**Minutes for the Colyton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th May 2014 at the Feoffees Town Hall, Colyton at 7pm.**

**Present: Cllrs, A Parr, C Collier, B Collier, P Gibins, J Hay, C Pady, M Mann, S Real, R Turner, S Smith, H West, K Clifford, R Pocock, 6 members of the public, 1 member of the press, Dist Cllr H Parr (for some of the meeting) & Cty Cllr Sara Randall Johnson (for part of the meeting & E Berry (Clerk)**

**MINUTES**

**14/5/21 Election of Chairman for 2014/2015**

Cllr C Collier proposed Cllr Parr, Cllr Real seconded the proposal, there was no amendment & Cllr Parr was duly elected.

**14/5/22 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence** – PC S Speariett (work commitments)

**14/5/23 Police Report by email.**

**Colyton - 6 Crimes in April 2 crimes so far in May**

**This compares to 3 crimes last month and 6 crimes in April 2013**

**9th – 10th Theft:** Two topiary trees were stolen from a garden of a residential property in Sidmouth Road. (KN/14/137)

**15th Public Order Offence:** At the Butts there has been an ongoing dispute between neighbours over their dogs. The matter has been dealt with by way of restorative justice. (KN/14/142)

**17th Public Order:** A 15 year old local male was seen to wave a multi tool around at the PEACE memorial play park. The youth will be attending Seaton police station on Friday to be interviewed (KN/14/146)

**21st Breach on non-molestation order:** Domestic related incident. (KN/14/152)

**21st – 22nd Theft from motor vehicle:** A Nissan Micra was broken into and CD’s clothes and food were stolen. (KN/14/154) **22nd Theft from motor vehicle:** A white Ford Transit was broken into whilst parked in Rosemary Lane and a bottle of Smirnoff stolen. (KN/14/156)

**MAY**

**9th Criminal Damage:** A small picket fence was damaged at the PEACE memorial playing fields. (KN/14/181)

**8th – 8th Theft:** Two hanging baskets were stolen from a property in Hillhead. (KN/14/181)

**14/5/24** **Public Question time** (maximum 15 minutes)

A Colyford resident enquired if Colyford was part of the Parish? She was concerned about issues in Colyford, namely the grass verges not being cut, the gully by the grammar school being full of rubbish, one bus shelter not being painted and the signs to Thomas Basset Drive (one is propped up against the wall & the other is not looking good).

Cllr Parr responded by saying that most of these issues are out of the Parish Councils control but her concerns will be passed onto the correct authorities.

A Colyton resident complained about the very serious potholes around the town. He stated the County Councils statutory responsibility under the 1980 Highway Act. He proposed a survey be done of all the potholes, and then forwarded to the County Surveyor.

The current reporting procedure was explained, it’s an online form with a map element so the potholes can be identified & repaired. The public must be encouraged to report potholes as the

system works on the number of complaint & severity of the problem.

A Colyton resident questioned the chair on the subject of disclosable personal interest in light of a recent planning application and a letter that he had written to both the monitoring officer & the Chair.

Cllr Parr respondent by saying that councillors had undertaken training and were aware of the written instructions in the code of conduct. But it is up to each individual councillor to make any disclosures they feel necessary.

The resident went on to question a recent Finance agenda where items had been added after the publication of the agenda.

Cllr Parr explained that completely different items had not been added, what had been added, under existing headings were items that had come up at short notice like invoices that had been presented for payment after the agenda was published and likewise planning applications that had come in and were time sensitive. With the Council only meeting every fortnight it would be wrong to delay payment to local businesses.

**14/5/25 Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Turner proposed Cllr C Collier, Cllr Gibbins seconded the proposal, there were no other nominations and Cllr C Collier was duly elected.

**14/5/26 Appointment of Councillors to Committees: Finance, Planning, Amenities**

Cllr Parr asked if anyone wanted to change Committees? Cllr Mann asked to go onto the Finance Committee and came off the Amenities Committee. Cllr Turner proposed that with this change the rest of the Committees be left as is, Cllr Real seconded the proposal and all agreed.

**14/5/27 Nominations of representatives to other organisations –**vacancies already circulated

Mr Jones – Ring & Ride

B Hocking – P3

B Love – P3

Cllr Pady – Community Woodland Trust

DALC – Cllrs B Collier & S Smith

Joint management Committee Chairman (A 2 year term of office) – C Chesterton

Colyton Memorial Social Club – Cllrs Mann & Parr

Playing Field Committee – Cllr Collier & Turner

St Andrews Church Fabric Committee – Cllr A Parr

Friends of Colyton Library – Cllr Mann

These will be voted on next month as per standing orders.

**14/5/28 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 14th April 2014** – add Cllr Hays DOI to plan 14/0267/FUL – distant relation by marriage.

