

Minutes of Coldridge Parish Council Meeting 7.30 on Thursday January 16th 2020 in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors Andrew Green, Marion Born, Chris Burrows, Jim Sampson, Jeff Burrows, John Smith

Apologies, none

Clerk Keyth Richardson

Open Forum

There were eleven members of the public present. There were no issues raised by any of the public. Andrew Green welcomed them all and then read out the tribute which the Parish Council has issued to the press.

WILLIAM JOHN DAW: “COLDRIDGE BORN AND BRED”:

John was always a “larger than life” figure in our community. A Devon farmer, a noted and respected show steward and judge and a doyen of Young Farmers, of the NFU, of agricultural shows and of Crediton rugby; a Coldridge parish councillor for over 40 years and a District Councillor of considerable note, value and experience. He was a man with whom to have a friendly yet highly informative discussion on any topic, from ‘Butterfat to Brexit’. John was absolutely without equal.

Despite his wider interests and responsibilities, he still made plenty of time for the ‘grass roots’ issues in Coldridge. At meetings, he would hold us all enthralled with his local and technical knowledge and with his political fluency. John’s wry and instant sense of humour always tempered the serious nature of any meeting or discussion that he was involved in, at whatever level or on whatever subject. His (sometimes convoluted) arguments would often test the mettle of those of us with simpler or slower minds as we struggled to keep up! However, John was always very respectful of the opinions of others.

His recent views on Farming’s active and long-term facility for reducing our carbon footprint was a case in point and an exciting revelation to many of us. John was a real ‘tour-de-force’ in this and in so many aspects of his life. His untimely death leaves an enormous hole in our parish council and in our community. He was truly instrumental in keeping Coldridge ‘on the map’.

The Council and community of Coldridge wish to extend our deepest sympathies to Marilyn, to Richard and to all their family.

Following this all present stood for one minute’s silence in remembrance of John.

	item	
2019/20-88	Recording of meetings	The meeting was not being recorded
2019/20-89	Apologies	none
2019/20-90	Declaration of interest	None reported
2019/20-91	Minutes	The minutes of the meeting on November 21 st 2019 were approved and signed
2019/20-92	Clerk's Progress Report	Various highways issues had been reported to DCC Highways, with mixed success. Some potholes had been filled but the flooding at the triangle in the village was deemed not to be a safety hazard and was on a list of work to be done as and when. The clerk was asked to follow these up, including the blocked drains in Church Lane from Little Silvers to Hobby Moor Cross. Similarly no progress had been made on repairing Park Mill bridge, and this needed to be followed up.
2019/20-93	Ride on tractor update	It was agreed that the current ride on tractor, valued at £500 in the accounts, be written off as being beyond economic repair and worth nothing. After much considered discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council can spend up to £3000 excluding VAT, on a replacement. This must be a mulching-only deck, as any other type is unsuitable. Chris Burrows and Andrew Green will pursue this and may buy either a new or second-hand machine. The clerk was asked to put a wanted notice in the Coldridge Calendar to see if a suitable machine was available locally.
2019/20-94	Hedge trimming	Following last November's meeting councillors identified two roads which still needed hedges trimming. These were from Thorn Corner to Farley's grave and from Leigh Cross to Baron's Wood. The clerk will report these to DCC Highways and copy in DCC Cllr Margaret Squires. Other farmers in the parish were commended for keeping the hedges trimmed.
2019/20-95	Burial grounds grants	After careful and due consideration of advice from NALC in the form of LO1-18 on this issue, which indicates a number of contradictions in the legal position, the Council agreed to provide maintenance grants to St Matthew's burial ground and Allerbridge Chapel burial ground. The amounts to be agreed at the next meeting in March.
2019/20-96	Finance	The following payments were agreed a. clerk's wages £148.26 b. clerk's expenses £6.53 c. Mid Devon Mobility £200 [Ring and Ride]

2019/20-97	Highways	<p>Frogbury Cross. There was a working party on November 29th consisting of Andrew Green, Chris Burrows and Keyth Richardson. Between them they cut down and removed the foliage which was obstructing visibility and steeped part of the hedge. Ms Cesbron-Lavau was happy with the work done, and it will make it easier in future to keep the sight line clear.</p> <p>It took some time to achieve this result, but this success is due in no small measure to the conversations between Ms Cesbron-Lavau, Andrew Green and Marion Born, and the active involvement of Yvette Welsh from MDDC Neighbourhood team.</p> <p>The potholes at Gillscott Cottages are now very dangerous and likely to cause an accident.</p> <p>The road from Thorn corner to West Leigh Frogbury Cross is still bad, and vehicles have to drive on the wrong side of the road to avoid the worst of the damaged surface.</p> <p>As mentioned under 2019/20- 92 the following issues have not been resolved and need following up.</p> <p>Several drains in the parish are blocked, especially in Church Lane and the road down to Hobby Moor Cross and need jetting.</p> <p>The road from East Leigh to Chilverton is also flooding, possibly exacerbated by the overflow from the sewage treatment plant at East Leigh.</p> <p>Hawkridge Bridge has still not been repaired, after many months and several requests</p>
2019/20-98	Planning	The council had no objections to the application to repair the fireplace at Oak Farm
2019/20-99	Councillors reports	<p>There was still concern over the state of the site at Lindfield on the A377 just south of Morchard Road. The clerk was asked to take this up with MDDC planning enforcement and DCC Councillor Margaret Squires. [note: this is outside the parish so is not strictly a Coldridge Parish issue]</p> <p>The activities at Park Mill Wood still caused some concern and the clerk was asked to follow this up with MDDC planning enforcement</p> <p>The trees on the green had been judiciously pruned in November and it was noted the sycamore looks diseased and may not last many more years</p> <p>On behalf of himself and other parishioners the Clerk thanked the Parish Council for arranging the Christmas tree on the green, which brought some much-needed cheer during a cold and damp December.</p>
	Dates of next meetings	These were confirmed as 19 Mar 14 May, 16 July, 17 Sept, 19 Nov

The meeting closed at 20.35

Signed: