

**Minutes for the meeting of Colyton Parish Council held on Monday 8th July
2024 at 7.00 pm in the Colyton Town Hall.**

Present: Cllrs A Stenning, M Mann, K Clifford, A Parr, G Chesterton, J Hay, G Stephenson and R Turner

Also in attendance: S Haines (clerk)

Members of public: 2

24/07/70 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence. Cllrs Gardiner, Real and Arnott. Also EDDC Cllr H Parr and DCC Cllr M Hartnell.

24/07/71 Declaration of Interests. Cllr Turner declared an interest on planning application 24/1245/FUL De Winton as the applicant is a close friend.

24/07/72 Police Report.

Crimes reported in April 2024 – 6

Antisocial behaviour – 3. Violence and sexual offences – 2. Other crime – 1.

24/07/73 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Monday 10th June 2024. Cllr Mann proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed by all.

24/07/74 Matters arising from the Minutes. None.

24/07/75 Public Question time

A member of public stood and asked about item 24/07/78a) questioning who put the request through and what would the restrictions be? The clerk replied that it was a member of public who emailed, informing the Council that a coach had been seen using the road and the road was not suitable for this kind of vehicle. The clerk responded stating that it was not a usual bus route and that it was a public highway with no restrictions so there wasn't anything the Parish Council could do and also that a weight restriction would make it impossible for farmers to use that road. The clerk agreed to put it on the agenda for the Council to take a vote on the matter. The member of public commented that the recycle and waste lorries would not be able to use the road, also fire engines and livestock transport. They did not think that a weight restriction on this road would be necessary.

Another member of public stood and spoke of planning application 24/1050/FUL Munchkins Barn. They stated that Munchkins has now been running for 10 years, they have rehomed over 200 ponies and currently have 58 ponies to look after. They provide local employment in the way of vets, farriers, tree surgeons, etc, and have visitors from all over the world. The proposed new barn would facilitate storage for machinery, more stabling for ponies and a vet station, so they hope the application will be supported.

24/07/76 Report from County Councillor. Cllr Hartnell had to attend another meeting so was not present.

24/07/77 Report from District Councillors – Cllr Arnott sent his report – see appendix A. Cllr Hay wanted to report that a friend of his was a polling clerk and so had registered for a postal vote as she could not vote on the day as she would be working all day. The postal vote did not arrive in time so she was unable to vote, Cllr Hay proposed this should be reported to EDDC. Cllr Parr said it was for her to report it herself as it was a personal matter and not something for the Parish Council to get involved in.

24/07/78 Highway Matters

a) Report to be submitted to DCC ahead of their HATTOC meeting. MOP suggested introducing width/weight restriction to be introduced on Old Sidmouth Road. Cllr Hay produced a long list of items to put forward to Hattoc, this list will be compiled by the clerk and sent to all Cllrs to review ahead of the next meeting. Cllr Mann proposed there be no restrictions put on Old Sidmouth Road as it simply would not be practical. This was seconded by Cllr Hay and agreed by all.

b) TTRO2457983 temporary prohibition of pedestrians for footpath past St Leonards Terrace. Monday 29th July until 16th August 2024 for Culvert Repairs.

Cllr Hay raised the issue of the recent road closure to fix the water leak on South Street. He reported that the road has only recently re-opened and there are signs of the leak returning already. Cllr Mann explained that the issue is where the road has been narrowed, the man hole is now constantly being driven over which is putting pressure on the pipes below the surface.

24/07/79 Report from Meetings Attended. Cllr Stenning attended the Local Plan Working Party meeting at East Devon District Council where she was allowed to speak against proposed developments in Colyton. This meeting was not minuted. She spoke against plans for Coly 02a and b to be put forward for potential development, citing many reasons previously agreed by this Council, including existing issues with drainage

and sewage, accessibility to the town would mean more cars on the already congested roads, the houses are simply not needed, it would be unsustainable as people would have to travel for work, Colyton's current infrastructure could not cope with places like the Primary School and GP surgery already close to capacity, it would be against the adopted Neighbourhood Plan, the development would be above the 200ft contour line that this Council and EDDC have always strongly protected. She also spoke of the 2016 application to build houses on the site which was very strongly turned down by EDDC. She was told that any town or village could list these reasons against further development and Colyton would have to accept its housing quota. Cllr Parr thanked Cllr Stenning for her efforts and proposed the Council write to EDDC in support of all Cllr Stenning wrote and to reiterate the importance of the 200ft contour line which was originally bought up by the Planning Inspector when plans for the development of Burnards Field Road were drawn up. This was seconded by Cllr Mann and agreed by all.

Cllr Hay attended a meeting of the Playing Fields Committee. Everything is ticking along nicely and funds are going up.

24/07/80 South west water. As previously agreed, a letter will be written to our local MP. We just needed to wait until after the election to know who that would be. It is now confirmed that it is Richard Foord. Clerk to draw up a letter to include pictures to be presented to the amenities committee at the next meeting.

24/07/81 Email received from Tozers regarding the legal bills for the toilet transfer. The clerk read out the letter from Tozers and this was agreed.

24/07/82 Concerns regarding the River Coly – narrowing in places with large silt build up. Cllr Clifford. Cllr Clifford reported that there is a historical issue of flooding in Colyton. The River Coly used to be inspected annually and any silt and river gravel build up was always removed and taken to either Shiphay Farm or Road Green Farm as both locations hold licences to store river gravel. This has not been done for the last two years and there are areas where the silt and gravel have built up so much that the river is changing its course. Under Umborne Bridge the area between the gardens and Umborne Business Park now had a very large bank of silt. Further down the river under Ham Bridge there is a large island of gravel and all along the Playing Fields the river is being forced to encroach onto Parish Council owned land. Both of the above mentioned bridges are beginning to be damaged as a result of the river flow being increased and river defences along the bank of the Umborne Business Park are being damaged. Cllr Clifford proposed that the clerk write to the Environmental Agency to report all of this and request that the river be inspected from Umborne Bridge down to the end of the Playing Fields. This was seconded by Cllr Parr and agreed by all.

24/07/83 Correspondence

- a) The Rural Bulletin
- b) EDDC Covid update
- c) Rural Funding Digest July Edition

24/07/84 Finance

Minutes of the Finance meeting held 24th June 2024 (Appendix G) to be noted.
Accounts to be approved for payment.

DD Talk talk phone and broadband 39.17 VAT 7.83. **Total 47.00 pounds.**

DD British gas lite workshop electricity 18.44 VAT 0.92. **Total 19.36 pounds.**

DD Biffa waste management 195.78 VAT 39.16. **Total 234.94 pounds.**

BACS Mr Fitzpatrick toilet caretaker. **Total 120.00 pounds.**

BACS Halcyon cemetery grounds 526.75 VAT 105.35. **Total 632.10 pounds**

The above accounts were approved for payment, this was proposed by Cllr Mann, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed by all.

24/07/85 Planning

Minutes of the meeting held 24th June 2024 – (Appendix H) to be noted.

a) Planning application from East Devon

24/1050/FUL Munchkins Barn Colyton Hill Colyton – Ms Fidge - Proposed new barn for storage and housing ponies, with hardstanding and extended track. *Comments due by 19th July.*

Cllr Mann proposed this not be supported. He commented that he didn't believe the area of land is large enough to sustain good welfare for the ponies and the current number of ponies on site mean that the land is currently overstocked. Munchkins should be focused on purchasing more land before they look to build on existing land they already have. This was seconded by Cllr Hay and agreed by all.

22/2781/MOUT Land adjacent to Harepath Road Seaton – amended plans for consultation. These amendments relate to revised concept masterplan, landscape strategy, sections and lighting information. *Comments due by 16th July.*

Cllr Parr stated that the Council submitted a strong response of not supporting this application during its last consultation period, nothing has changed since then so the previous comment still stands and the Green Wedge between Colyford and Seaton should be protected. This was seconded by Cllr Mann and agreed by all.

24/1245/FUL De Winton Station Road Colyton – Mr Challis - Demolition of existing garage, proposed 2 storey extension on north/west elevation and changes to external materials. *Comments due by 23rd July.*

Cllr Mann proposed this be supported, seconded by Cllr Parr and agreed by all bar Cllr Turner who declared an interest so abstained.

b) Planning decisions from East Devon

23/1390/FUL Land North Of Road Green Farm Colyton – Mr Underdown - Installation of an earth lined slurry store with fixed floating cover. Approved with conditions.

24/0738/FUL The Studio Hooperhayne Colyton – Ms Houldsworth - Conversion of barn to residential annexe [partially retrospective] and installation of Air Source Heat Pump. Approved with conditions.

c) Planning correspondence.

24/07/86 Amenities

Minutes of the meeting held 24th June 2024 – (Appendix I) to be noted.

a) Fireworks will be held on Saturday 9th November at the playing fields. Noted.

b) Bus shelter at Coly Vale - Anything new that goes into the public domain now must comply with current standards. Chapter 1 of the Traffic Signs Manual gives a minimum 450mm from the edge of kerb to a sign face/shelter/bus stop. An available passing width for pedestrians should also be 1.2m. Cllr Mann stated that he would look at it again and see if cladding it or repairing it would suffice as relocating the shelter is not an option as it protects anybody waiting for a bus from the manhole just in front of the bus stop which leaks sewage when it is raining. The suggestion of digging into the bank and moving the shelter back would be extremely costly and could then provide children with an unofficial and unsafe climbing frame. He will report back at the next meeting.

c) Support needed for the proposal to potentially relocate the Primary School to the PMPF.

Cllr Mann will ask Crispin Denny for advice on this project. Clerk to write to Cllr Hartnell to request support for this project.

24/07/87 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published to be noted.

The handyman has approached Cllr Parr and asked that the topping of Millfield be delayed until the wild flower seeds have finished seeding so we get a stronger crop next year, this was agreed. He also asked about the temporary fence on Road Green. It was decided to leave it where it is as the Council still doesn't want people parking on the green.

The clerk asked about future meeting dates. It was confirmed that the August Committees would need to be on a Tuesday to avoid the bank holiday. The hall is booked on Tuesday's so the meeting will be in the Mortimer Room. Also the September full meeting would fall during Carnival Week so it was

decided that there will only be the one meeting in September and it will be held on Monday 16th September in the hall.

24/07/88 Matters to be taken into Committee. None.

24/07/89 Dates of future meetings

Committee meetings – Monday 22nd July

Full CPC meeting – Monday 12th August

Meeting closed: 20:15

Appendix A

District Report July 2024

Councillor Paul Arnott

New Chief Executive Officer at East Devon District Council

As many will already know, the former Chief Executive departed the organisation last autumn. After a highly satisfactory interim period with three senior officers acting jointly as CEOs - showing marked immediate improvements in organisational structure – the council advertised the role on a permanent basis. There were 21 applicants, short-listed to 4, and at interview Tracy Hendren who had been in the organisation for six months was appointed.

Tracy's speciality is Housing, and she and I have worked immediately to build on the work she had begun around our social housing stock. This is a major legacy issue from decades of previous neglect which my administration had been flagging to the previous senior management (now departed) for a considerable time, with little to no response. However, in the coming months a series of reports will be brought to Cabinet which for the first time detail these legacy issues and the immediate challenges which must be faced. I have been very grateful to parish councillors and social house residents for their reports around "voids" and poor maintenance. With our new CEO we will begin to see serious progress on this, but difficult decisions will arise too.

The advent of a new Chief Executive allows my administration at last to properly review other issues – from assets which are dormant or under-performing to the way in which the council has previously responded to public enquiries and complaints. East Devon's default position on the latter for too long was defensive and often inadequate. This culture will now change.

The effect of a new government

Under the previous Conservative government, local government was becoming increasingly challenging. Just in East Devon, there was opacity around Levelling Up Funds, a Combined County Authority, one year or at best two-year budget settlements with local authorities, and, of course, the National Planning Policy Framework affecting our entire Planning Regime. As many have rightly noted, between the cracks and the housing supply numbers it has become increasingly hard to “resist” what would be regarded as inappropriate development.

The new Labour government made the following promises in its manifesto:

- Multi-year finance settlements, and an overhaul of the business rates, with changes to the audit system
- Deeper devolution by combined authorities, with a review of governance and flexibility for those with good financial management
- Statutory requirements for local growth plans
- An updated industrial strategy
- A National Care Service , focusing on “home first” care
- Partnership working over hospital discharge and neighbourhood health centres
- A fair pay agreement and the professionalisation of adult social care
- An update of the NPPF and an increased number of planners
- A raft of new towns, the biggest increase in housebuilding in a generation and new planning powers for combined authorities

It can be seen that these pledges, of met, could have many implications, from the conditions around our own adult social care challenges to, in “neighbourhood health centres” offering further certainty to Seaton Hospital. We shall see.