

Colehill Parish Council: Action Plan April 2025 – March 2026

<u>Project/Service</u>	<u>Action/ Comments</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget ref. no.</u>	<u>Review notes 26/08/2025</u>	<u>Review notes 25/11/2025</u>
<u>Community Engagement</u>					
Local Groups	<p>Over time the Council has been asked by a number of local organisations and groups to provide representatives to attend their meetings particularly DAPTC (County Association) which one of our members is currently Chairing. This both assists the organisations, but also ensures that the Council is up to date with the needs of these groups and residents within the Parish. The Council will continue to provide these Councillor representatives for local groups as requested and as deemed appropriate.</p> <p>A list of the current appointed roles and responsibilities is available on the Council website Councillors' Roles and Representation – Colehill Parish Council.</p>	£1,730.57 DAPTC annual subscription	100/21		
Website	<p>The Council will continue to use its website to promote local events, share community information and publish statutory documents. In the interests of transparency, the Council has decided to maintain a large catalogue of historic agendas and minutes going back to 2004.</p> <p>The Council will carry out quarterly accessibility reviews of the website.</p>	600	100.22		
Social media	The Council will continue to engage with wider public by publishing articles of interest to the local community and to share details of events and updates on local issues. The Council also uses social media to signpost residents to polls, surveys and feedback forms on the Council website to ensure maximum participation.	N/A	N/A		
Grants / Donations	The Council recognises the importance of the work done by local voluntary organisations within the Parish who work tirelessly to meet the needs of residents. The Council considers applications from	40,000 Collectively	115.1		

	<p>any group who meet the eligibility criteria but are particularly keen on supporting sports clubs, community/cultural groups and youth organisations.</p> <p>The Council will continue to accept applications from local organisations to apply for community grants with consideration of the budget allocated and the Council's Grant Making Policy. Having regard to the needs of the community the Council has increased its budget for grants this year.</p> <p>The Council and its Grant Aid funding is crucial to Colehill Community Library who rely on the grant Aid which is annually in the region of £12,500 ensuring its core utilities are funded. Historically a public consultation took place to establish whether they were open to a precept increase which would be ongoing annually to cover the cost of the library as it was at risk of closure and the residents felt very strongly that they wanted the Parish Council to help financially support a Community library, which it has been doing now since 2012.</p> <p>Information about how to apply for grants and a record of the grants awarded can be found on the Council website Grant Aid – Colehill Parish Council.</p>				
Planning	<p>Colehill Parish Council are a 'statutory consultee' for planning applications. The Council will continue to discuss and respond to planning applications as appropriate. The Council will also continue to publish details of all applications we are sent, issued by Dorset Council, on the Colehill Parish Council website. The Council recognises that planning matters are very important to local residents and consequently has a 'banner' on the homepage of the website so that they can easily navigate to the planning section of the website.</p>	N/A	N/A		
Promote democracy	<p>The Council will publish information regarding elections and vacancies on the Council website, Facebook page and on noticeboards.</p>	N/A	N/A		

	<p>The Council will continue to be pro-active in its efforts to fill vacancies through Cllr drop-in sessions and publicity.</p> <p>The Council has two thirds elected members and, through efforts to raise the profile of the Council, has co-opted 2 additional members since the last election.</p>				
Community events	<p>Over the years the Council has established some annual events which are well received by local residents and well attended.</p> <p>The Council organises an annual Christmas party for children. Tickets are deliberately only sold from the local library to try to ensure that the event benefits local children. It only costs £2 per child and is therefore accessible to all and includes entertainment, food and a present from Santa. The Council sees this as an important service to ensure that all local children are able to enjoy this experience.</p> <p>The Council owns a war memorial at which the Council organises an annual Remembrance event. The Parish has a large number of residents who have direct links to people who have lost their lives whilst in the forces and being able to remember them at a local event is important to them. This is evident from the large numbers who attend including many uniformed groups plus individuals who even like to attend rehearsals to hear their family member's name read out.</p> <p>The Council is honoured to be invited each year to the local church's Christmas light switch on at which the Council chair is asked to switch on the lights.</p> <p>The Council will continue to organise a Remembrance event and a Christmas party for local children. The Council also plans to co-sponsor a family Easter event at The Reef Youth & Community</p>	2,500	178		

	Centre and will be organising celebrations to mark the 80 th anniversaries of VE Day & VJ Day.				
Consultation	When making decisions, the Council will consider whether to consult with the public on matters involving significant spending or issues of local importance. Where the Council considers it appropriate to consult with local residents, it does this through a combination of survey leaflets drops through letterboxes, website feedback forms and online surveys. Attention is drawn to these consultations through social media and noticeboards.	N/A	N/A		
Transport links	<p>Since 2017, the Council has part funded a community bus service (Number 88). This started as a consequence of the discontinuation of the previous commercial bus service and an initiative from Wimborne Minster Town Council that the Council was pleased to partner with them on. Many local residents visit Wimborne, especially on Fridays for the market, as such this is a vital local service for many residents.</p> <p>The Council will continue to co-fund the Number 88 Community Bus which provides a circular route linking Colehill with Wimborne, Kingston Lacy and Sturminster Marshall 3 days a week.</p>	4,750	115.2		
Defibrillator	The Council will continue to provide defibrillators located at The Reef Youth & Community Centre and One Stop.	N/A	N/A		
	<u>Services & Facilities</u>				
Oliver's Park & Churchmoor Copse	<p>The Council will continue to maintain and repair the park and play equipment as well as undertaking grass cutting, cutting back of brambles and maintaining the football pitch. The play park is checked by Councillors every week and is professionally inspected every month. In addition, the Council is investigating the potential of the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installing gym equipment 	26,000	120.1 120.2		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installing the 'Field in Trust' Plaque which the Council already has New signage to replace the East Dorset signage (budget for this will come from the signage budget) <p>Within this budget the Council is planning to put £6,000 into reserves as it is anticipated that the large piece of play equipment will need replacing in the next few years.</p>				
Woods:	The Council carries out regular inspections and maintenance of the woods and bike track.	1,000	140.4		
Coombes Wood Kyrchil Corner Merrifield Wood Triangle Wood Churchmoor Copse	<p>The Council will continue to carry out tree inspections as per the Woods Risk Assessment and to complete any required works identified. The woodlands contain a number of natural paths which the Council maintains by arranging for vegetation to be cut back as these provide walking routes which are enjoyed by local residents.</p> <p>The Council will continue to respond to any concerns raised by members of the public regarding the safety of trees.</p>	15,000	140.2		
Colehill Village Hall	Colehill Parish Council is the custodian trustee and has a representative who attends committee meetings as an observer.	N/A	N/A		
Reef Youth & Community Centre	<p>The Council is the sole member of the charity which operates The Reef Colehill & Wimborne Youth & Community Centre. The Reef is operated as entirely separate entity to the Council with the Council appointing Cllrs to act as trustees for the charity in addition to the role as Cllrs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will ensure that there is a minimum of 4 Cllrs appointed to act as trustees of the charity at all times The Council will continue to provide administration support to The Reef for which the Council will invoice the charity for 	N/A	N/A		
	The Council intends to continue to hire storage space at The Reef (this and the cupboard space at	1,000	100.23		

	the Village Hall being the only storage space the Council has).				
Highways & Street Furniture	The Council will carry out the next phase of works to repurpose the telephone box at Dales Drive.	500	135.9		
	Noticeboards Inc. new noticeboards outside Co-op and washing of fingerposts	3,500	135.2		
	Refurbishment of Millennium map following CGR boundary changes.	1,000	135.4		
	Signage	4,000	140.3		
	Wash bus shelters	300	135.1		
	Paint selected benches	1500	135.3		
	<u>Environment</u>				
Planting	Plant wild flower verges and flower bed at Oliver's Park	2,000	178		
	Bulb giveaway to local residents to plant in public spaces				
Recycling	The Council will continue its Blister pack recycling project. This project commenced after 2 local retail stores ceased providing these service and local residents expressed a desire to be able to continue recycling blister pack.				
Litter clearance	Organisation of community litter picking events	1,500	150		
	Emptying of 3 additional curb side general waste bins				
	Commercial litter clearance of Coombe Wood				
<u>Other</u>					
Staff training	The Council will continue to support staff with any training requirements identified.	1,500	100.10		
Cllr training	The Council will actively encourage Cllrs to undertake training to refresh and develop their knowledge and skills relevant to their roles. The Council hopes to attract new Cllrs this year and has included a budget for Cllr training to reflect this.	1,000	100.15		