

**Minutes of Coldridge Parish Council Meeting 7.30 on Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup> 2020 via Zoom.**

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

**Clerk** Keyth Richardson

**Apologies** Jim Sampson, DCC Councillor Margaret Squires

One member of the public observed the meeting via Zoom

**Open Forum.** There was no Open Forum due to COVID-19 constraints. No issues for the meeting had been raised by parishioners with a Councillor or the Clerk.

	item	
2020/21-42	<b>Recording of meetings</b>	The meeting was not being recorded
2020/21-43	<b>Apologies</b>	Due to the current Corona virus regulations Jim Sampson was not allowed to leave his home to enter another's to use their internet to join via Zoom, so he was not able to attend
2020/21-44	<b>Declarations of interest</b>	None reported. It was noted that item 10 on the agenda, minute 2020/21- 51 did not require any Councillor to withdraw as neither they or their families had a personal interest in Coldridge Village Hall
2020/21-45	<b>Minutes</b>	The minutes of the meeting on September 16 <sup>th</sup> 2020 were approved.
2020/21-46	<b>Clerks update</b>	A parishioner had drawn the Clerk's attention to a loose cable on a BT pole on the village green, which had been attended to today by BT Openreach The possibility of a Christmas tree for the village was discussed, it had already been agreed in the budget for 2020/21. It was agreed that the Chairman would liaise with the Churchwarden, over the purchase of the tree, £15 was the price quoted, and the chairman would collect both St Matthew's tree and the village tree. The clerk informed the Council he had been told St Matthew's would be illuminated from Dec 1 <sup>st</sup> , weather permitting.
2020/21-47	<b>Highways</b>	A road closure notice had been circulated earlier today and will be sent out to the Coldridge Calendar email group. Hawkridge Bridge has been left in an unfinished state and relies on plastic red and white tape to protect people. The member of public informed the meeting this had been discussed at Nymet Rowland Parish Council on November 18 <sup>th</sup> and the clerk was asked to liaise with Cllr Squires over this, to ensure a unified approach to DCC Highways The potholes in The Square are getting worse and the clerk will ensure these have been reported on the DCC website.
2020/21-48	<b>Planning</b>	No outstanding planning applications. The clerk had sent a photograph of a post box outside Otters Holt Wood/Williams Wood, Park Wood, to MDDC enforcement but as there was no significant response, he was asked to follow this up.  There was discussion over apparent activity in a field by Frogbury Cross, and Councillors will continue to monitor this, with a follow up at the next Parish Council meeting in January 2021.

2020/21-49	<b>To agree a budget for 2021/22</b>	<p>The Clerk had prepared detailed budget proposals which had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>A discussion took place on this, and issues raised were the need to ensure there was up to £1000 available to help support any future trimming of the yew trees in St Matthew's churchyard, the need to ensure adequate provision was made for the servicing of the new mower, and the undesirability of the Parish Council building up unnecessary reserves. It was also suggested that the graveyard grants be reconsidered with the aim of restoring some of their purchasing power lost over the last 10 years. This will be done at the next meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed to reduce the precept by £1000 to £5000, which will see a reduction of 16% in an average household council tax bill</p>
2020/21-50	<b>Finance</b>	<p>The following payments were agreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. clerk's wages £208.902</li> <li>b. clerk's expenses £4.05</li> <li>c. Helen Smith grass cutting £100 owed from 2019/20</li> </ul>
2020/21-51	<b>To consider an application for a grant to the Village Hall for £7000</b>	<p>An application had been submitted by the Village Hall Treasurer for a sum of £7000 to be used for an upgrade to the existing AV equipment.</p> <p>A wide-ranging, full and frank discussion took place over this with a number of points made and considered. It was agreed unanimously that £5000 would be given to Coldridge Village Hall to be spent on updating and replacing the AV equipment, with an emphasis on the new projector.</p>
2020/21-52	<b>Councillors reports</b>	<p>Hedges near Thorn Corner still need to be trimmed, and Chris Burrows agreed to talk to the landowner concerned, and this would be reviewed at the next Parish Council meeting before contacting DCC Highways to take action.</p> <p>The clerk was asked to follow up on the need for extra car parking spaces for the 4 houses at Frogbury Cross.</p>
2020/21-53	<b>Dates of next meetings</b>	<p>Dates for 2021 are January 21<sup>st</sup>, ( which is expected to be a Zoom meeting) March 18<sup>th</sup>, May 20<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup>, September 16<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup>.</p>

The meeting closed at 20:55. Following the meeting the minutes for September 17<sup>th</sup> were taken by the Clerk to the Chairman for signature.

Signed: