

MINUTES OF THE COLN ST ALDWYNS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2025 IN
VICARAGE COTTAGES BARN

Present: David Hicks-Beach (Chair), John Reeves, Will Perkins (Vice Chair), Anthony Van Oss, Helen Forbes, Caroline Bagguley, Donna Parsons, David Fowles, Clare Brignall (Clerk)

MINUTES

1. There were no apologies
2. The Council received no declarations of interest
3. The Council to approved and signed the minutes of the last meeting, held on 21 January 2025.
4. The Council heard the report from the District Councillor. He reported that Highways are going to repair the wall along the triangle opposite the shop and he will follow this work up. There was a question about who owns the fencing down by the bench at the bottom of the village which needs replacing. HF will put it on Fix My Street. Cllr. Fowles spoke about the upcoming combination of district and county councils.
5. The Council considered the budget vs spend for the period of December to February. There was an overspend in the playground because of repairs, so that came from the reserves. MacVenture are going to come and do their inspection on 20 March. Hopefully they will give an idea of how long the elements will last. Council agreed to pay the invoice for the churchyard mowing. WP is going to take on being the second signatory on online banking when HF leaves the Council and HF will do the paperwork for this. Council agreed to pay the clerk's expenses of £350.
6. The Council reviewed and approved the bank reconciliation for the period of 1 January to 28 February.
7. The Council approved the internal checks for the period of December to February.
8. The Council approved the fact that councillors will sign to agree that checks have been carried out.
9. David H-B proposed Donna Parsons as a new councillor and it was seconded by Anthony VO.
10. David H-B proposed Caroline Bagguley as the new parish clerk and it was seconded by WP.
11. The Council to confirm the date and time of the litter pick as Saturday 29 at 9.30. CMB to get stickers for the bags. DHB to put on Parvo. HF to put on Whats App.
12. The Council confirmed that they were happy with the insurance policy. Chestnut tree needs an inspection, which costs around £700. CB will try to find someone who can do the inspection for less.
13. The Council approved the work that Rob Forbes has done on the biodiversity policy. It only applies to the playground although DHB will ask MstA about the bridge. We need a new contractor for the grass and hedge cutting so we can apply the biodiversity rules to that. Council agreed to defer to the DHQ biodiversity action group and to support it.
14. The Council approved the accessibility statement for the website.
15. The Council approved the GDPR policy and Council has paid to be a members of the IOC.
16. The Council approved regular asset checks on a designated form.
17. The Council discussed progress on speed watch/Smiley Sid. The camera has been fixed and Smiley Sid is coming back to Coln. WP agreed to look at Council's old Smiley Sid.

18. The Council reviewed planning applications. There are a number of applications about trees and Council is still waiting on what is happening at Dean Farm. There is nothing for the council to do at the moment.
19. The Council discussed the need to increase the electricity supply to the village. This has been done – new cable put in across from substation to other side of Main Street, and now both sides of Main Street have upgraded electricity. If other parts of the village want to upgrade their supply they will need to contact SSE.
20. The Council discussed the plans for the next get together with the councils of Quenington and Hatherop and decided to wait for Caroline to settle in as the new clerk. CHQ councils were discussing the phone mast at Donkeywell, and the company that organises smart meters say that we are never going to get a signal in Coln. David Fowles is going to look into it.
21. The Council confirmed the date for the AGM on 8 May. The Council meeting will start at 6 and the village meeting at 7. Council agreed to invite Sarah Walker – rural housing enabler. DHB will invite the speakers for the village meeting and organise refreshments.