

**COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019,  
COLTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Acting Chairman Cllr Mrs Sarah Plater, Cllrs Matt Crompton and Steve Jenkinson and Clerk Alison James. 8 members of public in attendance.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Mrs Emma Godwin and Noel Talbot

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** None

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Maximum of 20 mins):**

Chairman explained that, as in recent months, agenda items on HS2 and Gas power station would be covered during Public Participation.

Parishioner: Asked that item 7 iv) is kept on the agenda as there are still some footpath issues awaiting work.

Parishioner: Wished to comment on planning application item 6 a) iii). Believed there were some inaccuracies in the application and in particular, significantly, concerning triangular piece of land required for access, which Land Registry plans say applicant does not own. Also parking in the vicinity means there is an inadequate visibility splay and Conservation Officer has said such development would be detrimental to Conservation Area. Would like ward councillor to call it in at LDC and also requested that PC ask Highways to visit.

Parishioner: The length of Hollow Lane was mown on 5<sup>th</sup> May, taking away all the wildflowers. Felt the village had lost a lovely landscape of flowers that was not affecting drivers' visibility. Reported this to SCC but was told it was LDC that had cut.

**Sarah Plater** offered to find out as she had contacts regarding verge cutting and it was noted that not all the lanes had been done.

HS2 – Andy Chappell: Have details of a county wide meeting on Highways issues to which all PCs have been invited and important that Colton attends and follows up its petition issues. **Sarah Plater** said she would check who can attend.

Gas power station – Andy Chappell: Working group have been doing further research but it is critical that the parish council get the one spot to put its objections at the LDC Planning Committee determination meeting, although only 5 mins is allocated.

Ken Rider: Explained that when the planning officer has made his report to the Planning Committee, he will contact everyone who made any response to the application, about 5 working days before the meeting. Important that everyone replies that they wish to speak and as long as one of us succeeds, we can then agree amongst ourselves afterwards that George Burda speaks as the PC's chosen rep. It is a crazy system and also complicated to establish what is allowed. Will not know till next week whether Shirley Barnett will still be on the Planning Committee. But if she spoke on our behalf as ward councillor at the meeting then she could not vote.

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

1. Minutes of meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were approved and signed.
2. Chairman's Announcements - None
3. Payments

a)	To approve the following payments:		
i)	1739	Colton Village Hall – Room hire, May	£12.00
ii)	1740	Petty cash	£50.00
iii)	1741	BHIB Ltd - Annual insurance	£629.27

iv)	1742	GHL (Staffordshire) Ltd – Supply and laying of bricks along wall at War Memorial, incl. VAT	£708.00
v)	1743	Cast Iron Welding Services Ltd – Repair of cast iron gatepost from Closed Burial Ground, incl. VAT	£780.00
vi)	1744	Alison James – Clerk’s salary, May (233.38); Home working exps, 6 weeks, 6 April – 17 May; (24.00); Reimbursement for set of printer cartridges (33.32 incl. VAT)	£290.70

(Total payments above, to ratify or approve this month = £2,469.97 )

All the payments above were approved.

#### 4. HS2

- a) Update on response to petition – Nothing further to report.
- b) Ground investigations – proposed site visit and any other issues – A site visit is to be arranged in the first two weeks of June.
- c) Extraordinary Highways sub-group meeting on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Sarah Plater will ask Emma Godwin if she would be available to go, otherwise she will attend herself.
- d) Agreement with HS2 for survey access at Stockwell Heath – Clerk had contacted Hinson Parry again as access money still not received from HS2 and would pursue.
- e) Any other HS2 matters - None

#### 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 recent consultation responses and any further action required – As discussed during Public Participation, PC confirmed that Clerk should respond on its behalf seeking the slot for George Burda to speak as objector (as should councillors and others, as it is not known exactly when the notification will arrive and cannot risk someone else claiming the spot).
  - ii) 19/00492/COU – Rugeley Lodge, Colton Road, Colton – Continued use of the annexe to Rugeley Lodge, known as Orchard Cottage, as a separate dwelling house – Comments already submitted as deadline passed.
  - iii) 19/00363/FUL – Land adjacent School Cottage, Bellamour Way, Colton – Erection of a 3 bedroom dwelling and associated works (attached to School Cottage) - It was noted that Emma Godwin had circulated her objections to councillors and Sarah Plater confirmed agreement with those comments. Standing orders were briefly revoked so Clerk could ask parishioner if he was prepared to send her a copy of his comments put forward during Public Participation. Clerk to submit councillors’ objections to LDC and also reference the information put forward about land ownership.

- b) To report on decisions of the Planning Authority: List of delegated decisions received from LDC covering November 2018 to April 2019 – 10 applications in Colton included and all had been approved.
- c) Any other planning matters:
  - i) Works at Heavy Plant Services, Colton Rd – Items of correspondence from LDC Enforcement and Building Control were read to the meeting. Enforcement said that the use of concrete panels was a technical issue for Building Control. Their specific responsibility was whether the works looked as they should and they felt that they did. The Building Inspector had contacted the owner and currently had no concerns about the stability of the wall and use of panels. However, he was awaiting construction details and photographs and would reserve final judgement until he had seen those. **Clerk** to keep on agenda and chase an update before next meeting.
  - ii) Conservation Area permitted development rights – Conservation Officer had clarified that there is currently no Article 4 Direction in Colton Conservation Area. So permitted development rights have not been restricted and thus windows can be replaced without needing to apply for planning permission. Therefore **Clerk** to take off agenda now.

## 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 updated that flooding and Colton Rd footpath are on list of reported issues and she is checking monthly. Everything reported has been inspected by Highways.
  - ii) Parking on pavement by Blue Wall alongside Colton Rd – Still monitoring but **Clerk** to take off agenda for now.
  - iii) Gritting – Highways had been asked to provide a costing for gritting High St but had responded by saying that it was not a gritted route and grit bins were provided instead. It was suggested that it could be raised at the next meeting hosted by Blithfield PC, scheduled for September.
  - iv) Various footpath obstructions and damaged stiles/gates – PC agreed this item should stay on agenda, pending work being done. Matt Crompton noted that a local farmer had put up signs on footpaths urging dog owners to clear up after their pets, because increased numbers of cows were aborting due to infections in silage. It was suggested that a copy of the sign should be put in the parish magazine to raise awareness (**Matt Crompton**).
  - v) Any update on Footpath 28 at top of High St – **Clerk** to chase again.
  - vi) Bench at bottom of Martlin Lane – **Matt Crompton** to order materials now, as PC had previously agreed a budget for the work.

Steve Jenkinson reported that street sign for Moor Croft had recently been replaced but was now incorrectly spelt as one word. **Clerk** to report.
- b) Matters arising since last meeting: None

## 8. War Memorial Refurbishment

Progress with additional brick works and new seat; Removal of wreaths – The additional brick works had been done and bill approved for payment at item 3. For the new seat, the original donor had not got sufficient suitable wood and further options were being explored. Wreaths have now been removed.

## 9. Possible new local bus service

The last heard was that the company concerned had applied for a licence to run a new service that could include Colton. PC agreed to await further information from Emma Godwin who was in contact with the company.

## 10. Correspondence

To consider items of correspondence received:

- a) Parishioner – Siting and awareness of village defibrillator (Email, circ to cllrs) – PC agreed that the defibrillator should be more visible but it was not owned by the PC. Sarah Plater and Matt Crompton to consider whether notices could be displayed around the village. Clerk to reply briefly to parishioner.
- b) Resident of Stockton near Winchester – Contact for information and experience exchange about a similar application for a power station (Email, circulated to cllrs and selected parishioners)
- c) CCRPG – Minutes of meeting, including AGM, held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March (Email, circulated to cllrs)
- d) HS2 – Second progress report on Community Engagement Strategy (Email, circulated to cllrs)
- e) Ironman road closures on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June (Email, circulated to cllrs & others) and comments received from parishioner (Email, circulated to cllrs) – It was thought that the maps of the road closures had actually been available for some time via the website, even if copies not circulated until more recently.
- f) LDC – Local Plan allocations examination report (Email)
- g) CCDC – Various consultations relating to Cannock Chase Local Plan (Email)
- h) Together we're better, SCC – Listening events to gather views on how to improve Health and Care in Staffordshire and Stoke (Email)
- i) SPCA – Weekly bulletins including post-elections guidance (Emails, circulated to cllrs)
- j) SCC – Weekly news updates (Emails)
- k) LDC – Calendar of Meetings (Emails)
- l) Rural Services Network – Various bulletins (Emails)

## 11. Committees

Burial Ground Committee – Update on progress including unsafe headstones – Sarah Plater reported that around 20 relatives had been written to but some records were very old and in some cases no relatives had been found. However many headstones had been or were now in the process of being repaired.

## 12. Finance

- a) Annual return for 2018-19 including internal audit scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> May – Clerk was in the process of completing the accounts and additional information required for the Annual Return and the internal auditor's visit.
- b) Receipt of precept of £14,150 for 2019-20 from LDC – Noted.
- c) Any update on accounts processing and potential packages – Clerk explained that there were 3 options: the first was to retain the spreadsheet system, which worked and Excel was free but it was not easily audited and year on year comparisons were more difficult. Secondly, to use a standard accounts package

such as Xero or QuickBooks but these cost of the order of £120 per year and did not automatically produce the Annual Return. Thirdly, to purchase a package such as RBS Alpha or Scribe, which was specifically designed for parish councils but cost of the order of £250 per year. Clerk preferred the look of Scribe but was not sure if she could justify the extra cost. PC agreed that Clerk should discuss with Emma Godwin to enable a decision at the next meeting.

- d) Revision of standing orders – Clerk had made a small amount of progress on this and was asked to allocate time to it, once work on Annual Return done.

### 13. Parish Council matters

- a) Registration of Council land – Access land at Heathway – Clerk had not been able to get a response from solicitor and Emma Godwin had offered to call at her offices. It was suggested that the PC look to employ another solicitor but concerns were expressed that this would involve additional cost when it was felt that original solicitor had committed an oversight and should complete work at her expense. Matt Crompton to speak to Emma Godwin.
- b) Tree inspection – Gareth Hare had been instructed and had confirmed that the work was in hand.
- c) Any issues relating to Parish Council website – Nothing to report.
- d) Any update from PC representative on VHMC – Matt Crompton reported that goalposts were being replaced following Health and Safety check.
- e) SPCA training courses - Local Councillors and Chairmanship Skills – Information had been circulated to councillors.
- f) Next meeting – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 7pm

Close of meeting at 8:20pm