

**COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY 4th APRIL 2019,
COLTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Acting Chairman Mrs Shirley Barnett, Cllrs Mrs Emma Godwin, Mrs Sarah Plater, Noel Talbot, Matt Crompton and Steve Jenkinson, County Cllr Martyn Tittley and Clerk Alison James. 5 Members of the public.

APOLOGIES: None

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: Emma Godwin – agenda item 4; Shirley Barnett – Re planning application to be brought up under Chairman’s Announcements, declared that applicant known to her as a former member of the PC.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Maximum of 20 mins):

Chairman explained that, as previously, items 4 and 6 would be opened to discussion under Public Participation.

HS2 - Andy Chappell: Follow up of issues in petition is important but can be left for the time being as power station application is more important for next few weeks.

Gas power station – Andy Chappell: He, Ken Rider and George Burda had already got together to prepare a paper dealing with various issues and putting forward objections. Western Power had been addressing reducing user demands and mentioned Rugeley as an area to focus on. Looking to destroy Statera’s case for the generating plant including their claims in the EN1 report. Will be attacking the location on a leafy lane used as a leisure and tourism corridor. Also, cannot construct the 2 plants independently as Colwich plant needs the Colton one and that had not been provided for in the SBC application. PC needs to ensure it is first to apply to be the one objector allowed to speak at the planning determination meeting, otherwise whoever else speaks may not cover the points so thoroughly. Will be contacting the LDC Planning chairman to ask him if it is possible to hand out a paper to members at the meeting. Someone else has put in objections to LDC on behalf of ‘Colton village and District residents’ and he would really like to know who they are.

Ken Rider: Once the planning officer has put together his report, it will go on the next Planning Committee agenda. Then slips are sent out and it is the first person who returns their slip who gets the slot. Also noted that this is a major application and yet only 5 mins allowed for objector to make points whereas at Old Hutton 30 people spoke.

Chairman suggested that Clerk writes to the Planning Officer notifying him that CPC wish to be represented as objector by a spokesperson and will he make sure this happens. Also ask if it is possible to have a meeting for this application alone.

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

1. Minutes of meeting held on 14th March 2019

Chairman said that draft minutes were not accurate with regard to what she is able to do or say at the LDC Planning Committee (paragraph for agenda item 6 a) i)). The minutes were therefore amended by hand and signed thereafter by the Chairman.

2. Chairman’s Announcements

Firstly, a new planning application had recently been received for annex at Rugeley Lodge and Councillors were asked to let Clerk have their comments.

Laura Crompton is standing down as parish magazine editor but will stay on till a replacement is found. Chairman thanked her very much for all her work.

As this was to be the last meeting before the elections, the Chairman wished to put on record her thanks to all councillors for their support and hard work.

3. Payments

- a) To approve the following payments:
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|------|------|--|---------|
| i) | 1733 | Colton Village Hall – Room hire, April | £67.00 |
| ii) | 1734 | SPCA – Membership subs, 2019-20 | £230.00 |
| iii) | 1735 | CCRPG – Membership subs, 2019-20 | £5.00 |
| iv) | 1736 | Noel Talbot – Copies of parish footpath map | £12.60 |
| v) | 1737 | HMRC – Payroll taxes, Jan – March | £191.56 |
| vi) | 1738 | Alison James – Clerk’s salary, April, incl. annual increment and National Pay Award (233.38); Home working exps, 3 weeks, 16 March – 5 April (12.00) | £245.38 |

(Total payments above, to ratify or approve this month = £751.54)

All payments above were approved.

4. HS2

- a) Update on response to petition – It was noted that ground investigation works are going on around the parish and they have messed up the verges, especially along Moor Lane. Also, their vehicles have been speeding so Clerk to raise with Liz Davis. HS2 have emailed to invite up to 2 members to a site visit to look at the ground investigations. Clerk to reply saying that 2 councillors are interested but PC would like to send another representative. There is also going to be another public drop-in event at Hill Ridware soon.
- b) Agreement with HS2 for survey access at Stockwell Heath – Still not received the required money from HS2. Clerk to follow up again with Hinson Parry.
- c) Any other HS2 matters – Martyn Tittley said he thought that Phase 2a had been put back 6 mths and they would not start digging until next year. SCC have a meeting with Balfour Beatty on 10th April.

5. Police matters

Response to query on policing developments and closing down of various police desks had been received and closures were going ahead.

It should be reiterated that if anyone sees any suspicious characters around the parish, they should ring 101 and police will respond quickly.

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 including email from Andy Chappell on ‘Presentation of Objections at determination meeting of LDC Planning Committee’ – PC agreed that Clerk should email George Burda to ask if he is prepared to speak on the PC’s behalf at the LDC Planning meeting, assuming PC can get the necessary objector’s slot.

- 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 – Response from Stephen Earp of LDC Building Control was read to the meeting. He had been to inspect the Blue Wall recently and considered that it was safe, with any bulges being minor in nature. He also said the constructed retaining wall was not subject to Building Regulations. PC agreed that Clerk should go back to Enforcement about the use of concrete panels, which were not what had been specified in the planning permission.
 - ii) Conservation Area permitted development rights – A summary of the response from Don Winn was read to the meeting and stated that there was no requirement to replace windows 'like for like'. Clerk to contact the Conservation Officer for further explanation.

