

COLYTON PARISH COUNCIL
Feoffees Town Hall, Colyton
EX24 6JR

Minutes of the meeting of the Colyton Parish Council which held in the Colyford Memorial Hall at 7.00 pm on Monday 14th March 2016.

Present: Cllrs A Parr, C Collier, B Collier, P Gibbins, J Hay, S Real, R Turner, K Clifford, P Dean, A Jarman, H Evans, County Cllr S Randall Johnson (for part of the meeting) E Berry (clerk) and 30 members of the public.

Cllr Parr welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a minutes silence in recognition of Mr Ted Long who had been a long serving Parish Councillor in the past and had recently died.

16/03/203 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence : Cllr G Stephens (unwell) & Dist Cllr H Parr (unwell)

16/03/204 Police Report – by email from Richard Jenkins (Neighbourhood Beat Manager)

‘Apologies but I’m afraid we can’t get anyone to the meeting this week.

The crime figures for Feb are very good, although we are aware of the damage to the bin at the memorial field. Of note is a distraction burglary in Gribble Mead on 7th March in which an elderly resident was distracted at his front door whilst possibly another person removed a jacket from the hallway. Members of the public are advised to note the advice on our website regarding cold callers – we have given out leaflets and stickers at the community café on Tuesday mornings. Further leaflets are available from us.

In future we are trying to have at least one of the Neighbourhood team at the community café in the church hall between 10 and 11am on most Tuesdays – this has proven popular and gives people a chance to meet and speak to us and raise any issues they may have.’

16/03/204 Public Question time (maximum 15 minutes)

A Colyton resident asked why there was no provision for the public to speak in the Finance & Planning committee meetings?

Cllr Parr replied that usually no members of the public attend but they can always ask to speak prior to the meeting as had happened in the past.

She questioned the publication of the agenda and minutes on the website claiming it is cumbersome and not easy to read. For example she could not find the agenda for this meeting on it. The clerk stated the agenda had been sent for publication and the webmaster had been tasked with looking at improving the ease of use of the minutes & agenda pages.

As a resident she had also attended the appeal meeting held recently on the plan to build 16 houses on a site next to the Reece Strawbridge centre and had been surprised that Mr Carthy in his defence of the plan had stated that a meeting had been held and an agreement reached to extend the football pitches in exchange for S106 money. Cllr Turner responded that no such agreement was ever reached, a meeting may have taken place, he was not party to it. Boundaries had been discussed but he reiterated that no agreement re S106 money was made.

A member of the Colyford NP Committee and Steering Group read out a statement from the group. In it he expressed their deep concern at the way in which the Plan process has been conducted since the first public meeting in July last year. Little appeared to have been achieved and 3 key committee members had resigned through intimidation by some members of the CPC and the events at the last CPC meeting was the final straw. He finished by stating that most of the remaining volunteer members of the Colyford Committee had decided to resign with immediate effect.

A Colyton resident commented on the ‘View from’ editorial on 23/2/16 and that the integrity of the editor should not be questioned and local democracy should be held to account by the free press. He queried what effort the Parish Council had made to investigate what the editor had said? Cllr Parr replied by stating he had responded to the editor as an individual but his reply was never published.

The MOP felt that letters written by councillors to the paper contravened standing order 27. Cllr Parr responded by saying he had written his response as a member of the public not a councillor. Councillors could do this without falling foul of SO27

There followed some discussion on councillors writing to the press and expressing their opinions whilst being identified as councillors. Cllr Peter Gibbins stated that he had dictated his letter over the phone to the press as a private individual and had made that point clearly, but they had published it as if he had dictated it as a parish councillor.

16/03/205 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 8th February 2016

The minutes were approved and signed as being a true record of that meeting.

16/03/206 Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Evans explained that at the last meeting he had agreed as Vice Chair of the NP Committee that the 'informal social' should be opened to the public with an agenda and minuted when he returned home after that meeting and saw that the majority of the Committee didn't want a public meeting it went ahead as originally planned. So although the minutes of the meeting were right what happened subsequently was not what was minuted.

16/03/207 Report from County Councillor – received later in the meeting but reported here in agenda order.

The District Councillors reported that several small schools in Devon were being looked at and Sutcombe with 21 pupils will close at the end of the summer term. The Government think that primary schools should have about 400 pupils to be viable. Locally Faraway has 15 pupils, five from the village and 10 from Honiton. Currently there are no issues with the Colyton Primary School but with parent choice being the order of the day the community must be aware of potential threats to such a vital service.

The recent HATOC meeting has agreed to proceed with the yellow lining requests from various councils, including Colyton and she will liaise with the clerk to see that all of Colyton's requirements are covered.

For information the Turks Head junction will be closed for three nights from the 16th March from 1900 – 0500 to allow for resurfacing.

She replied to Colin Pady's request about the Highways budget, in the coming financial year the budget has dropped from £104,975, 000 to £93,935,000, a reduction of almost £10m. The Highways and Traffic Management budget has dropped to £32,419,000 from £34,126,000.

The gully emptying budget remains the same at £130,000.

She hadn't had time to answer his question about how much compensation had been paid out for damage to vehicles but would get that figure to him.

A member of the public expressed his concern about the most recent repairs in Fairview Lane, the tarmac had not been sealed at the edges and was already breaking up after two weeks.

Another Colyford resident also expressed his concern at the quality of the work done in Holyford Lane, the potholes and been filled despite being full of mud and debris, apparently when he asked the workers why they hadn't cleared the holes he was told that they weren't paid to do so and it was none of his business.

Cllr Randall Johnson said she was pleased to pick up these two incidents, local residents were the eyes and ears and if they see substandard work she asked that they photograph it and report it on the DCC website.

There followed a discussion on the length of time it took from an actual survey and marking of the holes being done to them being repaired. She explained that safety defects would be repaired first, with the other repairs being scheduled into a timetable of works in the local area. She stated that the current contract is up for renewal. With over 8000 miles of roads in Devon it is not surprising that some lanes and minor roads are in a poor state. The resources are finite and the work has to be prioritised.

Cllr Hay mention two pieces of substandard work in Colyton, the first at Mounthill/Lishams Drain. The road had been resurface 2 years ago without the springs being piped and this work has now deteriorated because of the running water and needs attention again, with the piping of the springs being the first priority. Secondly the repair at Ridgeway is not working in fact it is worse than before with the side of the road now being gouged out by water. Mike Brown is aware but having contacted him and DCC over two weeks ago he has heard nothing.

Cllr Randall Johnson will follow these up, she is aware that Mr Brown had lobbied unsuccessfully for additional funding.

A Colyton resident asked for clarification about the closure of small schools and asked was Colyton under threat? The district councillors replied that she had misinterpreted what she had said, she had not said anything about Colyton being in a critical position.

A Colyford resident complained that letters sent to them notifying them of work being undertaken in their close were a waste of time and money as the date for the work came and went with no work being undertaken until a week or so later without any notification!

Cllr Parr asked if a Traffic Group Meeting could be scheduled soon?

16/03/208 Report from District Councillors - no report given due to ill health.**16/03/209 Highway Matters**

- a) TTRO – 21st March – 24th March
HOLYFORD LANE. COLYFORD – patching – no alternative route.
- b) TTRO 15th March – 21st March
Southleigh to Tottiskay farm entrance, Southleigh – drainage.
- c) Update on the works required in Whitwell Lane. Cllr Pady had met with Mike Brown and the drains and cross ditches had been identified. It was agreed that the seepage of water were causing the pot holes and needed to be attended to first,
- d) Highways response to residents' concerns over road at Lilylake – read out.

- e) Cllr Pady would like to attend the Highways conference on Wednesday 26th March at a cost of £45 plus VAT – Cllr C Collier proposed attendance at the conference, seconded by Cllr Turner and agreed by all.
- f) Colyford Goose Fair will be applying for a 45mins road closure and need CPC approval – approval proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Gibbins and agreed by all.
- g) TTRO 23rd March – 29th March. Whitwell Lane. Highways Patching
- h) Cllr Gibbins expressed concern from residents about the parking at the Primary School when dropping off and collecting pupils. Cars are ‘littering’ the street, parking inconsiderately and this situation is an accident waiting to happen.

16/03/210 Report from Meetings Attended

The clerk and Cllr Collier had attended a meeting at Knowle which was to discuss the intention of going ‘paperless’ and the community infrastructure levy. The District Council is adamant that no paper plans, except for major developments will be circulated to councils. They are sure that they can and will improve the quality of the scanning. No money will be available from the EDDC although some councils have applied for funding for equipment from the Parishes together funds. The second half of the meeting was rambling and hard to follow, the powerpoint presentation is being sent out and hopefully will make more sense.

16/03/211 Correspondence

- a) Publications e-mailed to councillors – Intouch/RsN etc
- b) Email reply from Chair of CGS Governors re Proposed Play Area in Colyford – the Parish Council were disappointed at the response, it was sent to them as a courtesy. The school will have chance to formally respond once the planning application has been submitted.
- c) Email update from Colyford Community Speedwatch (emailed to councillors) – noted and fully supported by the CPC.
- d) i) Email from Pavilion Committee re request for funding to tarmac car park at PMPF, it clarified that that £1000 offered is from the Committee on behalf of all the organisations.
ii) Letter from Carnival Committee re tarmac top coat at PMPF – offered £4000 and asked the CPC to look at the Road Green facility as they have some money they could put into new equipment.
- e) Email from EDDC New Homes Bonus Panel re FOI request – seeking views from Parish Councils on the disclosure of info. Read out and CPC agreed that information could be disclosed if personal details are redacted first.
- f) Email from EDDC re Public Space Protection Orders – to replace current bye-laws and all existing dog control orders.
- g) Letter from Promote Colyton Group re Umborne gardens & replacement of fence. Clerk to thank them for their offer and accept it.
- h) Email report of a dog chasing sheep on FP beside the River Coly, reported to EDDC and the farmer.
- i) Email from editor of ‘View from’ newspaper – they will no longer be attending meetings - noted

16/03/212 Finance

- a) Minutes of the meeting held 22nd February 2016 (Appendix V) to be noted
- b) Accounts to be approved for payment. Proposed by Cllr Real, seconded by Cllr Turner and agreed by all.

Cheque	Payee			VAT	Total
DD	Opus	Electricity	7.5	1.5	£9
DD	Talk Talk	Telephone & Broadband	29.32	5.86	£35.18
3695	Colyford Memorial Hall	NP Steering Group meeting			£28
3696	CASH	PMPF Toilet caretaker			£100
3697	Thornhayes Nursery	Replacement tree in Community woodland	£60	£12	£72
3698	Bradfords	Postcrete – for P3 work	4.90	0.98	£5.88

- a) NEST account set up, details now needed of percentages to be paid and how that money will be paid in.
- b) John request 4 days leave to use up allocation - 21st – 24th March. Approved
- c) Chains needed on swings - Price to replace 4 x chains on swing seats at PMPF – approx. £100 plus VAT & carriage at 8.5%.
- d) Final statement from EDF - £2.32 refund.

16/03/213 Planning

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 22nd February 2016 – (Appendix W) to be noted

a Planning Applications

16/0478/FUL Westcotts, South Square, Colyton – Mr Mann

Two storey extension to dwelling including associated ground works.

Cllr Real declared an interest.

NOT SUPPORTED – proposed by Cllr Parr, seconded by Cllr Gibbins and agreed by all.

The proposed extension is unacceptable by virtue of the impact on the dwelling due to its scale, and will significantly detract from the character and appearance of the dwelling and the wider Colyton Conservation Area. The two storey pitched roof design will have a major impact on the houses behind with severe loss of amenities to those properties. Whereas last time the applicant intended to use the town leat for excess water runoff no mention has been made of the handling of the runoff from the extension this time around and the Parish Council ask that if there is any intention to divert it into the leat a report by qualified water engineers be sought.

**Copies of three letters of objection sent to EDDC received by CPC plus pictures.*

16/0441/FUL Higher Cowhayne Farm, Cowhayne Lane – Mr Pady

Retention of workshop & log store

Cllrs Pady, Parr and Hay all declared an interest.

NOT SUPPORTED – proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Turner and agreed by those councillors voting.

This is a retrospective application, the building having already been built and having a huge visual impact on the area, especially from the Tramway. There were never existing buildings that this is purported to have replaced. This is in part a new build. Information in the design and access statement is incorrect, the building is only 2m from a water course not the 20m stated. The building will block the access to the septic tanks of a neighbouring property which is unacceptable.

**Copy of a letter sent to EDDC Planning from neighbour.*

16/0317/FUL Braestones, Gully Shoot – Mr & Mrs Davis

Garage conversion into an en-suite bedroom including replacement roof – amendments to layout to proposed porch and changes in position of door.

SUPPORTED proposed by Cllr real and seconded by Cllr Evans.

16/0477/FUL 29 Govers Meadow – P Richards

Rear extension to dwelling and replacement of flat roof of existing side storey with pitched roof.

Cllrs Parr, B Collier and R Turner declared an interest as the applicant is a personal friend.

Site visit proposed for Friday 18th March at 6pm with the comments being submitted after that visit.

Land adjacent to 1 St Andrews Close Colyton – EDDC

Heads of Terms received to offer resident of 1 St Andrews Close a license to erect a timber fence & gate to access their property from Dolphin Street.

b Planning Decisions

16/0047/FUL & 16/0048/LB/Beadle Cottage 5 - 6 Vicarage Street Colyton EX24 6LJ – Fiona Dunster

Alterations to cottage and outbuilding to provide an entrance porch, 2 no. conservation roof lights and upgraded bathroom and kitchen, including 2 no. wood burning stoves and flues necessitating the raising of the southern chimney stack - Beadle Cottage 5 - 6 Vicarage Street Colyton EX24 6LJ

APPROVAL with conditions

16/168/TC - Marjorie Baker House Vicarage Street Colyton EX24 6LJ

T1 Birch – Reduce crown by 2m to leave height of 16m and spread of 3m - **APPROVE**

c Planning Correspondence

Memorial Request – Sydney John Board.

Within guidelines. **APPROVED**

16/03/214 Amenities

a) Update on Playpark

Cllr Pady reported that all five companies had visited the site and we are awaiting two more plans & designs. When all have been received a public meeting will be held in Colyford so that design can be chosen by the children, parents & grandparents. The planning application is in the hands of Taylor Wilkinson and will be submitted shortly.

b) Donation to tree at Community woodland to replace VE Hawthorn with Oak plus plaque. Planting on 18th March at 0930 with Primary School children.

c) Request from Colyford to allow them to replace two existing trees.

The parish clerk had asked Jim Cady for his opinion, as he was our previous tree warden and has some expertise in arboriculture. He thought that both trees should be allowed to make leaf growth over the next few months and a decision taken in the autumn. Cllr Real proposed that CPC accept this advice and advise the Colyford residents of it, this was seconded by Cllr Dean and agreed by all.

d) Cllr Pady reminded councillors that this May is the 40th anniversary of the opening of the picnic site and perhaps it could be marked in some way?

16/03/215 Neighbourhood Plan for Colyton Parish

Cllr Evans reported that the Steering Group had held its second meeting – minutes to follow. Colin Chesterton is arranging a meeting of the Colyton Committee.

In view of the resignations there needs to be some discussion on the way forward.

16/03/216 Colyton Memorial Social Club

A meeting had been held last Wednesday but only 6 people had attended. The Social Club continues to attract more members, and more funds. There is a programme of refurbishment and re- carpeting taking place. The financial situation and the future of the Social Club is a lot more secure.

16/03/217 Reece Strawbridge Centre

There is a meeting on Thursday evening which Cllr Hay will attend and report back on.

16/03/218 ‘View From’ newspaper

Cllr Dean expressed his feelings, clearly there are long standing disputes between some members of the Parish Council and Colyford residents but hatchets should be buried and the whole NP process moved forward. In his opinion some responses could have been more conciliatory.

Editorial 16.2.16 – details emailed to councillors – this has already been discussed elsewhere in the meeting. A personal response had been sent but not printed.

Letter from Colyford resident & NP committee member 1-3-16 – emailed to councillors – The clerk expressed her concern at being castigated by a Colyford NP committee member when all she had done was to clarify the Councils position re funding a closed meeting. Some other parts of the letter were inaccurate, the ‘debate’ was over the funding of the informal meeting not the provision of petty cash for the committees, as this was discussed later and approved at the Finance meeting.

Cllr Parr closed the subject stating there would always be two sides to any disagreement but enough time had been taken up with this.

16/03/219 Council Foundation Award Scheme – details emailed to councillors. It was decided not to go for this scheme.

16/03/220 Items brought to the CPC’s attention after the agenda had been published – to be noted – Stafford Cross - Cllr Clifford felt the approach on the A3052 and the left hand turning into Stafford Hill was potentially dangerous with the camber throwing you into the path of oncoming traffic .
To be taken to the Traffic Group meeting.

16/03/221 Matters to be taken into Committee – none

16/03/221 Dates of future meetings

Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday April 20th 7.30pm. Town Hall
(Todd Gray from the History Project to be asked to be asked to speak).

Finance, Planning and Amenities – Monday 21st March 2016

Colyton Parish Council Meeting – Monday 11th April 2016

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.