Also Cllr Smith proposed two items be added re finance 14/04/11 & the discussion she’d had prior to planning application 14/0429/MOUT, Cllr Mann seconded these proposals there were no amendments and the additions will be written in and the minutes presented at the next meeting.

**14/5/29 Matters arising from the Minutes**

**a)** 14/01/167 Police response to our letter about policing levels – Cllr Parr read out the letter.

b) Signed copy from AV&DCS of agreement between them & CPC to be countersigned by CPC

Cllr West proposed it be signed, seconded by Cllr Turner & agreed by all.

**14/5/30 Report from County Councillor**

Cllr Sara Randall Johnson had little to report. The dropped kerbs proposal are going through a safety audit and it may well be that for safety reasons they will be positioned near the library rather than just below the bank.

She explained that Bridges & culverts were a different budget than Roads.

There are ongoing consultations across Devon on the proposed changes to the funding of libraries. No decisions had yet been made and there is a special meeting on the 14th May relating to the consultation exercise.

The meals service contract with Apitito will not be renewed and customers of this service are being consulted.

Cllr Pocock asked if the count contractors could pick up their road signs which tend to remain in place long after the work or hazard is complete.

He also asked who is responsible for the cutting of the verges. If the council is not going to cut them he would appreciate the council saying so & alternative arrangements could possibly be made.

Cllr SRJ explained that as well as the financial constraints there is also the balance of preserving nature, flowering plants & nesting birds, and providing safety. If there are volunteers willing to take these on then please do so, everyone has a civic responsibility. Member of the public quoted a recent case where people had been threatened with court action for enhancing their local verges with flowers! Cllr SRJ had no details on that case but stated that with the County losing £110 million over 4 years grass cutting will go!

Cllr West asked that since we were in a new financial year when would the state of the roads & potholes be tackled?

Cllr Clifford mentioned that the road north of Shute (with a different Highways engineer) was being repaired where as our section of the road was still in a deplorable state. Cllr SRJ will look into it.

Cllr Turner stated common sense must be applied when the crews are repairing potholes, it is false economy and downright stupid to leave an adjacent pothole unrepaired!

Cllr SRJ explained that they as a County are constantly working to improve performance levels. After the floods the number of potholes had dramatically increased and they are repaired on a priority/safety basis as reported.

**14/5/31 Report from District Councillors**

Cllr H Parr reported that the planning application for the conversion of the reservoir tank at Ridgeway had been discussed and a site inspection is planned, with a meeting to follow on 23rd May at the Beehive Honiton. The Parish Council can send a representative & members of the public can speak.

**14/5/32 Highway Matters**

1. Temporary Road Closure, road past Bonehayne Farm, Colyton, 9-16 June – noted
2. The Traffic Group Meeting had met but Cllr C Collier reported that the constant refrain of there being no money in the pot to repair potholes or to do work that is desperately needed, like the culvert collapse at Forge Cottage, is becoming tedious. The Parish Council is reporting these issues as residents’ concerns and yet very little is being done. Allegedly work is being prioritised

as finances allow and the Parish Council will continue to keep battling away at the issues of concerns in Colyton.

**14/5/33 Report from Meetings Attended**

1. **Axminster Area** DALC – Cllr Smith reported on the presentation of the Clinical Commissioning Group to the members which was very interested and attended by several board members & local doctors. Of concern were the rumours that the Axminster & Seaton hospitals were being forced to close, but the assembled meeting were reassured that this is just a rumour. Costs have to be reduced and services may be merged but closure is not anticipated. The idea is to put in place a scheme where, unlike now, the money follows the patient.

Cllr B Collier also attended the meeting and concurred with Cllr Smith. We are lucky to have Seaton & Axminster hospitals and although we are now hitched up to the North Devon Area in service provision he hoped that the future of these two hospitals can be secured.

Cllr Mann who had also attended the meeting summarised the problem as the local authorities had been told that they have control of the budget but decisions of ‘who get what proportion’ comes from Central Government and cannot be changed.

1. **Library meeting** – Cllr Mann attended and reported that the friends of the library are looking at their options.
2. **Reece Strawbridge Trust** – Cllr Mann reported a recent meeting. All is running smoothly with nothing new to report.

**14/5/34 Correspondence**

a) Publications e-mailed to councillors – Intouch/RsN etc

b) Letter re ‘sharing’ of memorial seat at Hillhead. Cllr Parr read out the letter and explained that 35 years ago a seat & plaque had been provided, along with some additional money some years ago for maintenance. A plaque to a local councillors had been added onto the seat (the original seat long gone) The clerk will write to both parties, letter writer & widow of local councillors and explain the situation and report back.

c) Letter from local resident re potholes Sidmouth Rd & Queen St.- noted (already copied to DCC)

d) Email from resident re state of road from Easy Bridge to 3 Sycamores.- noted & passed onto DCC

e) Email from local resident re parking in St Andrews Sq. The letter writer was present & clarified the situation. Cllr Parr explained that the CPC had asked for double yellow lines opposite this cottage and we will write again to DCC Highways and Cllr Sara Randall Johnson and make a case for these lines.

**14/5/35 Finance**

Minutes of the meeting held Monday April 28th (Appendix C14) to be noted

Cllr West proposed the accounts be paid, seconded by Cllr Smith & agreed by all.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cheque | Payee |  |  | VAT | Total |
| DD | | Tiscali | Broadband supply | £12.25 | £3,06 | £15.31 |
| 3437 | | CASH | Toilet Cleaner April plus advance for May for holiday |  |  | £200 |
| 3438 | | PGD Services | Gardening |  |  | £40.00 |
| 3439 | | Park Leisure | Skate ramps | £15000.00 | £3000.00 | £18000.00 |
| Deferred payment  Cost more to process. Ref Lyn in accounts. | | Mole Avon | Misc | £3.04 | £0.61 | £3.65 |
| 3440 | | Viking | Toner & Punch | £49.48 | £9.90 | £59.38 |
| 3441 | | Came & Company | Insurance |  |  | £2235.97 |
| DD | | BT | Phone Bill | £161.39 | £32.28 | £193.67 |
| 3442 | | Viridor | Waste Services | £112.28 | £22.44 | £134.72 |
| DD | | EDF | Electricity | £7.60 | £0.40 | £8.00 |

1. Approval of accounts 2013/2014 prior to audit. Cllr Smith had one or two queries andproposed that this matters be dealt with In Committee under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as amended by the Local Government Act 1972), the public, including the press be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, i.e. financially sensitive matters. Seconded by Cllr Mann & agreed by all.
2. Parishes Together funding – suggestions for projects – no new suggestions. The clerk will contact the clerks of Northleigh & Axmouth with the suggestions already received.

**14/5/35 Planning**

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 22nd April – (Appendix C14) to be noted

**a Planning Applications**

**14/0297/FUL – Heathayne Farm, Colyton – Ms K Cornish**

**Amended Plans** – Siting of stable block

Amendments to location/block plan including revised siting for stable and associated timber store

**SUPPORTED** proposed by Cllr Mann, seconded by Cllr Turner. Agreed by all.

**14/1025/FUL – The Rest, Fair View Lane, Colyford – Mrs V Pady**

First floor side extension

**SUPPORTED** proposed by Cllr West & seconded by Cllr Mann. Agreed by all

**b Planning Decisions**

**14/0443/FUL 10 River View Close – Mr & Mrs Griffiths**

Construction of stables, tack & feed store - **APPROVED**

**c Planning Correspondence - none**

**14/5/36 Amenities**

1. Cllr Pady reported on the progress of the play area in Colyford. The proposal from the St Michael Committee is going to the PCC for their consideration. The Archdeacon will be asked to make comments as will the Dioceses Solicitor re leasing the land to the CPC to use as a play area. They are aware of the tight timescale for the use of the money.
2. The final coat of paint has been applied to the skate ramps – it’s grey because black gets too hot.
3. There was some discussion over the size of dog banned signs that had been given to use by EDDC. Cllr Pocock reckoned they could be purchased elsewhere and be as big as we want! He will investigate.
4. **14/5/37 Colyton Memorial Social Club** – email received 12/5 requesting what is happening re payment of roof repair and requesting an update of what the CPC will offer the club? Apparently there had been an AGM but the Parish Council had not been informed of the details. Cllr Mann proposed that this matters be dealt with In Committee under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as amended by the Local Government Act 1972), the public, including the press be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, i.e. financially sensitive matters. Seconded by Cllr C Collier & agreed by all.

**14/5/37 Registration of Parish properties – update**

Councillors were reminded that this had been going on for sometime and we only have one more year of the current council. There had been an undertaking in the past to get this done within a couple of months. Cllr Parr agreed that this should be done and encouraged all those who had not yet done their allocated property to do so – he admitted that he was at fault as he still needs to do Stafford Common.

**14/5/38 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Smith –** already dealt with

**14/5/29 Grievance Statement raised by Clerk**

Cllr Westproposed that this matters be dealt with In Committee under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as amended by the Local Government Act 1972), the public, including the press be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, i.e. legally sensitive matters dealing with contract of employment. Seconded by Cllr Collier & agreed by all.

**14/5/30 Matters to be taken into Committee –** Finance Query/Social Club/ Grievance.

**14/5/31 Dates of future meetings**

May Finance & Planning – 19th May

Full Council Meetings Monday 9th June

Finance & Planning meeting Monday 23rd June (St Johns Hall)

The meeting closed at 2040