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 – Sarah Plater had reported the footpath again and was told there is a 90 day turnaround so will chase again in June. Emma Godwin had reported the flooding on B5013 and asked Highways to repair the culvert, as there had been a serious accident there.
 - ii) Parking on pavement by Blue Wall alongside Colton Rd – A costing had been received from SCC for installing bollards, which was prohibitively expensive at between £6,000 and £10,000, depending on spacing. Noel Talbot had questioned whether the length requiring bollards could be reduced. Putting in double yellow lines would cost about £4,000 as it requires legal notices and paperwork. Unofficial signs cannot be put up. Letters on windscreens did reduce the numbers briefly but it was noted that cars also park in front of Fogg Cottages and there is a skip there too. Ultimately it was agreed to monitor the situation for the time being.
 - iii) Gritting – Clerk had belatedly emailed SCC asking about gritting of High St and was awaiting a response.
 - iv) Various footpath obstructions and damaged stiles/gates – Emma Godwin said that the bridleway off Blithbury Rd had been blocked by HS2 who own it and it was suggested asking for a gate. Standing orders were revoked to ask for an update from a parishioner, who said there had been some progress on issues but some still ongoing.
 - v) Any update on Footpath 28 at top of High St – Clerk had emailed Paul Rochfort to ask if there was any update from Bagshaws.
 - vi) Bench at bottom of Martlin Lane – Would be completed when better weather comes.
 - vii) Meeting of local councils hosted by Blithfield PC – Sarah Plater is putting together a magazine article asking everyone to report potholes when they see them. Clerk to remove item from agenda as not due to meet again till September.
- b) Matters arising since last meeting: None

8. War Memorial Refurbishment

Progress with additional brick works – Clerk sending formal instruction to contractor. Re the new seat inside the memorial, 2 large pieces of wood are still required and would be expensive to buy. Further enquiries to be made.

Removal of wreaths – Chairman asked if there was any general guidance on timing. It was noted that wreaths are still in place at the Abbots Bromley memorial. Emma Godwin found internet information saying that Cenotaph wreaths are removed after 2 weeks. Clerk to contact Armitage British Legion for their guidance.

9. Possible new local bus service

Emma Godwin had been in contact with a man from Great Haywood, who was planning to set up a local bus service and was looking for support. It was commented that any funding would be more difficult to offer to a private person rather than a community organisation. Martyn Tittley commented that the previous service had been withdrawn due to insufficient use. Although one councillor was concerned about raising expectations, Emma Godwin said that she would personally put something in the parish magazine asking how many would be interested in a service.

10. Correspondence

To consider items of correspondence received:

- a) House of Commons - HS2 Bill Select Committee announcements on AP2 petition hearings (Email, circ to cllrs)
- b) CCRPG – Papers for next meeting, including AGM, on Tuesday 26th March (Email, circulated to cllrs)
- c) LDC – Cancellation of Parish Forum meeting on Tuesday 2nd April (Email, circulated to cllrs)
- d) LDC – Tamworth and Lichfield Business Survey 2019 (Email, circulated to cllrs and others)
- e) SCC – Newsletter for Ironman event on Sunday 9th June (Email)
- f) Keep Britain Tidy – Great British Spring Clean, 22 March – 23 April (Email)
- g) Staffs Playing Fields Association – Invitation to subscribe for 19/20 at cost of £20 per annum (Email)
- h) SPCA – Weekly bulletins including elections guidance and community access defibrillators (Emails, circulated to cllrs). Matt Crompton to enquire about servicing required for defibrillators.
- i) SCC – Weekly news updates (Emails)
- j) LDC – Calendar of Meetings (Emails)
- k) Rural Services Network – Various bulletins (Emails)

11. Committees

Burial Ground Committee – Report of meeting on 27th March, including request for PC to ratify BGC recommendation to instruct Cast Iron Welding Services Ltd to repair the cast iron gatepost from the Closed Burial Ground at a cost of £650 plus VAT

BGC recommended the work should go ahead and John Carter had obtained some pledged donations, including one from PCC. The PC approved the work, using some CIL money as LDC had confirmed it was an appropriate use. Clerk to instruct Cast Iron Welding Services and notify the PCC that work was going ahead.

12. Finance

- a) Receipt of donation for wood from felled tree in Closed Burial Ground – noted with thanks.

- b) Annual return for 2018-19 – Documents for the Annual Return had been received from external auditors, Mazars, by the Clerk, who did not think there were any significant changes from the previous year's requirements. Accounts would need to be finalised for the internal auditor's visit scheduled for 24th May.
- c) Any update on accounts processing and potential packages – Clerk still reviewing.
- d) Appointment of internal auditor for 2019-20 – PC agreed to re-appoint Alan Toplis so Clerk to write to him.
- e) Revision of standing orders – No progress to report yet.
- f) Grazing licence for land at Heathway – Signed copy still awaited (Sarah Plater to chase).

13. Parish Council matters

- a) Registration of Council land – Access land at Heathway – Emma Godwin said she was happy to speak to current solicitors. It was noted that current tenants had left Heathway property.
- b) Next tree inspection and report – PC approved that Clerk instructs Gareth Hare to carry out the inspection this summer at a quoted cost of £150.
- c) Any issues relating to Parish Council website – New website address not yet in magazine, although Clerk thought she had supplied update.
- d) Parish elections on 2nd May – It had been announced earlier that day that the election for Colton was uncontested and the 5 nominees (current councillors except Shirley Barnett, who had decided to step down) had duly been elected.
- e) PC representatives on Parish Lands Trust – Clerk had requested an update from PLT but nothing heard.
- f) Any update from PC representative on VHMC – Nothing to report as Matt Crompton had been away for the most recent meeting.
- g) Arrangements for Parish Assembly - Thursday 11th April at 7.30pm – Emma Godwin offered her apologies. Shirley Barnett said she had given apologies for an LDC meeting that evening in order to attend.
- h) Next meeting – Thursday 16th May 2019 at 7pm (NB 3rd Thursday of month). Noel Talbot offered his apologies.

Thanks were expressed to Jack Hall for having dealt with a broken holly branch in the Burial Ground.

Close of meeting: 8.35pm