**Coleford Town Council**

**Highways and Public Safety Committee**

**Thursday 11 January 2024**

**1.00pm – 3.00pm**

**Council Chamber**

**Present: Cllrs. M Cox, S Cox, C Elsmore, P Kay, M Getgood**

**Nathan Choat (GCC Highways)**

**PCSO Tom Oliver, PCSO Abi Coe**

**Laura-Jade Schroeder (Town Clerk)**

1. Apologies received from Cllrs D Starr, H Lusty
2. No interests declared re: Items on the agenda
3. No new dispensation requests were received
4. The minutes of 30 November 23 were proposed, and unanimously agreed.

**Chair, Cllr. M Cox signed a copy, as a true record**

1. **Matters arising, that were not on this agenda, from the minutes of 30 November 2023:**

Community forum and police meeting – Cllr Getgood will attend as the rep. 22nd Jan 6:30-8pm at Coleford Police Station – Councillor advocacy

Christmas Lights went well. No issues to report from the police. Thanks to the Christmas Lights team.

Rainbow crossing – we cannot do this due to maintenance costs

1. **No members of the public present**

Cllr M Cox (Chair) took the Public Safety items first as the Police needed to leave by 2pm.

**Public Safety**

1. **To receive update from Police re: community forum and progress, date of next meeting.**

Break in at church on Newland street and ASB at St Johns school. Key people who are involved in this. Police doing best to work with youths, but may need to go into criminal justice system. Can’t use restorative justice. It is more criminality now.

Police will chase Community Forum.

Crime rates in Coleford Central and Coleford East have gone up by 29% total. Town centre itself is up by 3% in concern for safety.

Clearing up bus shelter area at Coalway has overall improved area. Broken window effect. There are other areas around periphery where this could also be applied. Bus stop at Mile End – could we do more? Police to let us know if there’s anywhere else they see on their rounds that could do with some attention.

Shoplifting before Christmas – 1 reported theft in Coleford Central. None in Coleford East. Shops may not be alerting police.

Coleford police attend Lydney and Cinderford too. It was proposed and unanimously agreed that:

**Recommendation: To ask Police Inspector Nick Cook what staffing levels at Coleford are, and how staffing works – which areas they also attend, during the last quarter.**

1. **To receive update from Councillor Advocacy Scheme meeting**

22nd Jan 6:30-8pm at Coleford Police Station – Councillor advocacy

1. **To receive further update from Police including crime statistics, detection rates, and make recommendations as necessary.**

No detection rates. Police to update next time.

1. **To review and make recommendations re: Coleford Resilience Plan:** 
   1. To review draft 1 changes re enactment and recognise different status compared to ongoing enquiries
   2. Grab bag: should bleed control kit be available?
   3. Defib mapping: status?
   4. To review status of current permission forms
   5. To update re recruitment: conversations, social media, newsletter, stall on Tump
   6. To train, maintain, develop the group with shared understanding and purpose

Library is used as a warm space. We need to do more in the context of this. If there is a bigger need, we could consider Bells Golf Club.

**Recommendation: Go back to village halls in light of warm spaces consideration and get updated information re: key holders, and contact information**

Testing the plan to happen later, once we have more information as indicated above. We don’t yet have enough volunteers to even do telephone testing. Transport festival is the first major event that we have to advertise for more volunteers. Can all people talk to others to encourage others to join as a resilience volunteer? CTC need a stall at COT.

**Recommendation: All councillors to be aware of need for resilience volunteers and if they come across anyone who will volunteer, to pass on our details to get the forms to sign up.**

Gary Dayton at FODDC – does he have someone who could be interested, but not as heavily as would be expected for FODDC levels.

Reference to resilience in Climate action – agenda for next meeting.

Grab bag – add a bleed control kit

Defib – enquiry from park run. Junior park run have enquired too. Defib mapping required. Include portable one from Junior park run.

Ask Natalie when Road safety liaison meeting is.

Bells Field toilets vandalism – Police will do more regular patrols now.

Angel Vale trees – Landowner has been identified and, after the meeting tomorrow with contractor to inform him specifically which trees need to be dealt with, the work will be completed. Update will be sent to residents once a confirmed date for works is established.

1. **To review feedback from Road Safety Liaison Group and make any recommendations.**

CTC to find out date of next meeting.

**Highways**

1. **To consider roadworks issues, and make recommendations as necessary:**
   1. **Prosper Lane**

Highways are cutting out section 100m into lane – just at bell mouth to get rid of patches. FE own end. Nursery has caused a lot more traffic. Not easy to turn around. March 2024 for Prosper Lane works. 1 day closure.

Coalway Infant school cannot find anyone to work at the crossing – anyone interested in this job, please contact Coalway Infants.

* 1. **High St**

High street will be undergoing changes to the pavements from Mushet Walk arch and left up the High street. Tarmac the footway to just past the solicitors in this phase. Resurface road at the same time hopefully - depending on funds. 20th Jan footway work begins. Looking for funding for resetting slabs next year. Cushions at High street and Newland street are the demarcation of 20mph zones – can’t have cushions. Bricks will be taken out and tarmac red high friction surface put in. Closed for 1 week for this section. Work is weather dependent. Next week has snow forecast on Wednesday for days.

99.7% of grit bins in the FOD are filled.

1. **To receive updates from GCC Highways, and make recommendations as necessary**

Discussed in conjunction with item 10.

1. **To update re: VAS installation** **and to make recommendations as necessary.**

No further update since contact from David Holland. Process must be starting to move again as NC has received some more recently for another area. VAS signs, not cameras are planned for Coleford. Plans for Staunton Road both ways, the Gorse and Edenwall. Woodgate Road is being considered. Police don’t get many complaints for Woodgate Road. Houses are close on Woodgate Road – VAS flashes red and green for every vehicle. We can’t put post as outside someone’s house. Impractical. Schedule speedwatch times for Woodgate Road instead. VAS are moveable. Cannot keep in 1 place, needs to be moveable across 3 sites. Need a padlock to secure it.

**Police left at 2:08pm**

1. **To review Tracker, in conjunction with GCC Highways and Flood Authority updates**

Re: Active Travel - Meeting with Barry Bodin-Jones on 16th Jan. Chris Jones Studio meeting on 29th (unconfirmed) with proposals.

Re: Bus shelter – so much nicer at Coalway now. It lifts the area. Good feedback from users. Thank you for this.

Re: Second Robin bus – no update

Re: Gloucester Road – lining – supervisor for lining meeting next week. More to do past Perrygrove. Poor work from contractor so far.

Re: Sarnedge Road – designated local green space. Possibly owned by number 4 – in contact with them re: Poolway water course.

Re: Thurstan’s Rise – small part not adopted to the right. Main thoroughfare is. Pipework down to manhole – not clear who owns. Who is going to sort this? Severn Trent own flow device. CTC to go back to Joe Baker (GCC) – what is happening to control valve and is it corrected and inspected as corrected? Management company own pond and play area.

Re: Poolway – whole council is looking at this more closely at the end of the month. Happy with update recently from Joe Baker on flooding.

Re: Trees – big verges – could we have some tree avenues? – gateway improvement. Going up past Forest Hills Golf Club. NC will put it through, as long as it is Highway land.

Re: pooling at Coalway Road – not as severe now. Arthur Cooper Way near Perrygrove is more serious. GCC have identified a ditch that needs clearing near Puzzlewood. Routine maintenance. It is being sorted.

Re: manhole – has gone to Severn Trent – NC to chase.

Re: bottom of Fetter Hill – sent back to Severn Trent again – they have drainage underneath. Highways filled recently but it has opened again.

It was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: To send a letter, copying group leader in, to Cllr Allaway-Martin because of questions around potholes and way GCC money is spent and priorities for fixing them.**

Re: EV charging – NC unable to get hold of Steve Lowe

Re: Skew bridge – looking at status – hasn’t been touched yet. Cllr Elsmore to follow up.

Re: Speedwatch scheduling – Ellwood have speedwatch group. With Newland, contact Ellwood, arrange schedule. Camera needs to be booked. 3 parishes want it between x and y dates – get it for a block of time.

Re: Bakers Hill triangle – want it re-greened. Needs to be considered in light of Poolway development.

Re: Whitecliff culvert – no next steps on investigations. No idea why footpath lifted. 19th Feb to resurface footway.

Re: Lower Lane – trial holes going on today with new pipe going in next week.

Re: verges – only cut 1m swathe anyway. Could plant behind it. If there’s areas you don’t want cut, let NC know.

Re: Old Station Way – requested details from Land Registry – will report back when this is received.

1. **To review Speedwatch linkages, and programme for 2024 and make any recommendations**
   1. **Poolway Rd**
   2. **Woodgate Rd.**

Speedwatch discussed under item 10.

**Note to ask for report from Ambulance and Fire for this meeting in future and to send invite to them. Ask for statistics in a keyhole report over the last quarter. Outlining things they wish to flag and challenges they are facing.**

**Meeting closed at 2:50pm.**