



# Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025 No.124

### THE FORMATION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Following the creation of County Councils in 1888, the Local Government Act 1894 introduced rural and urban districts, and implemented Parish Councils, creating a two-tier local government system.

Colwich Parish Council was one of the 270 Parish Councils created under the 1894 Local Government Act. According to the National Association of Local Councils, there are now around 10,000 Parish and Town Councils around the UK.

On the 4th December 1894, the Parish Meeting, clerked by Mr Freakley and Chaired by Major Stevenson, decided on the nine councillors who would form Colwich Parish Council: Mr J Gouldbourn, Mr W.N. Kidwell, Mr . J.C. Mycock, Mr T. Rawes, Mr C. Sproston, Mr. C Tudor, Dr E.T. Tylecote, Mr H. Weetman, and Sir C.M. Wolseley

Colwich Parish Council held its first meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1895. The meeting was clerked by Mr Freakley, and during the meeting the council voted Cllr Sir C.M. Wolseley as Chairman, and Cllr Weetman as Vice Chairman.

Earlier this year, records from the first meeting of Colwich Parish Council were rediscovered and are currently being transcribed as to preserve the history of the council.

If you know of any local history, or have stories about prominent figures in our Parish, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Please contact [assistant.clerk@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:assistant.clerk@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON.

Saturday 30th November saw the annual Christmas lights switch-on event at the Jubilee Playing Field.

The evening commenced with some festive music provided by Mills and Son Stage Services who provided the sound system for the evening.

The live portion of the evening started with magician and entertainer, Lucky Lee, who was our compare for the evening.



The first of the schools to perform was the Choir from Anson Primary.

After a short interlude with more magic from Lucky Lee, next up was Colwich Primary School Choir. The final choir to entertain us was St John the Baptist's school choir

Finally, we arrived at the highlight of the evening, switching on the Christmas tree lights. We were delighted to receive so many entries for the school poster competition.

As in previous years, we invited the pupils of our three primary schools to draw and colour posters to advertise the Switch-on event.

The Full Council had the difficult, but enjoyable, tasks of considering all these wonderful entries and selecting one winner from each school to assist us with the switch-on.

We were delighted to welcome Ruby (Anson Primary School); Darcey (Colwich Primary School) and Arthur (St John the Baptist Primary School).

The three children performed their task fantastically turning on the Christmas tree

Refreshments were provided by Carney's bar, Food Folks, and Four & Twenty Pie Co.

For the first time a ride was hired for the Switch On, which was a huge success, the Spinning Teacups didn't stop all night!

Finally, what is Christmas without a visit from the man himself. We were delighted, once again, to welcome Santa and Mrs Claus to our event and to their new Grotto with lots of Christmas Trees and decorations.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped us put on this special event: The teachers who coached the choirs. The caterers. Eddy Leisure. Matt who operated the sound system. All our performers. Lucky Lee. Santa, Mrs Claus and all their helpers. Last, but not least, all who turned up on the night to help us begin the festive season in style and to raise money for our Charities.

We look forward to seeing you again on the 28th November for the 2026 Christmas Lights switch-on event



## BUDGET COMPARISON 2024/25 AND 2025/26

Following a number of Freedom of Information requests, a formal complaint was received about the budget figures published for 2024/25 and 2025/26. A Complaints Hearing was held on 4th August 2025, under the Council’s Complaints Policy (PD041).), to address the questions:

- Did the Parish Spring Newsletter contain an arithmetical inconsistency?
- Why did the Chief Officer not address the inconsistency of £12,600 published in the Newsletter by clarification or correction as requested?

The Hearing found:

- There is no error nor inconsistency but only a different way of presenting the 2024/25 and 2025/26 figures.
- The Council will add a clarification note in the next Newsletter.
- The Committee will write to the Chairman of the Council asking that they clarify the figures as part of the Parish Assembly on 8th September 2025.

The Chairman addressed this matter during the Parish Assembly, held on 8th September at Anson School. Unfortunately, when considering the draft Autumn newsletter, the agreed article was omitted in error.

As per the finding of the Complaint Hearing, there were no errors in the previously published figures. In 2024/25 the Council included a notional amount for section 106 (s106 developer contribution) within its budget to recognise that it was working with the Borough Council to access funds to improve the JPF. In publishing the budget for 2024/25 the Council decided to use the figures after deductions, so as to remove this notional s106 amount. The 2025/26 figures were published detailing the total amount before any deductions. The “Total” pages from the relevant spreadsheets are detailed in the table.

The total budget for 2024/25, not including a notional amount of £371,500 for s106 developer contribution, was £285,434. The Council anticipated receiving £6,600 income from Allotment rents and bank interest etc. and proposed using £56,000 of its Reserves, bringing the total to be found down to £222,833.89. This amount was further reduced by a Central Government Grant of £7,984.02 leaving £214,849.97 to be met from the precept shared between a tax base of 1,922.40, Band D equivalent properties, or £111.76 per property.

	2024/26	2025/26
<b>Total budget</b>	<b>£656,934*</b>	<b>£290,375*</b>
Resources	£51,490	£41,633
Employment	£209,769	£225,567
Communications	£2,900	£2,900
Events	£17,500	£16,500
Environment	£3,775	£3,775
Leisure	£371,500**	£0
<b>Deductions</b>	<b>£442,084.02</b>	<b>-£49,208.98</b>
Reserves	£56,000	-£32,000
Expected Income	£6,600	-£6,798
S106	£371,500**	£0
Central Govt Grant	£7,984.02	-£10,410.98
<b>Net precept charge</b>	<b>£214,849.87</b>	<b>£241,166.25</b>
<b>Tax Base</b>	<b>1,922.40</b>	<b>1,890.59</b>
<b>Band D</b>	<b>£111.76</b>	<b>£127.56</b>
<b>Change</b>	<b>+21%</b>	<b>+14.1%</b>

\* Rounded to the nearest pound

\*\* Notional Values

The total budget for 2025/26 was £290,375. The Council anticipated income of £6,798 and proposed using £32,000 from its Reserves, bringing the total down to £251,577.23. The Central Government Grant of £10,410.98 was then deducted from this total leaving £241,166.25 to be met from the precept shared between a tax base of 1,890.59, Band D equivalent properties, or £127.56 per property.

Forvis Mazars LLP, the “external auditors” for all Parish Councils in Staffordshire, has recently concluded its assessment of the Council’s 2024/25 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and noted:

“On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.”

The Council apologises for any confusion caused when publishing its annual budget, especially when comparing years. We will establish a template to enable easier direct comparisons between years.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Full Council	Parish Centre	5 <sup>th</sup> February	7.30pm
Neighbourhood Plan Committee *	Parish Centre	26 <sup>th</sup> February	7.30pm
Full Council	Parish Centre	5 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30pm
Parish Assembly **	Colwich Primary School	9 <sup>th</sup> March	7pm for a 7.30pm start

\* Dates for all of the Committees can be found on the Council Website <https://www.colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk>

\*\* The Parish Assembly is a public meeting hosted by the Chairman of Colwich Parish Council to discuss parish affairs.

## COLWICH AND LITTLE HAYWOOD VILLAGE HALL

If you have never visited the Colwich and Little Haywood Village Hall, you could be forgiven for being unaware of its existence. It is tucked away at the end of Chilwell Avenue on the St Mary's Estate in Little Haywood. Despite its secluded location, it is a fantastic Community facility. It comprises a very large auditorium which is maintained and equipped to a high standard with a large free car park and an extensive grassed area. The main hall is equipped with 28 tables, over 120 chairs, a portable 5m x 4m stage, and 4 x 14 kw gas heaters. In addition, the building houses a small meeting room, a fully equipped kitchen, and toilets. Access is straightforward with no steps or steep ramps. The Hall is licensed for music and dancing until 11:00pm. It does not have a license to sell alcohol, but users may apply for a temporary event license.

The facility is used daily during the week by around 13 groups and clubs, details can be found on the website. It enjoys ad hoc use at weekends for Parties, Quizzes, Wedding Receptions and Concerts etc. All age groups are represented. It can be hired for any duration from an hour to a weekend, with hirers paying for only the facilities used. All this information is available on our website, although please bear in mind that it is in the process of being updated. The Hall is an independent registered charity, with no formal links to local Councils. Being totally self-funded, it raises income through hire fees and fundraising events. Maintenance costs are kept to a minimum, thanks to the efforts of 'working party' members of the Committee.

**Some members of the Committee have served for more than 35 years. At the recent AGM, the Chairperson stepped down, and the post remains unfilled. Should the Booking Secretary follow this example, then dealing with new bookings will be a problem. Unfortunately, attempts to recruit local people for the Committee have had limited success, and the future of the Hall is now at risk.**

If you feel you could make a much-needed contribution to the running of the Village Hall or to enquire about its availability, then please contact one of the Officers below:-

Vice Chair 01889 882887 07445780053

Secretary 07766075799

Booking Secretary 01889 883943



## CAN YOU FIX THINGS? THE REPAIR & CARE CAFÉ WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Stephen Moore and Ingrid Wagner are on the lookout for people who can fix things. Things like the iron that won't heat up, the floor fan that stops fanning, the turntable that's not making music anymore, the shelf that won't stand up. All in garages or attics waiting to be fixed, with owners who don't know how or who to go to. That's where people who can fix things come in. You may have time on your hands and a whole bag of skills & tools and/or even a shed at home. We are looking for volunteers for a monthly or bi-monthly Repair & Care Cafe right on your doorstep.

*"We're hoping to start up right here in the community in Spring 2026," says Ingrid. "You'll be able to see broken items mended, have a cup of tea and cake while you wait and make new friends. For our team of repairers, it will be a reason to get out of bed in the morning, grab your bag of tools and make a difference to your community."*

*"The idea of waste not, want not isn't new," adds Stephen, "but it's needed more than ever now. We want to help stop a throwaway society, encourage people to consume less new and to reuse, repurpose and recycle unwanted products. It's building a circular economy that's sustainable rather than the 'take, make, use, waste' model."*

For more information and/or a chat on becoming a repairer or part of the organising team, contact Ingrid Wagner on 07717036213 or Stephen Moore on 07843960519.

## COLWICH PARISH IN BLOOM

It's been a difficult but successful year for the Bloomers. Difficult because of the dry summer we had this year, so we were all out most days watering. Successful because we achieved a gold award from the Heart of England in Bloom.

If anyone would like to join the in bloomers contact Rob Bull on 07885796162.

The Bloomers look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

### HAYWOODS FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW 2025

This year's Haywoods Flower and Vegetable Show was another amazingly busy celebration of achievement. Despite the dry summer, we had some impressive flowers, fruit and vegetables which really brightened up a wet and windy Sunday in September!. We also welcomed entries from 17 new entrants to the Show, which is wonderful and so heart warming to know that people are keeping skills alive and enjoying sharing them with their community.

As always, the Committee would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who entered, visited and supported the Show. We would like to thank Colwich Parish Council who supported us and we are also very grateful to Canalside Café and the Memorial Hall Ladies who so generously donated some fabulous cakes for our refreshments. We'd like to give special thanks to the RNLI, Hixon Community First Responders, our local Police Community Support Officer and Guide Dogs for the Blind who all attended the Show to make connections with our villages .

We thought we might have to call on the RNLI at times, but the rain did ease eventually!

We hope that everyone felt inspired to have a go at something and enter next year.

If you would like to join the team, or have any ideas for future shows please let us know via email at [haywoodsflowerandvegshow@outlook.com](mailto:haywoodsflowerandvegshow@outlook.com)

Many congratulations go to our talented trophy winners as follows:

The Clendon Vase (Flowers) – J. Tabernor

The Sydney Rawlings Rose Bowl (Roses) – M. Sarjant

The Rosern Trophy (Best Rose in Show) – M. Sarjant

The Cys Dyble Cup (Pot Plants) – R. Bullock

The HW Hunt Company Cup (Vegetables) – S. Jones

The Stan Hopper Memorial Plate (Best Vegetable in Show) – R. Stanley (for runner beans)

The Morrall Plate (Longest Runner Bean) – J. Sarjant

The Canalside Salver (Fruit) – Y. Lycett

The Great Haywood Memorial Hall Challenge Cup (Preserves) – C. Startin

The Great Haywood WI Trophy (Baking) – F. Burton

The Little Haywood Ladies Club Cup (Bread) – A. Hurley

The Davies Floral Art Challenge Cup (Flower Arranging) – J. Tabernor

The Marjorie Chiltern Trophy (Best Floral Art Exhibit) – A. Clendon

The Burbridge Tray (Handicraft) – G. Freeman

The Jan Pugh Art Cup (Art and Photography) – J. Gray

The Alison Mayo Junior Trophy (Children 5-7 years) – H. Tabernor

The Bishton Hall Cup (Children 8-11 years) – M. Tabernor

The Flower and Vegetable Show Trophy (Children 12-16 years) – K. Hurley

Longest Runner Bean (16 years and under) – A. Lycett

The Broome Junior Baking Cup (Junior Baking) – K. Hurley

The Francis Hill Cup (most successful New Entrant) – R. Bullock

The Alan Fuller Perpetual Challenge Cup (Second overall runner up) – C. Startin

The Peter Handy Perpetual Challenge Cup (First overall runner up) – J. Cross

The Earl of Lichfield Challenge Cup (Overall Winner) – J. Tabernor

Well done to everyone. See you in 2026.



**Chairman:** Wendy Plant

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**Chief Officer:** Michael Lennon

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**Head Lengthsman:** Phil Russell

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