the election to be co-opted into any vacancies. However, the Chairman said that it was preferable to be transparent and complete a nomination form so everyone knew who was standing.

3. Payments

- a) To ratify the following payment agreed at February meeting:
 - i) 1729 GB Sport and Leisure – Site survey at playground in March 2018 (incl. VAT) £240.00
- b) To approve the following payments:
 - i) 1730 Colton Village Hall – Room hire, March (12.00); Play area insurance 2018/19 (111.98) £123.98
 - ii) 1731 Petty cash £50.00
 - iii) 1732 Alison James – Clerk's salary, March (222.06); Home working exps, 4 weeks, 16 Feb – 15 March (16.00); Mileage, Jan – Feb (27.00); BGC Clerk salary 26 Nov – 25 Feb (125.00) less tax (25.00) £365.06

(Total payments above, to ratify or approve this month = £779.04)

The above payments were all approved.

4. HS2

- a) Update on response to petition – Discussed during Public Participation.
- b) Agreement with HS2 for survey access at Stockwell Heath – Hinson Parry had not yet had response from Access Manager about licence payment overdue to PC but would chase again on our behalf. In the meantime, they suggested that access be withheld should HS2 request any further surveys.
- c) Any other HS2 matters – Power lines; Additional Provisions deposit; latest Phase 2a newsletter. Noel Talbot reported that Ingestre Golf Club had appeared before Select Committee and HS2 had been told to find them an alternative site nearer Stafford, with a large sum due to them in compensation. HS2 had now responded with a new plan that was completely different and unsatisfactory. HS2 are now playing tough and saying they have no money, whereas Whittington Golf Club in Phase 1 received millions of pounds for their move.

5. Police matters

Update on policing developments and police engagement information from Marisha Place – An update about policing developments included the proposed closure of the Lichfield police desk and a query had been raised about this. No engagement information had been received for this meeting, following the request for more timely provision after the last meeting.

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) –

Any further action required – Shirley Barnett explained that she had sought legal advice from the LDC solicitor about her potential involvement at the determination meeting, as the ward member also sitting on the Planning Committee. The advice was that she can be involved or speak at the planning meeting as a member of the Planning Committee. Standing orders were revoked and Andy Chappell said he was unclear on the position. He wanted to understand what Shirley Barnett was allowed to say, in order to ensure that the time any Colton representative had to make our case was used to the maximum, without duplication. It was suggested that Andy Chappell contacts Bal Nahal at LDC for clarification.

- ii) 19/00284/COU – Lea Hall Farmhouse, Lea Lane, Rugeley – Change of use of, and extension to, redundant agricultural buildings to form 5 dwellings, erection of 2 new parking barns, installation of driveway and associated works including demolition of portal framed agricultural buildings – Only 1 brief comment made about proximity to HS2 route. **Clerk** to submit response to LDC before comments deadline.
- b) To report on decisions of the Planning Authority – No further list received from LDC.
- c) Any other planning matters:
 - i) Works at Heavy Plant Services, Colton Rd – Discussed during Public Participation.
 - ii) Conservation Area permitted development rights - Clerk had only recently contacted LDC again so agreed to keep on agenda pending further reply.

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; Footpath alongside Colton Rd – Nothing further to Public Participation.
 - ii) Parking on pavement by Blue Wall alongside Colton Rd - Action after site meeting with Highways – Sarah Plater and Emma Godwin had met Tim Heminsley and another officer there. Explained that as there were no double yellow lines, traffic wardens could not enforce. A traffic order for yellow lines would cost £4-5,000. Consideration was being given to installing bollards but SCC had provided a costing of £150 each, which would have to be funded by PC or by asking for other contributions e.g. from Martyn Tittley perhaps. In the meantime, with wording supplied by SCC, letters had been put on cars but any impact was short-lived.
 - iii) Gritting – **Clerk** still to follow up action from February meeting.
 - iv) Various footpath obstructions and damaged stiles/gates – additional broken stile on Footpath 75 off Martlin Lane recently reported and would be repaired but no timescale given by SCC.
 - v) Any update on Footpath 28 at top of High St – **Clerk** to ask Bagshaws if any response from their enquiries of the landowners.
 - vi) Bench at bottom of Martlin Lane – **Matt Crompton** and **Sarah Plater** have the materials and will do the repair when the weather improves.
- b) Matters arising since last meeting:
 - i) Report on meeting of local councils hosted by Blithfield PC on 6th March – Sarah Plater said there had been much discussion, particularly about road repairs, gully clearing and grass cutting. Whilst councils accepted that they could not achieve a great deal, they felt they could all make a more concerted effort to get problems reported. All councils agreed to

put an article in their local magazines urging everyone to put in reports to SCC and not just rely on telling a councillor. The more reports submitted, the more likely it was that a repair would be prioritised and done. Sarah Plater to submit an article for parish magazine. Agreed meeting might prove useful so keep on agenda (Clerk).

8. War Memorial Refurbishment

Quote for additional brick works – Cost of £590 plus VAT quoted to put blue edging bricks on top of low back wall, to match interior stone on front and side walls. LDC had previously said CIL money could not be used for the refurbishment works and this sum was not in PC budget for next financial year but could be taken from its ample reserves. PC agreed to accept the quote so Clerk to instruct contractor to proceed when appropriate. Mike Pyle had said that lime mortar need not be used so Sarah Plater to pass his comments to Clerk.

9. Mobile post office services

The Post Office had responded that a mobile service could not be provided, partly because there were several other post offices within reasonable reach of Colton. Also, the mobile service route serving other local areas was full to capacity.

10. Correspondence

To consider items of correspondence received:

- a) CCRPG – Minutes of meeting on 29th January and date of next meeting is Tuesday 26th March (Email, circulated to cllrs) – Noel Talbot had reviewed minutes of recent meetings and did not see evidence of decision making, being more a means of disseminating information. He would continue to monitor minutes and only consider attending if an important issue arose.
- b) LDC – Date of next Parish Forum meeting is Tuesday 2nd April at 7pm (Email, circulated to cllrs) – Shirley Barnett said meeting may be cancelled as no items forthcoming and close to election when many standing down.
- c) VHMC – Revised terms and conditions for hiring the Village Hall (Email)
- d) SPCA – Weekly bulletins including County Council budget pressures, various Elections information and the Great British Spring Clean (Emails, circulated to cllrs)
- e) Civic Voice – Survey on Public Participation in the Planning System (Email)
- f) SCC – Weekly news updates (Emails)
- g) LDC – Calendar of Meetings (Emails)
- h) Rural Services Network – Various bulletins (Emails)

11. Committees

Burial Ground Committee – any matters arising; next meeting on 27th March

Councillors on BGC asked to consider possible alternative siting of bin for LDC collection and whether such a big bin is needed.

12. Finance

- a) Report of income and expenditure vs budget for 2018-19 to date – Clerk's report estimating year end expenditure was circulated. Once account taken of transfers into and out of earmarked reserves, there was likely to be an excess income of around £700 this year, so fairly close to budget. CIL money has to be spent within a certain number of years or is lost, and PC may receive more money next year. So Clerk to check whether it could be used for e.g. grass cutting of field at Village Hall as a community open space.

- b) Earmarking of reserves for 2018/19 – Clerk to update list of earmarked reserves including CIL money, HS2 survey access money for Stockwell Heath, NALC transparency grant and balance of budget for playground maintenance/insurance.
- c) Any update on accounts processing and potential packages – Having produced financial report for this meeting, Clerk felt that spreadsheet system was not a satisfactory long term solution, particularly with advent of Making Tax Digital. Clerk to try to make a recommendation in time for new PC year.
- d) Formal instruction of TGM for 2019 grass cutting work – Acknowledgement and receipt of Certificates of Insurance from TGM. Sarah Plater had been informed by Gary Brownridge at LDC that they were going to be cutting the verges 8 times. Will monitor if they do, which would mean cost below budget. Sarah Plater to forward details to Clerk to inform TGM.
- e) Confirmation of new National Pay Scales for Clerks for 2019/20 – Part of National Pay Award agreed last year so PC is required to implement from April.
- f) Internal Auditor’s comments including revision of standing orders and financial regulations – Chairman asked Clerk to try to get the standing orders revised before the elections so that this item was dealt with before new council in place.
- g) Grazing licence for land at Heathway – Monthly payments being received from licensee but promised signed licence copy still not received. Sarah Plater to chase.

13. Parish Council matters

- a) Registration of Council land – Access land at Heathway – No response from solicitor so Clerk to chase again.
- b) Timing of next tree inspection report – Normally every 2 years but previous report not delivered until October 2017. PC agreed that Clerk contact Gareth Hare at LDC requesting the next report in June.
- c) Any issues relating to Parish Council website including updating councillor details and Register of Interests – Clerk had put missing details on PC website and notified LDC of updates for their website. Sarah Plater supplied an updated Register of Interests form at the meeting so Clerk to update.
- d) Arrangements for local elections in May – Publicity; Briefing session and LDC website material; Objective Connect system – Dealt with under Chairman’s Announcements.
- e) PC representatives on Parish Lands Trust – PC was awaiting feedback from PLT Clerk after March PLT meeting. Differing views had been expressed as to whether PC representatives needed to report back and, if so, how often.
- f) Any update from PC representative on VHMC – Nothing to report.
- g) Any matters arising from SLCC Staffs branch meeting – Clerk did not attend after all.
- h) Arrangements for Parish Assembly - Thursday 11th April at 7.30pm – Clerk to send out invitations.
- i) Next meeting (provisional) – Thursday 4th April 2019 at 7pm

Close of meeting at 8:40pm