

Minutes of Coldridge Parish Council Meeting 7.30 on Thursday March 18th 2021 via Zoom.

Present: Councillors Andrew Green, Marion Born, Chris Burrows, John Smith, Jeff Burrows DCC Councillor Margaret Squires

Clerk Keyth Richardson

Apologies Jim Sampson

One member of the public attended.

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	
2020/21-64	Recording of meetings	The meeting was not being recorded
2020/21-65	Apologies	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. He has no internet connection of his own.
2020/21-66	Declarations of interest	None reported.
2020/21-67	Minutes	The minutes of the meeting on January 21st 2021 were approved.
2020/21-68	Co-option of Councillor	<p>After some discussion it was agreed the following notice would appear on the 3 noticeboards, on the Parish Council website and in the June edition of the Coldridge Calendar.</p> <p><i>Coldridge Parish Council wishes to co-opt a councillor to serve the remainder of the late John Daw's term. It invites all interested people to apply to the clerk, Keyth Richardson by email coldridgepcclerk@btinternet.com.</i></p> <p><i>Please explain why you wish to be a councillor, what skills and abilities you will bring to the council and any other relevant previous experiences. The Clerk is responsible for legal and financial aspects of the Council's work, so you do not need to be an expert in these areas, but the Council is looking for someone who can contribute to the life of Coldridge. The Parish Council is the first level of local democracy and is not party political. It is not relevant if you either are, or are not, a member of a political party.</i></p> <p><i>The legal requirements to be councillor are that you must be over 18, and meet at least one of the following.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. be on the electoral roll for Coldridge</i> <i>2. lived within the parish for at least 12 months</i> <i>3. lived within 3 miles of the parish for at least 12 months</i> <i>4. had your only or principal place of work within the parish for the last 12 months.</i>

		<p><i>Please contact the Clerk if you want to discuss this informally, 01363 83251 or talk to any of the current councillors.</i></p> <p><i>The deadline for applications is June 21st and interviews will take place in early July, subject to any remaining Covid restrictions.</i></p>
2020/21-69	Clerks update	Potholes in the Square. This is still an ongoing issue (see Minute Highways 2020/21 -69)
2020/21-70	Highways	<p>The Clerk had been asked to re-visit the DCC Road Warden Scheme, in particular the insurance cover provided to volunteers carrying out the work, and their equipment and tools. The Clerk emailed BHIB, the Parish Council's insurers, about cover for injury to volunteers if Coldridge Parish Council took on the DCC Road Warden Scheme. They phoned back, and in a conversation with them they have confirmed that they will not provide cover in this situation, as the scheme is run by DCC not the Parish Council. It is their opinion that as DCC are organizing and controlling the scheme they should cover personal injury; but DCC will not accept this risk. Following this information and advice from the Clerk it was agreed that the Parish Council does not join the DCC Road Warden Scheme.</p> <p>There was a long discussion on the state of the highways in the Parish. Cllr Squires explained that due to Covid-19 regulations she had been unable to do her regular tours with a DCC highways Officer. She suggested an approach which had been used by another council, which was a full and detailed list of highway issues to be compiled, including photographs and this is emailed to DCC Highways. Then a follow-up Zoom meeting with the Chairman, Clerk and DCC highways is held to discuss this and agree any actions.</p> <p>ALL councillors are asked to submit details and photographs to the Clerk to enable him to produce this report. Specific items mentioned included.</p> <p>Village Square JS Mole End, between East Leigh and Birch CB West Leigh corner flood MB Gilscott flood</p> <p>The warning signs for the bend and junction approaching Allerbridge from the north-west on the B3220 are missing. The road from Blackditch Cross to Kelland Hill is very poor with many potholes. It is so bad people are avoiding using it. MB The road from Thorn Corner to West Leigh is still poor and attempts by local residents to ameliorate this are not sufficient. The drains in Church Lane alongside Long Parks are all full of debris and have been reported which can be added to the report One of the finger signs at Hobby Moor cross has fallen off.</p> <p>Other issues The hedge at Ankridge House needs trimming, Clerk to write to the owners.</p>
2020/21-71	Planning	It was noted that a notification had been received from MDDC relating to 3 Sunnyside. Notification of intention to reduce the overall crown of 2 Common Ash trees by 2-3m and remove lower limb of one tree overhanging the road within the Conservation Area. The Parish Council had no objection as long as the work was carried out professionally.

2020/21-72	Finance	<p>The following payments were agreed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. clerk's wages £219.77 b. clerk's expenses £6.08 <p>Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would become a member of Devon Communities Together as from the start of the next financial year, the membership being around £24, based on the annual income of the Parish. (Post meeting note, as the membership fee is based on the last financial year the fee will be £50 as total income, including precept, VAT refunds and covid grants was £6900.)</p>
2020/21-73	Rubbish bin request	<p>Request for a litter bin at the end of the driveway to Donkey Cottage and Mount Evelyn. A resident has asked about having a bin installed to cope with the increase in dog waste and litter in this area. The following procedures were discussed. There was some concern that this might lead to further applications for waste bins with associated costs for the Parish Council.</p> <p>MDDC policy and procedures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Mid Devon District Council Dog & Litter Bin Policy states that it operates an 'any bin will do' scheme whereby residents may deposit litter and dog waste in either type of bin therefore any new bins sited will be litter bins. 2. The Parish Council is asked to submit a 'Request Form' with the details of the location and the situation that has prompted the request along with the location of the proposed site. 3. Once the form has been received a trial period (3 months) will begin. During this time MDDC District Officers will visit the site to determine if there is sufficient litter and dog waste strewn in the area to warrant an additional bin to be sited and emptied at MDDC expense. If the results of the survey show this is not the case, then the siting and emptying of the new bin will be at the expense of the Parish. <p>The Council agreed to the Clerk submitting a Request Form but did not agree to commit to installing a bin if MDDC decided there was insufficient demand. The Clerk will inform the resident that as litter bins are a MDDC responsibility the Parish Council have requested a bin from MDDC and that there will be a 3-month trial to see if there is sufficient litter and dog waste strewn in the area to warrant an additional bin.</p>
2020/21-74	Councillors reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There was a long discussion on the state of the 3 Parish Council Noticeboards. 2. It was agreed that John Smith would look at the one in the village, Chris Burrows would look at the East Leigh one, and Andrew Green would follow up with Jim Sampson and the owners of West Leigh Farmhouse the practicalities of moving of the West Leigh noticeboard to cover under the linhay. Due to Covid regulations this work could not be done at present. The Clerk thanked these volunteers and reminded them that materials cost could be covered by the Parish Council. 3. The member of the public present offered to provide materials for this work, and was thanked for this very kind offer.

		<p>4. The situation at Green Acres farm/ land at Frogberry Cross was raised. At present MDDC Enforcement Officer is not allowed to carry out site visits. Any firm evidence that someone is using this land as residence should be forwarded to her, as without evidence no action can be taken.</p> <p>5. July NHS day. This celebration was noted but it was decided to wait until the May meeting to confirm what, if anything, the Parish Council would do. Any activities would likely to be low key.</p> <p>6. The new grass cutter needs a service and Chris Burrows offered to get filter and oil the parts required and to carry out the service, aided by Andrew Green.</p>
2020/21-74	Changes to planned meetings	<p>Legislation allowing for remote Parish Council meetings expires on May 7th. DALC have sent out the following notice</p> <p>Since councils may struggle to hold a face-to-face meeting once remote meeting legislation expires, we would suggest that councils try to approve their end of year accounts before the 7 May where possible. This will allow you to meet safely and meet the audit deadline.</p> <p>We recognise this isn't going to be possible for every council, and some councils may need longer to prepare. Any meetings called after the 7 May will be required to meet face-to-face and must be held in a COVID secure environment.</p> <p>It was agreed to move the AGM to May 5th as a Zoom meeting, as it is expected the Clerk will have finalised the accounts as long as the AGAR information has come through in time.</p> <p>Annual Parish Meeting (APM) 2021. This must, by law, be held between March 1st and June 30th. In 2020 the requirement to hold the meeting was removed by the government due to Covid-19. It is expected that this year the requirement will be re-instated, so the Parish Council needs to plan how it will run this. It was agreed that the APM will take place on June 30th. By then it is hoped the restrictions on numbers in the Village Hall will have been lifted and a proper meeting can be held. Those organisations which have not been able to meet will be asked to outline their planned activities for the year ahead, and those few who have met can report on both their activities and their plans. It is proposed that the Parish Council invites a speaker from the MDDC Waste and Recycling team to explain how the process works, the improvements made and how residents can help to achieve the targets for recycling and waste reduction.</p>
2020/21-75	Dates of next meetings	Dates for 2021 are May 6 th AGM (which is expected to be a Zoom meeting), APM June 30 th July 15 th , September 16 th and November 18 th .

The meeting closed at 20:50. Following the meeting the minutes for January 21st were taken by the Clerk to the Chairman for signature.

Signed: