

**Coln St Denis Parish Council
Thursday 19th June 2025 at 7pm
Coln Valley Village Hall**

Present:

Councillors: Nick Dummett (NTD) Chair, Harry Talbot Rice (HTR), Malcolm Carmichael (MC)

In Attendance: Alice Talbot Rice (ATR) - Clerk

Residents: Jackie & Edmund P-R, Cherry Jones, Virginia Stourton, Anthony Thorpe, Tom Pearson, Andy Pease, David Fowles, Nicky Talbot Rice. (PC Harry Macpherson & PCSO Zee Bulbul)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. **Apologies** had been received from Phillip Allen who wishes to step down as Parish Councillor, as discussed in AGM.

2. Matters/Actions Arising

- PC Harry and PCSO Zee were introduced by Andy Pease.

Discussion points:

- Police representatives (PC Harry and PCSOZ) reported that the Coln Valley experiences low crime rates, with main issues stemming from transient visitors and sat-nav misdirection, particularly regarding a private drive at Pindrup, Coln St Dennis.
 - Discussion included the potential use of signage to deter sat-nav misdirection and inappropriate private drive usage, noting that residents would be responsible for such signage.
 - Ongoing concerns about illegal raves on a local farm were raised; police explained their limited resources and response strategy, which prioritizes public safety by avoiding immediate dispersal of potentially intoxicated individuals, as this could lead to dangerous drunk driving incidents.
 - Residents thanked the police for their efforts and discussed preventative measures taken, such as installing poacher blocks and a bollard on a track, which have so far deterred raves.
- Verges: there had been an assurance from Damian Cox that they would be repaired. Cherry Jones noted that they had so far been done nicely.

Action Items:

- *Continue to pre-empt the raves and lock up the access points*
- *Outstanding issue regarding repair to road at top of Coln St Dennis to be dealt with privately by Mr Curtis and Mr Cox*

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2025 at 6.30pm were approved.

Action Items:

- *NTD to sign off minutes and ATR to put up on website*

4. Appointment of two new councillors - Tom Pearson and Anthony Thorpe

This was approved in the AGM

5. Finances - Cashbook Accounts to 31st January 2025

Discussion Points:

- The financial report for 31 January 2025 was reviewed, showing £1,715 received (part of a normal grant/precept of £2,000) and £908 spent, indicating a surplus.
- An unexplained payment of £215.48 received from Cotswold District Council on May 1st was noted, and its source and purpose require clarification.
- Discussion on clerk remuneration confirmed that Wendy, the previous clerk, declared her payment as income and paid tax on it. The current clerk's remuneration was discussed, with the council agreeing to continue the £10 per meeting payment as a gratuity.
- Ideas were mooted for a project to deal with the surplus including work to be carried out on church trees, in particular one in Coln St Dennis that may need pollarding.

Action Items:

- *David Fowles will look into the reason for the additional £215.48 payment from the council*
- *Dick Handy to assess the tree on Coln St Dennis green with competitive quotes to follow if necessary*

6. Planning Applications received since the last meeting 27th February 2025

Discussion centred on the council's approach to only recording objections on the planning portal. The council decided to adopt a policy to explicitly record "no objection" on the planning portal for transparency, rather than simply making no response

Action Items:

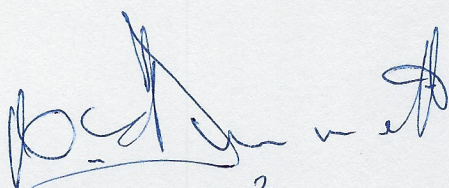
- *ATR to ensure planning application lists are updated with objection status*

6. AOB:

- David Fowles gave a succinct precis of his quarterly report including housing targets and updates on council leadership. Potholes were also discussed with a final note about the unique demographic of the Cotswolds with nearly 30% of the population over 65, leading to a significant pressure on social care.

The next meeting was scheduled for 25th September 2025

The meeting ended at 19.45pm


25th Sept 2025²