

COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 8th July 2024

Meeting held at the Old Timber Store, Carpenter's Yard, Coleshill at 6.30pm

MINUTES

1. Present

Councillors Vicki Mace-Benson (in the chair), Rachel Knight & Oliver Fox; District Councillor Viral Patel; Charles Leather (National Trust); Katherine Hearn, Sue Homersham, Jamie Metcalfe-Tarren & Alec Peters.

2. Apologies

Parish Councillors Rory Souter and Jo Jameson, County Councillor Bethia Thomas, District Councillor Katherine Foxhall, Gemma Fox, Guy Jordan, Hannah Loaring, Verity Manners and Ros Webster sent apologies for their absence.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 8th April 2024 were approved by the PC and those present.

4. Matters arising

a) Traffic and signage issues:

The damaged sign near the Radnor Arms pub has been reported to Fix-my-street and has been actioned to be replaced by Oxfordshire County Council. A new 'slippery road' sign on the lower green at the bottom of the village without the PC being informed. This was checked with Oxfordshire County Council who said that it was not one of their signs. Swindon Borough Council will be contacted to find out why the sign has been installed.

Other works include the pothole near the Radnor Arms pub which has been reported and the damaged sign near School Lane which is actioned to be replaced this financial year. An update on the Coleshill bridge repairs was requested from Swindon Borough Council by the PC. However, works have been postponed until at least the summer of 2026 because they are not seen as a priority.

Sue Homersham raised the issue of roadkill of large animals, such as roe deer, which have been left in the road and disturbed by verge management. It was suggested that they could be removed by local farmers and, possibly, given to kennels. Sue Homersham offered to approach a farmer.

b) Road surface and white lines:

The white painted lines on junctions around the village have been painted and are working well to show who has right of way. There was no update on the road resurfacing from the PC or Oxfordshire County Council.

c) Road drains

No clearing of the road drains has happened since the last PC meeting despite it being raised with Oxfordshire County Council. The PC will request this is addressed as soon as possible.

d) PC website:

The website is up and running and a reminder will be added to the next village newsletter. Content is requested from anyone in the village.

e) Storm discharge from Coleshill Sewage Treatment Works:

The PC has been informed by Thames Water that the Coleshill Sewage Treatment Works does not discharge untreated water into the river in emergency situations. Therefore, it is not a source of storm discharge into the river unlike other treatment works, such as Sevenhampton upstream. Viral Patel reported that during recent rain events several local treatment works in the Vale had discharged untreated effluent into water courses. This is an issue for several treatment works and it is an issue which the District Council is taking seriously and investigating.

f) Churchyard wall

Sue Homersham reported that progress on the churchyard wall repairs was moving steadily forward with contractors close to starting works. Stakeholders were involved in discussions about the logistics of the works and how to access the site and store materials. The works will include the whole length of the churchyard wall, including the sections along Church Lane. Charles Leather requested that any road closure or blocking of the lane be discussed with the National Trust as early as possible so that residents can be informed.

5. Finances

Rachel Knight summarised a report on the PC finances including:

- a) The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) has been agreed by the PC and submitted to Oxfordshire County Council.
- b) The outlays from the PC account included the annual payment for insurance and continued cemetery maintenance.

6. Old School buildings

Sue Homersham updated those present that the school was in the final stages of being sold as a family property.

7. National Trust Liaison Committee

No members of the liaison committee were present to provide an update, although a forthcoming meeting is expected in the next few weeks.

8. National Trust Report

Charles Leather discussed the main points of the National Trust report, attached to these minutes, including:

- a) Updates on the let estate including the number of vacant properties and ongoing refurbishments in the village.
- b) A countryside update on Ash dieback checks and a new wildlife sightings board in the National Trust car park.
- c) The long term vision will be developed with input from the residents of the estate with comments from a listening session included with the National Trust report. A survey has been sent out to National Trust tenants for feedback requested on the long term strategy. A workshop will be held on 23rd July to provide an opportunity to discuss these ideas further and we encourage villagers to attend.

Rachel Knight asked about the external decorations planned for the year.

9. Local Government Reports: District and County Councillors

District Councillor Viral Patel provided an update based on the latest report which included details of the Wicklesham Quarry planning application.

There was a discussion of how quickly planning changes would be apparent following the change of government. There was a concern about business interest groups having more influence on planning issues if the focus was now on economic growth.

The latest reports from the County and District Council will also be circulated with these minutes.

10. Planning applications

No planning applications have been received.

11. Any other business

- a) Rachel Knight asked about the Thames Water pipeline works and Charles Leather reported that they are projected to be offsite by the end of August or early September.
- b) Sue Homersham raised the issue of dogs off leads in Coleshill Park and the impact on ground-nesting birds, particularly with new pathways encouraging visitors to go into new areas. Katherine Hearn said there were many issues surrounding dog walking that were not restricted to Coleshill but a wider problem for the National Trust to manage access in a way to not impact on wildlife and conservation. There was a discussion of how to balance the often-conflicting requirements of encouraging access and wildlife conservation.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 7th October 2024 at 6.30 pm at the Old Timber Store unless otherwise notified.