

COLWALL PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting of Colwall Parish Council held in the Jean Simon Room of Colwall Village Hall, Mill Lane, Colwall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26th August 2015.

Present: Councillors, Beard, Carless, Fraser, Haynes, James, Kendrick, Mills, Rees, Stock, Trafford-Roberts, Turner, the Clerk, County Councillor A Johnson and 3 members of the public.

1. Welcome and Apologies: The Chairman welcomed those present and apologies for absence were received from Councillors Butler, Cottam, Hughes.

2. Co-option of Councillors.

The Clerk advised no applications have been received for the current vacancy. An advertisement has been posted on both the Parish Council website and the Parish Council public notice board.

The meeting was adjourned to allow County Councillor Johnson to speak. An update was provided on the Core Strategy – following the Inspectors report this will be put before Herefordshire Full Council for approval, at the end of October or November 2015. A Consultation on the forthcoming budget is being undertaken to ascertain if a referendum should be held to increase the Poll Tax by more than 1.9% to preserve services that would be affected by limited cash reserves. Preparation for the 2016/17 Budget is underway – on the assumption of a 1.9% increase in the Poll Tax.

The meeting was reconvened.

3. Declarations of Interests: The Chairman reminded Councillors of the need to declare any Interests in items on the agenda.

i) Councillor Kenrick declared a non disclosable pecuniary interest in item 5.

4. Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council held on the 29th July 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Progress Report –

i) Neighbourhood Development Plan

Councillor Stock reported the following:-

Draft Plan and Policies.

As reported in July we are working with our consultant to prepare the draft Plan, in particular drafting the policies. Progress is slow because of holidays. We have received advice from the Herefordshire NDP team and responded where appropriate.

Allocation of School Site

Again as I reported last month the Governing Body of Colwall CE Primary School has requested we ‘Allocate’ a site for the new school in our Plan. This is an appropriate

matter for the Plan and the school is an essential part of a sustainable village. It is therefore vital we support this work and maximise the benefit the village can obtain.

Through Charlie Walker I arranged a meeting with Herefordshire Council for Friday 31 July 2015 to discuss the implications, both for the Plan and the school. It was a positive meeting. One major concern we had was the timescale for our Plan would not suit the school however, provided we have made some progress, including consultation with the community that is favourable, Herefordshire believes the emerging Plan details will be sufficient to support their planning application and demonstrate the site has been chosen in consultation with the Parish.

Based on an initial sift of possible sites; considering the impact on the landscape; the need for 3.5 to 4 acres and the access, three sites appear worthy of detailed consideration; the existing school site and adjacent land; the land adjacent to the village hall and the land behind Grovesend Farm. In comparison with the other two, the site by the village hall and scout hut appear to offer the possibility of joint community uses. In order to confirm this and understand what might be appropriate the Working Group held a meeting here on 12 August with representatives from:-

Colwall Primary School Governors,
Colwall Village Hall Management Committee
Colwall Scouts
Colwall Primary School Staff
Colwall Cricket Club
Colwall Room Trustees
Colwall Parish Council
Colwall Parochial Church Council.

The ideas collected from this meeting will now be discussed with Herefordshire allowing the development of layout plans which will allow further consideration of the impact on the landscape and other matters. Herefordshire are keen to include some housing in the development as it brings a number of benefits and could mitigate the housing that has historically been identified for this site in the Plan.

Inevitably this work will lead to additional costs being incurred as we will need additional advice from our consultant and from Carly Tinkler our landscape advisor. Additional consultation will also be necessary. The timescale is also important and the additional work may overwhelm our current resources, in which case we will have to extend the use of our consultant. We have no way of assessing the work load or these costs and therefore I request an additional £5,000 to provide us with some freedom to proceed with the work. In April 2015, Council approved £8,600 for the 2015/16 financial year and the additional sum would take the year costs to £13,600. Colwall Parish Council has reserves of £13,400 in Parish Projects, plus unallocated reserves of £40,400 totalling over £53,800. Therefore these revised project costs are easily covered by our reserves. After a period of debate.

IT WAS RESOLVED that an additional £5,000 be allocated taking the total sum allocated for the current financial year to £13,600.

Councillor Kendrick abstained from voting on this matter

6. Financial Matters.

i) Colwall Parish Council considered the Income and Expenditure for August 2015, as per the list circulated at the meeting. IT WAS RESOLVED that the payments be made.

7. Newsletter

IT WAS AGREED that the next edition of the newsletter would be published by the 10th October, and available for distribution via Councillor John Mills by the 14th October 2015.

IT WAS AGREED Councillors are to forward articles to the editor, Councillor Roland Trafford-Roberts, by the 15th September 2015.

8. Elms School Access across Colwall Green

The Clerk confirmed that the Conservators manage the way leave/easement across Colwall Green that has been granted to the Elms School. Any queries are directed by the Clerk to the legal team at the Malvern Hills Conservators.

9. Herefordshire Council Budget Consultation

IT WAS AGREED Councillor Mills will circulate a draft response to the Councillors on behalf of the Parish Council for onwards submission.

10. Correspondence for Processing

None

11. Correspondence for Information

See attached table.

Information relating to items 3 and 4 are to be circulated by the Clerk to the Councillors.

12. Reports of Committees.

i) IT WAS RESOLVED that the report from the Village Amenities committee meeting held on the 5th August 2015 was received, approved and adopted.

i) IT WAS RESOLVED that the report from the Planning & Development committee meeting held on the 5th August 2015 was received, approved and adopted.

13. Representatives on Outside Bodies. To receive reports from Councillors who have represented Council at meetings since the last Full Council meeting.

i) Councillor Rees advised that the Malvern Hills AONB will attend the next Village Amenities committee meeting to discuss verge cutting.

The Parish Walks have been arranged for 19th and 23rd September 2015.

A further meeting regarding the management of Colwall Green by the Conservators is to be arranged in September 2015.

ii) Councillor Turner advised that Ledbury CVS are in discussions with John Masefield School regarding the provision of transport from Colwall to John Masefield School; following withdrawal of the Herefordshire free home to school transport policy eligibility based upon nearest and catchment school.

14. Date of next meeting:

To confirm the date of the next Full Council meeting, this will be held on Wednesday 30th August 2015 and would be held in the Jean Simon Room of Colwall Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Signed:

Table Correspondence
Aug 2015

Document 1	Cotswold Line Promotion Group – Summer/Autumn 2015 Newsletter
Document 2	CPRE Summer 2015 Newsletter and Voice Summer 2015
Document 3	Invitation to M Percy event.
Document 4	Village Warden quarterly report