



# Coleford Town Council

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At the Meeting of the Coleford Town Council held via 'Zoom' remote video conferencing facilities, on Wednesday 29 July 2020, at 7.00 pm, there were present:

Cllrs. Mr N Penny (Mayor)  
Mrs H Barnham  
Mrs M Cox  
Mr S Cox  
Mr C Elsmore  
Mrs N Holloway  
Mrs C Allaway-Martin Joined at 19.11 pm  
  
Ms A Lapington (Town Clerk)

Public Mr D Barham Thurstan Residents Assoc  
Mr P Hayman

Cllr. Penny opened the meeting, thanking all those who were able to attend via 'Zoom'. Further stating that this meeting was not to be recorded for formal purposes

**300.** Apologies were noted from Cllrs Kay, Lusty, Simister and Ball

**301.** There were no declarations of Interest

**302.** There were no dispensation requests

**303. To allow input from the public (5 minutes)**

Mr D Barnham explained that the Thurstans Rise Residents Assoc were launching a legal challenge to GCC Highways proposed works on Staunton Road due to the failure to adequately notify residents and the communication being incorrect only stating 5 days not 22 days' work. They have proof that only 10% of the estate got a letter. He emphasised that many residents were key workers and this would give them great difficulty getting to work. Plus the elderly and vulnerable residents relying on food deliveries would be faced with enormous problems. There are approximately 300 cars on the site and many will try and park off site for easier access and this will cause significant parking problems in the town. They are preparing a peaceful socially distanced protest should the works go ahead.

**304. To agree agree to the GCC Highways plans for the resurfacing of Staunton Road & Lords Hill**

Cllr Penny summarised the situation so far and gave brief account of his conversations with GCC Cllr V Smith, portfolio holder for GCC Highways who gave an apology for the poor communication but that the works could not be rescheduled but every effort would be made to work with the Town Council to keep the disruption to a minimum.

Cllr Penny stressed there were 2 elements to the issue the communication of the works and the implementation of them.

The Council widely debated the issue with all councillors raising their concerns about the works being carried out at this time. The main points raised were

- The Council recognised that the works were necessary but the timing made the impact on the parish unacceptable



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- That it was unacceptable that the residents, business and services impacted by the works had not been notified (including the police station)
- That the communication from GCC Highways was incorrect stating only 5 days' work instead of the 22 days
- That the business in the town were just starting to revive after the 4 months lock down and that this closure could be the final straw for some of them
- That the new supermarket carpark will be inaccessible after opening for only 5 days
- The tourist attractions feared this would cause a lack of visitors during what should be their busiest period.
- That with proper consultation the works may have been able to go ahead with the support of the community

It was also raised if additional gangs could be employed on the site to shorten the length of time

It was proposed that an official complaint is made to GCC Highways about the communication with the public stressing the unacceptability of the incorrect information and that a copy of this letter should be sent to Mark Harper MP Forest of Dean

Proposed Cllr Barnham

Seconded Cllr M Cox

On being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed

It was then proposed that the works should reluctantly go ahead but that the Town Council must be supplied with a daily/weekly review of the process from the GCC Highways contractor

Proposed Cllr Penny

Cllr M Cox counter proposed that it should read that the word "reluctantly" be removed and replace with "should".

Cllr Penny did not accept the amendment and called for a seconder which did not materialise  
This proposal fell

It was then proposed that the Town Council should call for the works to be rescheduled as the timing is inappropriate and further discussion should take place to improve better access and infrastructure during the works and that the assistance of Mark Harper MP should be sought.

Proposed Cllr M Cox

Seconded Cllr S Cox

On being put to the vote it was carried by 5 votes in favour, 1 against & 1 abstention.