



# Coleford Town Council

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**In advance of the meeting, a Fire Alarm test, and exercise, was undertaken successfully.**

At the Meeting of the Coleford Town Council held at the Town House, Lords Hill Walk, Coleford on Tuesday 20 August at 7.00 pm there were present:

- Cllrs.            Mr N Penny (Mayor)  
                      Mr K Ball  
                      Mrs H Barnham  
                      Mr S Brown  
                      Mr R Drury  
                      Mr C Elsmore  
                      Mrs N Holloway  
                      Mr J Simister
- Ms A Lapington     (Town Clerk)  
                      Mr C Haine            (Administrative Assistant)

**Public Forum:**

No members of the public attended

**77.**Apologies were noted from Cllrs Kay, M Cox, S Cox, Allaway-Martin & Lusty

**78.**Cllr. Penny declared a pecuniary interest in Item 83.

**79.**There were no dispensation requests

**80.To approve the minutes of 30 July 2019**

Page 3 item 58:Cllr. M Cox requested for financial papers to be sent out approximately one week in advance of Full Council meetings. It was proposed that the minutes of 30 July be agreed with this addition.

**Proposed: Cllr. Holloway**

**Seconded: Cllr. Elsmore**

On being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed.

**Cllr. Penny signed off the minutes.**

**81.To raise matters arising from the meeting of 30 July 2019**

There were no matter arising

**82.To note reports from District and County Councillors (for information only)**

Dist. Cllr. Elsmore reported that the 5 Acres site matter, in respect of Homes England, had been referred back to the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

**Cllr. Penny left the room**

**83.To agree payments (see attached)**

In Cllr. Penny's absence, Cllr. Ball was nominated to chair Item 83.

The Town Clerk clarified several payments, and it was proposed all payments be agreed. The total of payments equals **£31,282.80**

**Proposed: Cllr. Simister**

**Seconded: Cllr. Brown**



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On being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed.

**Cllr. Penny re-entered the room**

**84. To agree petty cash payments for the Council and TIC (see attached)**

The Town Clerk clarified several payments, and it was proposed all payments be agreed.

**Proposed: Cllr. Ball**

**Seconded: Cllr. Penny**

On being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed.

**85. To note cash books and bank reconciliations**

The cash book and reconciliation were noted.

**86. To note the monthly budget figures (see attached)**

Cllr. Penny stated that Finance & Office Committee would look more critically at income/expenditure, monitoring, etc. at its next meeting in September. The figures were noted.

**87. To make comment on the new bus routes in the Forest of Dean**

Cllr. Elsmore summarised the impending changes, from September, to bus routes, across the Forest of Dean, and expressed concerns in respect of the confusion, and disruption, that this might cause for residents, and he has raised with GCC Public Transport Department. After further discussion, Cllr. Penny summarised that there were clear concerns re: confusion, and disruption due to route changes, also cuts to services, diminished provision, especially to rural links and to community hubs e.g. railway stations, health centres and hospitals, as well as a lack of detail regarding changes, and inaccessible, unclear timetables. It was proposed that a letter is sent to Glos CC, and copied to MP Mark Harper raising the summarised concerns.

**Proposed: Cllr. Ball**

**Seconded: Cllr. Barnham**

Cllr. Holloway proposed an amendment, to include an invitation for appropriate GCC Council Member, to attend a Town Council meeting (Public Safety committee), to discuss matters further, and to seek assurances how these might be addressed.

**Proposed: Cllr. Holloway**

**Seconded: Cllr. Barnham**

On being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed.

It was also proposed that this matter, because of its ramifications and implications, across the Forest of Dean, might be a good opportunity for Cllr. Penny to call a Mayor's 4 Towns meeting, to agree a joint approach, particularly in respect of rural links.

**Proposed: Cllr. Holloway**

**Seconded: Cllr. Ball**

On being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed.

**88. To make comment on the proposed disconnection of Tufthorn Close phone box**

Cllr. Penny summarised, including the reasons why this disconnection was objected to previously. After further discussion, it was proposed that this disconnection is objected to again

**Proposed: Cllr. Penny**

**Seconded: Cllr. Ball**

On being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed.



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## **89. To note the decisions of the Planning committee**

The planning decisions were noted.

## **90. To note reports from members (for information only)**

### **Cllr. Penny**

31 July                    Attended Bells Field to review progress of incomplete works  
1-2 August                Charity cheque handovers  
5-12 August               Visited St Hilaire de Riez - various formal and informal functions  
15 August                 Delivered fliers to Stepbridge estate for play and consultation session  
20 August                 Attended play session and consultation at Stepbridge estate, Milkwall

Cllr. Penny thanked the Town Clerk for attending Mrs Margaret Shallcross's Funeral service, in his absence and, on behalf of the Town Council. Cllr. Penny also reported that he would be attending a Memorial Service, on 15 September. Cllr. Penny also reported his pleasure in presenting two cheques, both for £3,350, to his chosen charities, which were both received gratefully. The Stepbridge consultation was also positively reported on, and Cllr. Penny stated that this would be carried forward by the Amenities Committee.

### **Cllr. Simister**

20 August                Attended play session and consultation at Stepbridge estate, Milkwall  
Cllr. Simister reported on a positive consultation, with good numbers of residents engaging  
2 July                    Attendance at FoD Health Forum. Cllr. Simister reported on an informative meeting, including a presentation from Gary Deighton. Healthy Lifestyle Coordinator, Community Wellbeing Service, and its links to the NHS Long Term Plan. Information available thorough District Hub based within the Community Engagement Team at the Forest of Dean District Council. Also information about the Forest of Dean Healthy Lifestyles Exercise Referral Scheme and the Gloucestershire Healthy Lifestyles Schemes.

Cllr. Simister reported on attendance, at a Town Council meeting, outside the area, and was impressed by its strong links to its business community through its bi-yearly forum. In respect of local businesses, Cllr. Simister reported resident concerns re: Apex proposed closure, and wanting to see the Town Council support local businesses wherever possible. Cllr. Simister raised concerns from residents re: Mile End telephone box, and this was referred to Amenities Committee. Cllr. Simister reported on discussions with those looking after Dean Trail Track, who were happy to attend the upcoming Skate Jam, to offer advice in respect of the Bells Field bike track.

### **Cllr. Holloway**

Cllr. Holloway raised concerns in respect of the negative social media exchanges re: anti-social behaviour at Bells Field, and Cllr. Penny responded, by stating that this negative coverage had been unhelpfully exaggerated through social media. Cllr. Penny reported on the pro-active presence and engagement of local police, in an attempt to 'nip things in the bud', including planned use of their Neighbourhood Community Vehicle, and the positive effect of responsible adults too, who have engaged constructively with users of the facilities, recognising that it is a minority few, spoiling it for the many.

### **Cllr. Elsmore**

6 August                 Attendance at Margaret Shallcross Funeral  
Cllr. Elsmore reported on upcoming Heritage Open Days between 13 to 22 September, and leaflets are available



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Cllr. Elsmore referenced the 5 Year Plan, and Cllr. Penny stated that September would include some focussed discussions and a meeting, similar to the previous 4 Year Plan process, and was equally keen to capture the needs, and issues, identified by the residents of Coleford.

## **Cllr. Drury**

### **17 August**

Street Theatre Event with Desperate Men Theatre Company

Cllr. Drury reported on a constructive event, with some good engagement of about 30/40 people, and a walkabout, promoting awareness, which culminated at Bells Field. Cllr. Drury further adding that this was something to build upon.

## **Cllr. Brown**

Cllr. Brown reported on an upcoming fundraising event that he is organising in respect of Coleford Music Festival, and Cllr. Penny expressed his appreciation, as he had to the two previous fundraising events. Cllr. Brown also promoted the upcoming Faddle Fair, endorsing their benefit to the town.

## **Cllr. Barnham**

Cllr. Barnham raised concerns re: the newly established Innovation Hub, in respect of its moving forward maintenance e.g. resourcing, staffing, etc. It was agreed that the Town Council should keep a watching idea on this, invite the Hub manager to a Finance & Office committee meeting, to discuss these concerns, as it is such an exciting new asset in Coleford. It was noted that Cllr. Allaway-Martin had also raised these concerns in her capacity as a GCC Councillor. Cllr. Barnham raised concern re: street furniture, and Cllr. Penny stated that those mentioned were not the Town Council's responsibility, although this was relevant within the wider Regeneration Committee's remit for Coleford. Cllr. Barnham also raised concerns re: footpath 14 on Owen Farm and was asked to send evidence of signage that discouraged access, as the Town Council can the raise this again with GCC Rights of Way Department

## **Cllr. Ball**

Cllr. Ball raised concerns re: state of rubbish bins in the Town Centre and Dist. Cllr. Elsmore agreed to take forward. Cllr. Ball raised concerns re: Suntory, and their recycling plastic process, which he believed wasn't as green as it should be, and Cllr. Penny stated that he had had discussions with them, and they were committed to making their bottle entirely recyclable and were fully supportive of the 'plastic free' initiatives. Cllr. Ball raised concerns re: road surfaces in Staunton Road by the Thurstan's Rise development and it was agreed that road surfacing should be discussed further, at the next Public Safety Committee meeting Cllr. Ball raised further concerns re: utility works activity in the parish, and was corresponding with both GCC Highways Department, Welsh Water and Mark Harper, MP in respect of his concerns.

## **91. To note the Clerks report**

The Town Clerk referred to a number of items, which were discussed, and the Clerk's Report was noted.

## **92. To note correspondence (for information only, see attached list)**

Cllr Penny suggested that the Citizen's Advice Monitoring Report should be referred to the next Finance & Office Committee meeting. The correspondence re: Bus stop was passed to Dist. Cllr. Elsmore. All other correspondence was noted



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## In-Committee

### **93. To receive an update on outstanding commercial items relating to Bells Field**

Cllr. Penny summarised, and Cllr. Brown was asked to consider some aspects further. After further discussion, it was agreed that any decisions would now be referred to the next Bell's Implementation Committee meeting.

**Meeting ended: 8.29pm**