**Minutes of Coldridge Parish Council Meeting 20:00 on Monday July 24th 2023**

**Present:** **Councillors** Andrew Green, Marion Born, Chris Burrows, John Quick, Malcolm Bedford, Ivan Kriznik

**Clerk** Keyth Richardson

**MDDC Councillor** Natalia Letch DCC **Councillor** Margaret Squires

**Apologies:** John Smith, MDDC Councillor Stuart Penny,

**One member of the public was present.**

**Open Forum**

Marion Born raised an issue on behalf of some residents who are concerned that a lack of maintenance on the highways at the upper end of Church Lane is causing water to run down the road surface and wash away the surface of a private driveway.

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| 2023/24-21 | **Welcome by Chairman** | Andrew Green welcomed all to the meeting particularly Cllr Natalia Letch for whom this was the first time. |
| 2023/24-22 | **Recording of meetings** | no-one was recording the meeting |
| 2023/24-23 | **Apologies** | Apologies had been received from John Smith due a family bereavement, and from MDDC Cllr Stuart Penny |
| 2023/24-24 | **Declarations of interest** | None reported. |
| 2023/24-25 | **Minutes** | The minutes of the meeting on May 18th, 2023, were approved and signed |
| 2023/24-26 | **Matters arising** | The Clerk was asked to post a reminder on Facebook and ask John Smith to send out a reminder of the Defibrillator training on July 31st at 19:30 in the Village Hall |
| 2023/24-27 | **Long service award** | The clerk had not found anything suitable online and was asked to contact DALC for advice. Stuart Penny may have some ideas from MDDC |
| 2023/24-28 | **Church Clock update** | The clerk distributed a list of possible sources of funds, of which the majority had proved to either not support work on church clocks, or not to support Parish Councils. He was able to report that £600 had been obtained from a charity which wished to remain anonymous. The Chairman reported that the Coldridge Cafe on July 27th will be donating any surplus to this fund and will have a box for donations. The Clerk will be doing a display about the clock.  The Chairman reminded everyone that the Parish Council has an obligation to maintain the clock, and that as custodians of public money it must always seek best value for money. The last major overhaul was 48 years ago in 1975 so it is not surprising this work is needed now.  Other potential sources of fund mentioned were DCC Locality Fund from Cllr Squires, a JustGiving campaign, Denbrook wind farm; and the D-day 80th Celebration. The clerk will look into Denbrook.  As this project requires some a lot more detailed work a sub-committee was set up comprising Chris Burrows, Ivan Kriznik and Malcolm Bedford, with support as and when required from the clerk. |
| 2023/24-29 | **Visit to Local Employer** | The Chairman reported that he and John Smith had a very positive meeting with C&R Construction who are very keen not to be seen as being in conflict with the village and are anxious to cooperate. As a result of this meeting C&R arranged and paid for the cutting of the hedges on Church Lane whose owners gave them permission to do so. This has improved visibility and safety for all road users. The Chairman had written to thank them for this work.  C&R had also offered to pay all the cost associated with the purchase and installation of signs to try and prevent HGV traffic using the road from Frogbury Cross to the Village. This was discussed and the wording agreed, subject to a discussion on Tuesday 25th July between Stephen Tucker of DCC Highways and Ivan Kriznik and Malcolm Bedford. This will include the possibility of a double-sided sign at Hobbymoor Cross for C&R Construction.  There was discussion on potholes and other road defects, and the efficacy of any repair work done. Some of the potholes reported are not potholes according to the definition. (40mm vertical edge and a width of 300mm). Thus, the soup bowl type of defect is not going be repaired, even though to the layperson it is a pothole. The public are encouraged to continue to report defects on the DDC website <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/>  Several Councillors queried the quality of the repairs carried out, and the wisdom of continuing to use contractors instead of a direct labour force as it is believed that direct labour would be more likely to carry out proper long-lasting repairs compared to a variety of independent contractors. |
| 2023/24-30 | **Finance** | The following payments were agreed.   * 1. Clerk’s wages £402.08   2. Clerk’s expenses £2.48   3. DALC payment of £90 for M Bedford course   4. Coronation BBQ costs £32.16 |
| 2023/24-31 | **Coldridge Village Noticeboard repairs** | Malcolm Bedford has looked at the board and discovered the headboard is rotten and needs replacing. He will start work on it once the church noticeboard, which he is working on with Andrew Green is finished.  Chris Burrows will talk to Graham Warsop about moving the West Leigh noticeboard to the Linhay to make it more accessible. It is too small for current needs and long-term solution for this will need to be found.  As a historical note these noticeboards were paid for by Michael Thorne’s steel building business, which is the predecessor of C&R Construction. |
| 2023/24-32 | **Planning** | No current issues or applications |
| 2023/24-33 | **Highways** | **Road Warden Scheme** – due to the unchanged position on the problems of insurance this will not be considered.  **Use of Social Media**- deferred to next meeting when Cllr Penny can explain how he uses this.  **Parking at Frogbury Cross** Despite the Clerk raising this as an issue for the recent Neighbourhood Walkabout MDDC have declared that the lack of parking for their tenants at Frogbury Cross is not their concern and believe it to be a DCC Highways issue. Both Natalia Letch and Margaret Squires have taken this issue on board and will be seeking to find a resolution.  The Parish Council believe the simplest way to solve this is for MDDC to provide more off-road parking by utilising the spare land at Frogbury Cross which could easily double the off-road parking spaces. At present this parking is a serious safety hazard for all users of this junction.  ***See also comments about highways in minute 2023/24 – 29 above*** |
| 2023/24-34 | **Closure of Devon Mobile Library service** | This decision will be going to the scrutiny committee of DCC, but no-one present at his meeting believed the decision would be overturned.  A discussion took place considering what alternative options they may be to get library books into Coldridge, including inking them to other social events or the Village Hall.  The Clerk will set up a public meeting to see what the strength of feeling there is on this issue and what Coldridge parishioners could do. Running a library is not something the Parish Council should or could take on. |
| 2023/24-35 | **Councillor’s reports** | MS. Stover Country Park at Newton Abbot and The Great Western Canal at Tiverton have both had their Green Flag Award renewed and are superb places for days out for all.  Mar B. D-Day 80th will be on 6th June 2024 and the Parish Council should consider at a later meeting if and how to get involved.  JQ. The standing water at Gilscott has been pumped out but no-one is sure where the water is expected to drain to.  CB Reminded that IK needs input for his highways list.  Mal B. in response to a request from MDDC he had suggested a walking route to be added to the festival of walking, the Clerk will pass this on.  IK. nothing extra  NL. Glad to be here and keen to meet the Parish Council |
| 2023/24-36 | **Dates of next meetings** | To confirm the dates for 2023 as September 14th, November 16th. |

The meeting closed at 21.30

Signed: