**Minutes of Coldridge Parish Council Meeting 19.30 on Thursday March 21st 2024**

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

**Clerk** Keyth Richardson

**Apologies:** **MDDC Councillors** Natalia Letch **DCC Councillor** Margaret Squires

Two residents were present.

**Open Forum**

**Topic A**

Both residents expressed specific concerns over traffic in the village. Larger vehicles coming into the village from Frogbury Cross GR 691068 are unable to turn left at the small green triangle garden GR6977076 to leave the village in a north-northwest direction towards Higher Park, C&R Construction and Hawkridge. The roads are too narrow to permit this turn. Traffic recently has included a cement lorry, 3-axle, weighing up to 22 tonnes. It was suggested that a 7.5 tonne weight limit be placed upon this road, but there were several comments about this displacing traffic to other roads to the detriment of residents, and the need for agricultural vehicles and school buses to use this road, and that larger vehicle need to access properties on this road. It is only those turning left as described above which have an issue. Going onto the Green or down Church Lane are both straightforward.

One of the residents has contacted Hawkridge Dairy asking them to advise all deliveries to come via Eggesford, to which the dairy was amenable. (note that Hawkridge Dairy paid for the sign at approx. GR 695078 advising lorries there is no access to Hawkridge Dairy, and no turning point beyond the sign)

It was noted that on at least two occasions a Parish Councillor has seen lorries start turn from the B3220 into the road up from Frogbury Cross, seen the notice which C&R Construction paid for stating **No HGV Access to C&R Construction**, so this sign is having some effect.

The Council agreed to contact the DCC Councillor for the area, and DCC Highways Officer to suggest a site meeting and to see if they can come up with a solution to the problem of large vehicles turning left. The two residents will collect evidence of the problems this left turn causes.

**Topic B**

Two Councillors had been approached by a resident concerned about the lack of shelter for those waiting for the weekly bus to Crediton and Exeter on a Friday morning. The parish Council is very sympathetic to residents but as yet there has not been anywhere to build one. The Green is a conservation area, and a shelter cannot be built on the highway. The Council will continue to seek a solution to this problem.

**Topic C**

A resident has asked the Council to see if a weekly service bus to Barnstaple can be arranged with Mid Devon Coaches. They run one to Barnstaple on a Tuesday, and perhaps it can pick -up in Coldridge. *Post meeting note the Clerk has located the route which is from HALWILL - BARNSTAPLE Via Holsworthy & Bideford 646 Tuesdays only (except Public Holidays) This would not lend itself to a Coldridge pick-up.*

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| 2023/24-92 | **Welcome by Chairman** | Andrew Green welcomed all to the meeting |
| 2023/24-93 | **Recording of meetings** | no-one was recording the meeting |
| 2023/24-94 | **Apologies** | Apologies had been received from **MDDC Cllrs** Natalia Letch **DCC Councillor** Margaret Squires |
| 2023/24-95 | **Declarations of interest** | None reported. |
| 2023/24-96 | **Minutes** | The minutes of the meeting on January 14th, were approved and signed |
| 2023/24-97 | **Matters arising** | The Clerk has investigated Blood Kits for the defibrillators. These are designed to be used in town and city centres where there is no access to first aid and are focused on dealing with knife and gun wounds. It was agreed not to proceed with spending money on these. |
| 2023/24-98 | **Coldridge Village Noticeboard repairs** | The work for the Village Green noticeboard is in hand and Malcolm Bedford is working on this with Trevor Mackown. |
| 2023/24-99 | **Closure of DCC mobile library** | John Smith, who has taken on a leading role in the county wide campaign gave an update. The legal case was lost, but an appeal is being considered by the legal team. Users of the Mobile Library had a collection for Julie, the librarian and she was presented with a £50.00 gardening voucher, and a mug.  The vans have not yet been sold. Crediton Library are looking into have a local volunteer to hold some books in Coldridge, but no-one suitable has been identified. |
| 2023/24-100 | **Tree pruning on the Village Green** | Andrew Green John Smith and the Clerk held a site meeting with a representative of National Power o discuss alternatives to pruning the tree, such as running the cable underground. The quotation received for this work was over £29,000, which is not tenable. There was discussion on how to proceed with is, possibly calling on Simon Nuttal, who did work on the church trees. It was agreed to wait for Hi-Line, the NGED agent before proceeding, but it was accepted that some pruning will need to be carried out. |
| 2023/24-101 | **Request for minor work on the Green by the Gardening Club** | A letter had been received from Coldridge Gardening Club requesting permission to split the snowdrops up on the Village Green and replant to ensure a good display and keep them healthy. This was agreed, with the snowdrops being replanted in the same part of the Green.  A second request was for some more daffodils to be planted. It was suggested that the existing ones are dug up, split and replanted, which should provide enough bulbs to extend the display and fill in any gaps. They could also be planted alongside the walls of Church Cottage and Rockfield, but not in the main area of the Green which is for recreation use.  The clerk to reply to Teresa Kendall. |
| 2023/24-102 | **NALC session on the use of social media.**  **28/02/24** | Ivan gave detailed feedback on this, which both he and the Clerk had found interesting and informative. It is clear that there is scope for poor behaviour and abuse to occur in social media and if a Council is to use it then it must have a clear message to give, and it must speak as a united body. There needs to be control from the Council to ensure posts are valid and not abusive.  It was decided to continue to use The Coldridge Calendar and **What’s on in Coldridge** to provide information, especially from MDDC and DCC. It was agreed to hold fire on have a specific Coldridge Parish Council Facebook page. |
| 2023/24-103 | **Media and Communications Policy** | This was tabled, the Clerk was thanked for the work on this, and it will be discussed in depth at the next, or subsequent meeting. Councillors were asked to send any suggestions for improvements or amendments to the Clerk so a revised draft can be produced. |
| 2023/24-104 | **D-Day 80th 6/6/2024** | After some discussion, and following offers of help from members of the Village Hall Social Group the plan is for the Village Hall bar to be open, 200 pasties to be available at no charge and the beacon lighting will take place nationally at 21:15.  **Roles-**  Chris Burrows and Andrew Green to be responsible for the beacon including obtaining permission from Graham Knott, the Manager of Coldridge Barton.  Pasties. Chris and Pat Allard to organise these, in conjunction with Margaret Burrows who is investigating the use of frozen pasties for VH events. Can Malcolm and John Quick also help with these and the donation bucket. Official suggestions are Royal Navy Association; ABF the Soldiers Charity; RAF Benevolent fund; Merchant Navy Assoc.  John Smith and Andrew Green to put up the bunting.  Ivan will coordinate the advertising on WOIC.  John Smith with publicise it in The Coldridge Calendar  Marion will arrange for tea and coffee to be available. |
| 2023/24-105 | **Banking mandate update** | The Clerk thanked all the Councillors for their prompt action in ensuring they are all now signatories |
| 2023/24-106 | **On-line banking** | The clerk asked the Parish Council to authorise him to setup and run on-line banking for the Parish council. This was agreed unanimously. Safeguards are that all payments must be recorded in the minutes as at present, and the Clerk will arrange for all Councillors to be able to view the accounts and for the Chairman and Vice-chairman to be empowered to make payments. |
| 2023/24-107 | **Finance** | The following payments were agreed.   1. clerk’s wages £318.27 2. Tax on clerk’s wages £79.40 3. clerk’s expenses  £2.48 4. Ivan Krisnik for NALC course £39.22 5. Mid Devon Mobility £200.00 6. H Smith grass cutting £110.00 |
| 2023/24-108 | **Planning** | Cllr Natalia Letch MDDC has raised a possible breach of planning for Green Acres, and this is with the MDDC enforcement officer Heather Nesbitt. Natalia will follow this up. |
| 2023/24-109 | **Highways** | The issues of Frogbury Cross have been addressed to some extent, although MDDC and DCC officers are not fully in step with regard to clearing the drains (MDDC on the property, DCC in the highway)  Coldridge Parish Council is concerned that DCC do not seem to be able to cope, and whilst some potholes had been patched there are still gullies awaiting clearance/rodding/draining, in some cases for months or years. This is from the minutes of Jan 14th and nothing has changed. *The current cleaning regime for the drains in Church Lane from Long Parks down to Church Lane Cross is not effective as the drains are blocked up, some of which is gravel from resurfacing work which was not cleared up by the contactors, thus creating a problem for the drains.*  Marion reported an issue on the lane south of Frogbury Cross, which has only been partially resolved.  Whilst the flooding at Gilscott has finally been drained there is some concern over the actual outflow from the drain, is there one or does it just slowly soak away, or not.  Ivan will report all the potholes in the Square to see if these can be repaired in time for Coldridge Fete. |
| 2023/24-90 | **Councillor’s reports** | Chris Burrows was concerned that DCC was closing re-cycling centres. (Post meeting note, this is Somerset CC not DCC)  Any excess of the fundraising for Coldridge Clock repairs need to be accounted for and used for the purposes stated when the appeal was launched. |
| 2023/24-91 | **Date of next meeting** | The dates are May 9th July 18th Sept 19th Nov 21st |

The meeting closed at 21.45

Signed: